Network Summit 2017 a success

Thanks to all who attended the 2017 Network Summit. Nearly 200 different partner programs and 349 people attended for a full day of learning, networking, and inspiring one another to continue the important work of fighting hunger in our community.

Our keynote speaker, Je’Rod Cherry, commended this network for its humble service to our community and reminded us all that our best strategy for closing the meal gap is working together as a network connected in service.

The Foodbank values your feedback. Based on comments from the evaluations, more networking time will be included in future Network Summits and more materials will be provided in person to make note taking easier. All presentation materials from the day can be found at networksummit.org.

DID YOU MISS THE NETWORK SUMMIT? You can still attend a roundtable session – there are a few more this year! See the Training Updates section of the newsletter for more details or visit the “News & Events” section of the Agency Zone.
Agencies fight hunger at Operation Orange

September is Hunger Action Month – a month where people all over the country stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It’s a month to spread the word and take action against hunger and dedicate ourselves to a solution.

Locally, the community took action during Operation Orange, a 24 hour volunteer event. This year, more than 1,800 friends joined the Foodbank to repack 266,000 pounds of food. A special thank you goes to all of the network partners who sent volunteers and served as volunteer leads. Ninety different network partners were represented at Operation Orange – that’s a record!

Participating in Operation Orange meets a criterion of the Engaged Level of the Network Partner Program. Keep an eye out for a date for next year’s Operation Orange!

“We’re incredibly grateful for our friends, community members and network partners who are donating their time with us during Operation Orange. All the food you touch today, will be in the hands of those facing hunger in our community by next week.”

-DAN FLOWERS

Advocate for the Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is the major federal food and farm legislation that includes a wide range of agricultural and nutrition policies. It dictates policy around the largest, most meaningful program affecting food insecure individuals, as well as food banks and other charities working to address hunger. Around 80% of farm bill funding goes to nutrition programs, including: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This piece of legislation is set to be reauthorized in 2018 and our Foodbank will engage the network to advocate for increased funding and no changes to the current structure of these programs.

To join our advocacy efforts, please visit the Agency Zone to sign up for our email Action Alerts. Joining the Action Alert email list also meets a criterion of the Engaged Level of the Network Partner Program. If you have questions about the Foodbank’s advocacy efforts, contact Colleen Benson at cbenson@acrfb.org.
UPCOMING TRAININGS

NETWORK PARTNER PROGRAM INFO SESSIONS
Wednesday, October 11
• Stark County: 9:30-11:30am
  Main Public Library (McKinley Room)
  715 Market Ave. N, Canton 44702
• Summit County: 1:30-3:30pm
  Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
  350 Opportunity Parkway, Akron 44307

PANTRYTRAK TRAINING
Wednesday Oct. 11 9:30am-11:30am
Thursday Oct. 26 1:00pm-3:00pm
Wednesday Nov. 2 1:00pm-3:00pm
Tuesday Nov. 14 9:30am-11:30am

NEW PARTNER ORIENTATION
Wednesday Oct. 18 9:00am – 4:00pm
Friday Nov. 8 9:00am – 4:00pm

Help clients access more food

At the Network Summit, more than 62 people attended the Connecting Clients to SNAP breakout session where they learned some of the history of this pivotal anti-poverty program and how they can help ensure clients are accessing this important benefit.

CONNECTING CLIENTS WITH SNAP CAN BE AS EASY AS ADDING TWO QUESTIONS TO THE INTAKE PROCESS:

1. Do you already receive SNAP (food stamps)?
2. If not, would you like to be contacted by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank about applying?

If they don’t receive SNAP and would like to apply, then simply send their contact information to the Foodbank! Our team will contact them within one business day and complete the application over the phone. (Yes, it is that easy!)

Three new agencies have signed SNAP Referral Agreements, committing to partner with us in this effort to connect people with this crucial resource. A special kudos to OPEN M and First Congregational Food Cupboard who have referred clients for SNAP during the month of August. If you would like more information about connecting people to SNAP, please email snapreferral@acrfb.org.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS - GIVE FEEDBACK!

The annual Network Partner Feedback Survey launched this month. The survey was sent to the main contact for each network partner. The survey is an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback to the Foodbank about customer service, processes, and more. It is highly encouraged that all network partners participate in this important survey. The deadline to submit is Friday, October 20.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Katie Carver Reed at kcarver@acrfb.org.

TEAM APPLE
City of Akron, Holmes, Medina and Wayne Counties

TEAM BREAD
Carroll, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Tuscarawas Counties