Teamwork and Innovation at the Network Summit

The Foodbank hosts a Network Summit every other year to bring network partners together for a day of learning and sharing. This year, the conference will focus on strategies to strengthen programs and better connect with those we serve.

The Foodbank is thrilled to welcome 3-time Super Bowl Champion Je’Rod Cherry as the keynote speaker at the Network Summit. He is currently an ESPN radio talk show host for WKNR AM 850 in Cleveland and an active volunteer at the Foodbank. In addition to his impressive accomplishments on the field, he also has a compelling story to share about how he got there.

As a friend of the Foodbank and an active volunteer, Je’Rod will share his story, including his experience growing up struggling with hunger, earning a college scholarship to UC Berkeley, graduating with both an undergrad and master’s degree and being chosen in the NFL draft in 1996. Je’Rod’s experience on the football field will provide championship level insights in transforming a group of individuals into a powerful team with shared vision.

In addition, multiple break-out sessions will be offered throughout the day to provide opportunities to focus on areas of interest and gain insights into innovative practices in the network. For full session descriptions and to register, please visit networksummit.org.

Network Partners must register no later than August 7. One free registration per network partner is provided. Each additional guest is $5.00 to help cover the cost of lunch. Parking is free.

If you have questions about the Network Summit, please contact Jessica Robb at jrobb@acrfb.org or 330.436.3173.
Partner Program FAQ

The Network Partner program was created to build the capacity of our network and recognize the unique contributions of hunger-relief partners. Network Development is highlighted in Goal 3 of the Foodbank’s strategic plan. Since the roll-out of initial assessments earlier this year, here are a few frequently asked questions to share more information about the program.

Network Partners are encouraged to review the booklet mailed earlier this year where you’ll find full details. The program was designed to be dynamic and responsive to the needs of the network. If you have suggestions or questions, call the Foodbank and ask for a member of Team Apple and Team Bread.

HOW DID THE FOODBANK EVALUATE MY PROGRAM?
The 2017 placement in the program used data from 2016 – June 2017. However, typically organizations placement in the program will be based on a calendar year. In 2018, the placement will be based on calendar year 2017.

Network Partners were evaluated by organization, rather than by individual program. The information used to determine placement in the program included food distribution, compliance, event attendance, and participation in other Foodbank initiatives.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR FOODBANK EVENTS & EMAIL ALERTS?
Network Partners can register for events, like Operation Orange and the Harvest for Hunger Breakfast, and advocacy alert emails by visiting the Agency Zone. Events with links to register are available on the home page, and the Advocacy Alert email sign up is in the resource center. Soon, a page will be added to the website that will include all information about the Network Partner Program.

HOW DO I ACCESS PERKS FOR MY PROGRAM?
Most perks included in the program will be automatically made available to network partners. For example, network partners at the engaged level or above will be included as eligible for all grant opportunities.

If you have questions about perks, contact Nada Popovic, Partner Development Coordinator, at npopovic@acrfb.org.

Network Partners of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank are invited to join us for our biennial Network Summit, an opportunity to come together and collaborate around our common work of feeding our hungry neighbors in need.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Registration & refreshments begin at 8:00 a.m.
The NEW Center at Northeast Ohio Medical University
4211 SR 44, Rootstown, OH 44272
One free registration per network partner, $5/each additional guest
DON’T FORGET TO DOUBLE CHECK!

Network partners are encouraged to check product when it is at the Foodbank and back at your program. During the pick-up process, a volunteer or staff member should stay with the vehicle and be responsible for reviewing the Order Invoice to confirm receipt of the correct products and correct quantity of those products. If there is an error, alert the order desk. This ensures the Foodbank’s inventory system remains accurate and network partners receive all ordered product.

Volunteers at the food program should always keep food safety in mind and check the quality of products before distribution. While food may have been safe to distribute at the time it was picked up from the Foodbank, it may perish before there is an opportunity to distribute. Double checking orders and product at the Foodbank and at your food program will maximize the benefit to those we serve.

HUNGER ACTION DAY OF SERVICE

The Foodbank is seeking requests for projects from partner agencies for Hunger Action Day of Service. This day of service takes place during Hunger Action Month, which is in September. Hunger Action Month is a time to engage the community in conversations about hunger and highlight the important work of our network. The Foodbank will be recruiting volunteers to assist network partners in completing projects at their site while also providing an opportunity for volunteers to learn more about programs in the community.

Agencies interested in submitting projects for consideration must do so no later than Tuesday, August 15. Projects must be held on Friday, September 29 from 9am - 12pm and accommodate 5-10 volunteers. Project submissions should consist of activities such as painting, landscaping, cleaning, reorganizing, inventory, etc. Selected agencies will be notified the week of August 21.

To submit a request, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/agency-zone and click on the featured story about Hunger Action Day of Service.

If you have questions about Hunger Action Day of Service, please contact Katie Carver Reed at kcarver@acrfb.org.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

NETWORK SUMMIT
Friday Aug. 11 9am - 3pm

PANTRYTRAK TRAINING
Monday Aug. 21 1pm - 3pm
Wednesday Sept. 6 9:30am-11:30am

NEW PARTNER ORIENTATION
Friday Aug. 25 9am – 4pm
Thursday Sept. 14 9am – 4pm
Wednesday Oct. 18 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.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH.

September is Hunger Action Month, when we ask everyone in our community to take action to fight hunger in our area, all month long. Hunger Action Month is your opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our effort to feed more hungry men, women and children than ever before.

TAKE ACTION
Follow @ACRFoodbank on Twitter or visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/ham for ways to get involved.