The 2015 Network Summit will be held on Friday, August 7 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the University of Akron.

The event will include training, networking opportunities, equipment raffles and, new this year, an agency awards presentation. Exclusive to this year’s agenda will be the presentation of the Foodbank’s new five year strategic plan.

So that we can learn from each other, all agencies are invited to participate. Our goal is 100 percent participation of emergency feeding programs. As a reminder, emergency feeding programs are defined as food pantries, hot meal sites and emergency shelters.

Registration is free for the first agency representative, and a $5 fee will be required for each additional participant from your agency. Parking is free. Please register by July 31, 2015 to guarantee your reservation.

If you have questions about the Network Summit, please contact the Member Services department at 330.535.6900.

HELP PROTECT SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) reduces hunger and food insecurity for millions of children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, the unemployed and those working low wage jobs trying to make ends meet. SNAP lifts people out of poverty, improves nutrition and health, responds quickly in times of disaster or recession, supports local economies, and improves well-being. Yet, this extremely efficient program is often the first to be reviewed when Congress is considering cuts.

U.S. Representatives and Senators who serve on the Budget Committee are in the midst of a budget reconciliation process, which means they can reconsider spending priorities, and can potentially cut funding for programs such as SNAP and other nutrition programs. If this were to happen, charities would be overwhelmed and our country would see more hunger and poverty.

Anti-hunger advocates across the nation are joining forces to tell Congress not to take meals away from Americans struggling with hunger by making disastrous changes to SNAP.

Please take a moment to visit the Food Research and Action Center’s (FRAC) website at http://frac.org to sign their petition telling Congress you don’t support a budget that will increase hunger in America.
ASK AN EXPERT

Heather Lentz will be contributing to the Agency Insider by answering food and health questions from our agency network. Heather has a Bachelor’s in Biology with graduate studies in Public Health. She is a published cancer research technologist and board certified holistic health practitioner.

Heather has spent much of her professional career researching food and its capabilities in health and healing. She worked for 17 years in environments where poor nutrition choices led to devastation of health. In 2012, she switched her work to a wellness model in efforts to help people prevent health complications. She is the founder of KOI Vitality, where she helps others live vitally through food, fitness and positive body image to create their own happiness. Her focus is to forge a truly informed and healthy society; one that goes beyond an emphasis on disease and treatment, but seeks wellness through prevention, balance and richness.

Heather will answer questions related to food, nutrition and healthy living submitted by our member agency network. To submit questions, please email MemberServices@acrfb.org.

CHURCH QUALIFIER INFORMATION DUE

All churches that are members of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, and have submitted a Church Qualifier Checklist for membership, are required to update the church qualifier information under a new requirement from Feeding America.

To ensure all agency files are in compliance, a new Church Qualifier Form is now available. For each item on the checklist, there are examples of supporting documentation. A minimum of 9 out of the 14 items on this checklist must be met to qualify as a church by IRS guidelines, and supporting documentation must be provided for each item checked on the form. For example, “Established place of worship” could be documented by submitting a copy of the church bulletin showing the church address. Articles of Incorporation registered with the state, along with a church bulletin could, in many cases, fulfill the requirement. With this new requirement, all current and future Foodbank members that intend to hold a membership through a church must provide this additional documentation.

The Member Services department will be working to reconcile agency files.

Documentation must be submitted by Member Agencies to the Foodbank no later than Friday, May 15, 2015.

Agencies that do not submit the required documentation will have their accounts deactivated on June 30, 2015.

If you have questions, please contact your Member Services representative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to complete this compliance requirement.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

PANTRYTRAK
Thursday Apr 23 1pm - 3pm

STAFF SUCCESSION PLANNING
Thursday June 18 9am - 11am

NEW MEMBER AGENCY ORIENTATION
Thursday May 14 9am - 4pm
Tuesday June 2 9am - 4pm
Friday June 26 9am - 4pm

Orientation includes Civil Rights and Food Safety Training. Due to time limitations, please bring a bagged lunch to Orientation since there will not be enough time to leave the Foodbank for lunch. Please note, lunch will not be provided. Refrigeration for your bagged lunch will be available.

Have you had a change to key staff or volunteers with your program? They are encouraged to attend the full New Member Agency Orientation. To RSVP for training opportunities, visit the Foodbank website, akroncantonfoodbank.org/orientations.aspx, or contact Gary Green, Manager, Member Services at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

SIMPLE TOMATO SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- 3 fresh tomatoes (sliced)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup reduced fat cheddar cheese - shredded

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Place tomatoes on a plate.
2. Drizzle with vegetable oil and lemon juice, and sprinkle with black pepper.
3. Top with cheese. Serve cold.