25th year of Harvest for Hunger campaign kicks off

Thank you to our network partners who joined us for the 25th annual Harvest for Hunger campaign kick-off breakfast on Friday, February 26, 2016!

Harvest for Hunger is the Foodbank’s largest fundraising initiative and is a collaborative effort of four Ohio food banks serving 21 counties in Northeast Ohio. It’s because of donations from our community-wide Harvest for Hunger campaign that allows us to transport, inspect, clean, sort and then repack food at no cost to you.

One hundred percent of all Harvest for Hunger donations will go directly toward providing free, nourishing food for the people you serve.

When you see product on our menu labeled “Harvest for Hunger,” we want you to be as proud as we are! This food comes directly from community members who host food & funds drives because they believe in your mission to feed families in our community struggling with hunger.

If you have any questions about the campaign or how to get involved, please contact Stephanie Knori at 330.535.6900 or sknori@acrfb.org. Thank you for all that you do!
SNAP OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that each SNAP application provides as many as 783 meals? SNAP Outreach has continued to grow at the Foodbank last year, resulting in more than 1 million meals for people in our community.

The Foodbank has begun to focus on partnerships with social service agencies outside our network of partner agencies to reach more eligible individuals. For example, the VA Community Resource Referral Center in Akron, affiliated with the Louis Stoke VA Medical Center in Cleveland, connects veterans with the Foodbank’s SNAP outreach staff to easily complete the application for SNAP over the phone. The partnership has resulted in more veterans receiving much needed food assistance.

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. Partner agencies that complete 24 SNAP Referrals in the course of a year are considered SNAP All-Stars and receive a $100 food credit on their account.

If your agency works closely with a social service agency outside of the Foodbank’s network that would benefit from being a SNAP Referral site, or your agency is interested in becoming a referral site, contact Laura Vanzo Altieri at lvanzo@acrfb.org or 330.571.3101.

2015 was the biggest year to date for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. With your help, we distributed more than 27.9 million pounds of food. The Foodbank will shift from use of the term “member agency” to “network partner.”

KEEP THE TIME IN MIND

The Foodbank partners with 500 programs, all of which come to the Foodbank to pick up orders. In order to ensure all agencies are able to pick-up orders, the pick-up time is limited to 30 minutes. Please be mindful of the time as your agency is loading orders.

Here are a few tips to ensure an efficient pick-up at the Foodbank:

ARRIVE EARLY Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. If there is space available, your agency will be let in to begin loading early.

BRING VOLUNTEERS Bring an extra person or two with you to pick up. While one is loading the order, up to two others can be shopping in the MarketPlace. And don’t forget to check your order. We would hate for you not to get exactly what you ordered.

If you are going to be late to your appointment time, don’t worry! Please call the Order Desk and let them know that you are running late and the approximate time that you plan to arrive. This will help Foodbank staff ensure that there is space for you to pick-up when you arrive, or, if necessary, arrange to reschedule your appointment.

Thank you for your assistance in making pick-up at the Foodbank efficient and easy for everyone!
Foodbank receives grant to engage clients

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank was selected as one of only two Foodbank’s in the country to participate in a two year pilot project to gather client feedback and incorporate their voices into our work. The guiding principle of this work is to treat the clients as the experts of their own experience. Learning from clients, the Foodbank and our partners will be able to evaluate information gathered and make meaningful systematic changes to how we serve the community. The Foodbank will receive support for this 2 year project from Feeding America and the Urban Institute.

The project includes an Agency Advisory Group representative of the network and includes:

- Reverend Joanna Lance - Glenmont Food Pantry (Holmes County)
- Lynette Broggini - Lafayette United Methodist Church (Medina County)
- Ann Kenski - Lafayette United Methodist Church (Medina County)
- Pastor Wallace Anderson - Malvern Christian Care Center (Carroll County)
- Sarah Ecker - The Salvation Army Orrville (Wayne County)
- Marie Senften-Dietz - Canton Calvary Mission (Stark County)
- George Camiletti - Good Neighbors (Summit County)
- Julie Carneal - OPEN M (Summit County)
- Gary Wyatt - He Brought Us Out Ministries (Summit County)

The Agency Advisory Group will work closely with Foodbank staff to engage clients, gather feedback, and make decisions regarding potential change that can be made to improve their experience.

Information gathered and lessons learned will regularly be shared with clients, agency volunteers and the Foodbank’s network of partner programs.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, you can contact Jill Oldham (joldham@acrfb.org), Laura Vanzo Altieri (lvanzo@acrfb.org) or Katie Carver Reed (kcarver@acrfb.org).

UPCOMING TRAININGS

NEW PARTNER ORIENTATION
Thursday Mar 24 9am - 4pm
Friday Apr 22 9am - 4pm

New Partner 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 Partner Orientation. To RSVP, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/agency/events, or contact Gary Green, Senior Manager, Partner Services, at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

ROUND TABLE: Summer Feeding Programs for Children
Wednesday Mar 30 9am - 11am

During the summer, families have to stretch resources further as their children can no longer access free breakfast and lunch at school. Are you interested in helping children during the summer? Join our roundtable to learn more about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), requirements to host the program and how to get started.

FIND DETAILS ON ALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS akroncantonfoodbank.org/agency/events
2016 Annual site visits
This year, a new structure will begin for annual site visits and ongoing network partner support. There will no longer be one staff member assigned to your account; rather, a team of people will be here to support your programs!

The teams, Team Apple and Team Bread, will work in collaboration to ensure that proper support is given to each network partner. Each quarter, the team will determine the schedule for site visits and a team member will come to complete your site visit. Throughout the year, your program can call the Foodbank and ask for a member of your team to receive additional support.

TEAM APPLE
Holmes, Medina, Wayne and city of Akron programs

Laura Vanzo Altieri
lvanzo@acrfb.org
Colleen Benson
cbenson@acrfb.org
Katie Carver Reed
kcarver@acrfb.org
Keith Freund
kfreund@acrfb.org

TEAM BREAD
Carroll, Portage, Stark, Tusc. and Summit County programs outside the city of Akron

Gary Green
ggreen@acrfb.org
Amber Levesque
alevesque@acrfb.org
Linda Steinhebel
lsteinhebel@acrfb.org

If you have questions, please contact Jill Oldham, Director, Network Partners and Programs at joldham@acrfb.org or 330.777.7574.

PANTRYTRAK REVOLUTIONIZES CLIENT INTAKE AT FOOD PANTRIES
Get rid of bulky paper forms by collecting e-signatures on electronic TEFAP forms through PantryTrak. This system is a cost-free “Cloud” based system hosted online. No software needs to be downloaded or installed in order to use it. PantryTrak allows for detailed reporting and to allow an agency to better know their clients by collecting names, birthdays, food allergies and more. The only requirements are having a minimum of one computer or device with an internet connection at the distribution site.

SIGN UP TODAY with your intake volunteers for one of the upcoming PantryTrak trainings on:
- Friday Mar 18 9:30 - 11:30 am
- Tuesday Mar 29 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- Saturday Apr 9 9:30 - 11:30 am
- Thursday Apr 28 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Changes to Partnership & Liability Agreement
Agreements signed annually by all Foodbank partners outline the required criteria to receive food and draw upon the resources of the Foodbank. These agreements have been updated for 2016 to provide additional guidance as it relates to proper uses of food and other essential items procured from the Foodbank.

In addition, the agreement will get a refresh to reflect our focus on partnering within the communities we serve. Previously referred to as the “Membership & Liability Agreement” will now be called the “Partnership & Liability Agreement”. Further we are now asking for signatures on the agreement from the staff/volunteer who serves as the main program contact as well as the highest authority at your organization.

For example, if Hope Church is a partner of the Foodbank, the senior pastor, trustee or highest authority of Hope Church will need to sign the agreement, not only the program contact. The reason for this change is to ensure organizational leadership understand the partnership with the Foodbank and acknowledge organizational responsibility for the program.

Updates to items already in the agreement:
16. Will keep adequate client records and maintain a copy of all Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank invoices for a period of five (5) years. These records will be kept at the program site and are subject to review by representatives of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, food donors and appropriate government entities.

24. Will NOT require money, volunteer service, or for clients to perform work in exchange for food received from Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

25. Will NOT use food as an incentive or for activities that coerce, require or promote religious affiliation or church membership.

29. Will NOT direct food to any other organization, with the exception of perishable items that need to be distributed to maintain quality. Perishable items may only change hands one time to other approved member agencies and in this event complete and accurate redistribution documentation must be kept by the distributing agency.

New to the Agreement:
27. Will NOT use Foodbank food for organization fundraising events or activities or other non-approved programmatic activities.

If you have questions about the updated Partnership & Liability Agreement, please contact a member of your assigned team.

Team Apple
TEAM APPLE
TEAM BREAD