Make Your Voice Heard

Don’t miss your opportunity to participate in the 2015 Agency Satisfaction Survey. The annual survey will be launched at the Network Summit and will be available throughout the month of August. The Foodbank values the opinions and feedback of our member agency network, and the survey is an opportunity to gather feedback that will serve as a compass for planning in the coming year.

Many changes have been made to improve the survey. A third party vendor, SMD Resources, will be crafting the questions, administering the survey and analyzing the data. The length of the survey has been reduced significantly to make the process quick and simple to complete, and our goal is 100 percent network participation.

On August 7, SMD Resources will email a survey link to the main contact and other key program staff at each agency.

AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TEFAP form changes July 1.
- Foodbank will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day.
- Register for the 2015 Network Summit by July 31.
- Agency Appreciation Week will be August 2-7.

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LEAD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 24-HOUR EVENT

The Foodbank is looking for member agency volunteers for Operation Orange on September 11-12. Operation Orange is a 24 hour volunteer event which takes place during Hunger Action Month. Member agency volunteers will help lead projects in the warehouse and have the opportunity to share stories from their agency with participants during the event. For more information or to sign up, please contact Gary Green, Manager, Member Services at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.
DON'T MISS THE 2015 NETWORK SUMMIT

The 2015 Network Summit, scheduled for Friday, August 7 at the University of Akron, is not to be missed. As we celebrate and engage in learning and growing as One Network, this event will be your first chance to learn more about the Foodbank's new mission and vision statements, along with a dynamic five-year strategic plan. You will hear from members of the strategic planning committee, which included member agency representatives, senior leaders at the Foodbank and members of our board of directors, to learn about the process and the resulting plan that will guide our network over the next five years. Along with the strategic plan Q&A session, you will also have the opportunity to contribute to the first stage of work on a key strategy to develop a new agency partnership program.

Another highlight of the 2015 Network Summit is the launch of a new agency award and recognition program. Through agency and Foodbank staff nominations, one agency from each county will be recognized as the County Agency of the Year. Nominate your program by July 7.

As you have come to expect from this premier agency event, the agenda will include informative breakout sessions and networking opportunities. All agencies are invited with a goal to have at least one representative from 100% of the emergency feeding programs participating. As a reminder, emergency feeding programs include food pantries, hot meals and emergency shelters.

REGISTRATION
Registration is free for the first agency representative, and a $5 fee will be required for each additional participant from your agency. Cash or check payment will be taken at the Network Summit. Please make checks payable to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Parking is free. Please register by July 31, 2015 to guarantee your reservation.

HELLO & GOODBYE VISTA MEMBERS

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.

She has spent much of her professional career researching food and its capabilities in health and healing. Heather 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.

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR AGENCY AWARDS

The Foodbank is seeking nominations from the network to recognize outstanding agencies. One agency per county will be honored as County Agency of the Year and will be recognized during a ceremony at the Network Summit. To be considered, agencies must be in good standing and should exhibit excellence in the areas of program and fiscal management, compliance, client service, and engagement in Foodbank initiatives. A cross-departmental selection committee will review all nominations and select the winners. To nominate an agency, please visit the Agency Zone of the Foodbank website and select Agency Award Nominations under Featured News. Self nominations are encouraged.

If you have questions, please contact Adrienne Bradley, Manager, Programs at 330.777.2311 or abradley@acrfb.org.

Every summer, the Foodbank says hello to new Americorps VISTA members, and says goodbye to those ending their term.

Felicia Fullerton has completed her year of service as an Americorps VISTA focusing on PantryTrak. During her tenure, she has trained nearly 200 people on how to use the system and visited more than 30 pantries to assist during implementation. In the course of one year, 57 additional agencies are now using PantryTrak for client intake. Felicia’s focus and determination allowed the Foodbank to shine in this area across the state, and we are grateful for her year of service.

Beginning June 29, the Foodbank welcomed two new Americorps VISTA's. Krystal Levstek is a recent graduate of Kent State University, earning her Master’s in Geography. Krystal will be the PantryTrak Capacity Development Coordinator, focusing on resource development and research to assist agencies in beginning to use PantryTrak.

Mary Ann Mills will also rejoins the Foodbank after completing a year of service as an Americorps VISTA with United Way of Summit County. She was previously an OBB Community Organizer through the Americorps VISTA program at the Foodbank. Mary Ann will be the PantryTrak Training Coordinator, focusing on training and support for agencies using the PantryTrak system.
TEFAP FORM CHANGES JULY 1

Each year, the Federal and State Eligibility to Take Food Home (TEFAP) form changes on July 1, coinciding with the state of Ohio’s fiscal year. Please dispose of all blank July 2014 forms. Your agency will need to file and store all forms currently being used, and clients will need to complete a new form to begin this new fiscal year.

Keep in mind that if a food pantry client uses a proxy, the proxy form needs to be updated each year as well. As with all Foodbank documentation, we require maintaining all files for at least three years for auditing purposes.

Would you be interested in a system that automatically updates the TEFAP form for you? PantryTrak, an online, cloud based system for client intake, not only updates the TEFAP form automatically on July 1, but it also generates all data for the monthly report and much more. Agencies interested in PantryTrak simply need a computer and internet to use this system. If your agency is interested in learning more about PantryTrak, contact Gary Green, Manager, Member Services at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Thank you agencies for your advocacy! Because of your participation in legislative call-in days and your collection of nearly 1,500 paper plates, our state will likely increase funding for the Ohio Food and Agricultural Clearance Program in the 2016-2017 budget. This critical funding will provide our Foodbank with more produce and shelf-stable foods. While the final budget will not be finalized until June 30th, the increase we requested has been included in the Senate’s version of the budget. The fight is not yet over, but you can stay informed. If you are not already receiving Action Alerts through the Foodbank’s Advocacy Network, please go to akroncantonfoodbank.org and click on Get Involved and Be an Advocate so that we can notify you when the final budget has passed.

If your agency wants to be involved with advocacy, consider participating in our Agency Advocacy Program. Please contact Katie Carver Reed, Programs Coordinator, at 330.777.7577 or kcarver@acrfb.org for more information.

PROVIDING 22 MILLION MEALS
ONE MEAL AT A TIME

The theme of our 2014 Annual Report focuses on the one—one client, one supporter, one volunteer and a representative from one member agency, who all help us in our work to end hunger in our community.

These individuals represent you; the community of people whom we are proud to call supporters, partners and friends. Everything we’ve accomplished on behalf of those we serve has been possible because of people like you.

We invite you to visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources to view the 2014 Annual Report.