Thank you to our SNAP All Star Agencies who have completed more than 6 referrals this year!

Alliance Community Pantry
Arlington Memorial Baptist Church
Barberton 7th Day Adventist Church
Black Horse Baptist Church
Brimfield Community Cupboard
Brunswick Food Pantry
Celebration Church
COB Outreach
Frist Baptist Church of Akron
Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry
Lake Township FISH
Nelson UMC
Salvation Army Medina

The Foodbank partners with member agencies to assist clients in accessing SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The SNAP Referral system is simple: agencies complete a one-page form with clients interested in receiving benefits, and the Foodbank staff calls the client to complete the application over the phone.

This year, the referral system has resulted in more than 300 individuals getting connected to SNAP benefits.

If you are interested in learning more about our SNAP Referral system, or to become a SNAP All Star Agency, contact Laura Vanzo, SNAP Outreach Specialist, at lvanzo@acrfb.org or 330.572.3101.

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Transport Food Safely

The Foodbank and our member agencies partner distribute more than 20 million pounds of food each year. This food is nurturing the bodies of 263,200 different people every year, and it is important that everyone do their best to ensure this food is kept safe.

When picking up food from the Foodbank in an open bed truck or trailer, please remember that this food must be covered with a tarp, strapped down and secured. Inclement weather and road side debris can damage food and make it no longer safe to consume.

In addition, if food is not properly secured, it can fall from the vehicle during transport causing unsafe conditions for other drivers on the road. Even if you are traveling a short distance, food safety is of the utmost importance, and all protocols must be followed.

Page 6-4 of the Member Agency Handbook discusses the policy related to transporting orders. As is stated in the handbook, “Products being transported in any type of open vehicle must cover or tarped to prevent contamination from weather and road hazards. The Foodbank reserves the right to not allow an inappropriate vehicle to be loaded or depart from the warehouse”.

Please inform volunteers and staff that pick up food from the Foodbank of this policy. Everyone has a part in keeping the food we serve to our community safe.

Welcome New Foodbankers!

The Member Services Department would like to welcome two new employees to the Foodbank, Keith Freund and Linda Steinhebel. Learn more about the new staff below.

**MEET KEITH FREUND**
*Partnership Field Connector*

- What is your favorite music or song? Modern Classical
- What is your favorite childhood memory? Playing with Legos
- Where did you go to school? University of Akron & Kent State University
- Where did you grow up? Mansfield, Ohio
- What is one food you can’t live without? Avocado
- Describe your family. All very different, but harmonious
- What is your favorite electronic device? Lamp
- How do you spend your down time? Friend, family and too many hobbies
- What is one thing most people probably don’t know about you? I’m a first generation American.
- Name one thing you want to do this year. Take my daughter to the ballet

**MEET LINDA STEINHEBEL**
*Partnership Field Advisor*

- What is your favorite music or song? “You’re Still You” by Josh Groban
- What is your favorite childhood memory? Spending the weekend with my aunt
- Where did you go to school? Bowling Green State University
- Where did you grow up? Elmhurst, IL and North Canton, OH
- What is one food you can’t live without? Lasagna
- Describe your family. AWESOME! 4 young adults
- What is your favorite electronic device? Kindle
- How do you spend your down time? Walking my dog, reading, coloring
- What is one thing most people probably don’t know about you? I was a tap dancer.
- Name one thing you want to do this year. Visit my daughter in Oregon

UPCOMING TRAININGS

**PANTRYTRAK TRAINING**
Friday Jan 8 1pm - 3pm
Wednesday Jan 20 1pm - 3pm
Monday Feb 1 1pm - 3pm
Thursday Feb 25 1pm - 3pm

**NEW MEMBER AGENCY ORIENTATION**
Friday Jan 22 9am - 4pm

New Member Agency Orientation includes Civil Rights and Food Safety Training. Due to time limitations, please bring a bagged lunch since there will not be enough time to leave the Foodbank. 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, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/agency/events, or contact Gary Green, Manager, Member Services, at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

PRODUCE CARDS AVAILABLE

Thanks to a generous gift from the Cardinal Health Foundation, the Foodbank has created produce cards to be distributed to clients. Each card highlights a different fruit or vegetable, including basic facts, tips to extend shelf life and a healthy recipe.

Cards are available for the following: cherry tomatoes, corn, cucumber, eggplant, peaches, fresh tomatoes, green beans, romaine lettuce, onions, pears, bell peppers, potatoes, radishes and cauliflower.

Produce cards are available for download from the Agency Zone of the Foodbank website, or they can be added to your order during pick up. If your agency would like a large quantity of cards, please contact the distribution office at 330.253.7054 to add them to your food order.