



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tarps and straps required for open bed vehicles - beginning March 15.
- The Foodbank is recruiting for AmeriCorps VISTA members. Please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/careers for more information.

350 Opportunity Parkway
Akron, OH 44307-2234
330.535.6900 phone
330.996.5337 fax
akroncantonfoodbank.org

CLIENT ASSISTANCE

855.560.0850 toll free
GETFOODHELP.ORG

TO PLACE AN ORDER

call: 330.253.7054
toll free: 800.673.6490
online: go.acrfb.org/order

SCHEDULED USDA

canned corn, canned mixed fruit, canned pears, apple juice, canned sliced potatoes, canned cling peaches

TEAM APPLE

City of Akron, Holmes, Medina and Wayne Counties

TEAM BREAD

Carroll, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Counties



The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a proud member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity.

Introducing the Network Partner Program

The Foodbank's Strategic Plan, Foodbank 2020, focuses on the development of our network partners. One of the goals is to build a strong, sustainable, collaborative network within the communities served by the Foodbank in order to optimize our collective work. Last year, the Foodbank hosted a series of Network Partner roundtable sessions to gather input on the development of a new, dynamic partner program that will better support the growth and development of our hunger relief network. The result is the Network Partner Program, which will launch this year. A booklet outlining the details of the program was included in the Network Partner Packet mailing in February.

The Network Partner Program is designed to be dynamic and responsive. From year to year, as new opportunities for collaboration arise, the number of options in the program will also grow.

In the first two levels of the program, Network Partner and Engaged Partner, organizations are asked to demonstrate basic levels of contribution and program management through tasks such as displaying the Network Partner logo (included in the mailing), submitting monthly report on time, and participating in at least one education opportunity. In return, the perks and benefits include access to the Foodbank's menu of free or reduced price food, as well as



becoming eligible for special opportunities to secure equipment, grants funded food, or skilled volunteer services.

In the upper two levels, Collaborative Partner and Champion Partner, there are a menu of contribution options allowing partners to choose the activities best suited to their organizations, skills, capacity, and interests. The perks and benefits also expand at these levels of engagement. There are opportunities for joint fundraising, grant funding exclusively for your program, and media recognition.

Network Partners will receive a letter in March with a preliminary program level evaluation. The evaluation will assist in deciding if your program wants to remain at the preliminary level or work towards a different level of engagement. This new program will go into effect July 2017.

If you have questions about the Network Partner Program, please contact the Network Partners and Programs department at 330.535.6900.

2018 – 2019 State Budget

Ohio's Foodbanks have received support in the state budget for nearly 20 years. This support comes in the form of shelf stable commodities and fresh produce made available to network partners. Foodbanks will advocate for funding that will align Ohio's funded hunger-relief efforts within one request. A \$30 million per year allocation, sourced from existing federal and state dollars, will fund the following programs:

- The Ohio Food Program, providing shelf stable foods
- The Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program, providing surplus fresh produce, meats, and eggs

- OFP and OACP account for 21% of the total food made available from the Foodbank.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) outreach to Ohio's most vulnerable populations
- Innovative programs for Ohio's hungry children, such as summer weekend meal programs and summer rural delivery meal programs
- Summer Farmer's Market Programs targeting families with children
- The Ohio Benefit Bank, a proven, effective collaboration with Ohio's nonprofit and social service sector to



life people out of poverty

- Capacity building for Foodbank and non-profit charities fighting local hunger

We encourage our network partners to get involved in our advocacy efforts. Learn more about the state budget process and our request at akroncantonfoodbank.org/agency/advocacy-toolkit.



AMAZING VALUES MENU

Last year, the Foodbank introduced a new section to the menu – Amazing Values. The Foodbank strives to balance donated products with other quality foods at an affordable price, and Amazing Values is our way of highlighting that initiative. The goal is to be a “one stop shop” for network partners.

To do this, Foodbank staff keeps an eye on a number of vendors to find opportunities to leverage buying power and pass those savings on to the network. The Foodbank can negotiate a lower cost per unit, much in the same way commercial food warehouses work, because of the volume of product purchased. Network Partners then get a menu of thoughtfully curated products at remarkable unit prices.

The Amazing Values menu is stocked with seasonal items like soups or stews in the winter months, or items that pair well with donated or USDA/State items. Foodbank staff work to make sure there is a great deal on gravy for the mashed potatoes, and peanut butter for the free jelly.

Like the rest of the menu, the Amazing Values selections are constantly in motion, so be sure to check often. A seasonal flyer is also sent to highlight some of the best items. Happy pickings!



TARPS & STRAPS AVAILABLE

Food safety guidelines require that “finished products are handled and transported in a way that prevents actual or potential contamination”. The Foodbank wants to work with network partners to ensure that food is transported in a way that ensures it is safe for individuals and families to consume. Beginning March 15, if a network partner does not have tarps and straps to cover their order, the Foodbank will provide one tarp (size 5 feet by 7 feet) with four bungee cords at no cost to the network partner. If additional tarps are needed at that time or during subsequent visits, the Foodbank will provide additional tarps and straps at a cost of \$10 per set. The cost will be added to the order and become the property of the network partner.

Please note, loads that have been plastic stretch wrapped still need to be covered with a tarp.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

COOKING DEMONSTRATION WITH CHEF QUINN

Tuesday March 14 1:00 - 3:00pm

PANTRYTRAK TRAINING

Monday March 27 1:00 - 3:00pm

NEW PARTNER ORIENTATION

Friday March 31 9am - 4pm

Wednesday April 19 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.