



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Foodbank will be closed Monday, December 25 to observe the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.
- The Foodbank Warehouse & Distribution Offices will be closed Friday, December 29 for inventory.
- Save the date for the Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast on February 15, 2018.

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](http://go.acrfb.org/order)

### SCHEDULED USDA

Concord Grape Juice, Cranberry Juice (Concentrate), Eggs, Frozen Chicken Leg Quarters, Grapefruit Juice, Orange Juice, Raisins, Shredded Cheese

### SCHEDULED OFF/OACP

Canned Goods: Carrots, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili Beans, Diced Tomatoes, Peas  
Cabbage, Chicken Noodle Soup, Grapefruit, Oranges, Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Juice



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

## The End of a Great Year A note from Dan Flowers

Dear Friends:

As 2017 draws to a close, I want to express our sincere thanks for your faithfulness in partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. This organization that we all love, that does such great work in our community, is rooted in YOU, our network partners.

In 1982, the Akron Area Foodbank (as it was called at the time) was organized by a small band of organizations like yours. They found it beneficial to collaborate together and build a facility used to process food donations. Those founding agencies were the primary funders of the newly formed Foodbank. The Foodbank was literally made by you to serve you.

The Foodbank has come a long way in the past 35 years. Just last month we surpassed 30 million pounds of distribution in 2017 for the first time in our history. We will give away more fresh produce in 2017 than ever before, and more than 70 percent of the food we distribute will go out for free. We are working hard to add more nutritious foods to our menu, and make more foods available at no cost. Our staff is passionate about serving you because we appreciate all the time and energy you put into serving others!

Finally, I want you to know I am proud of you. Many of you are volunteers. Your work is often difficult and thankless. Your hearts to serve are second-to-none. Visiting hundreds of food programs captured my heart 20 years ago and helped guide my philosophy of foodbanking today. I want you to know I will always be focused on you, seek to honor your values and efforts, and strive to provide you with the kind of Foodbank you can be proud of. You deserve our very best.

Peace,  
Dan



# New Faces and Responsibilities in our Warehouse and Distribution Department

The Distribution Department and Warehouse team has shifted some roles and responsibilities and brought on a few new team members. Please refer to this list to help find the team member to best answer your question.



ROSS



NANCI



MELISSA



STEPHANIE



LAURA



LINDA



RYAN

## **ROSS KOLLAR** *Manager, Warehouse*

Ross manages day-to-day warehouse operations and supports our warehouse team members who select orders, help agencies on the distribution dock, and organize warehouse inventory.

## **NANCI MCCOLLUM** *Manager, Food Acquisition*

After serving seven years with the Distribution Department, Nanci has joined the Food Sourcing team where she will work with food donors and our network partners to enhance current donor relationships and explore new food streams.

## **MELISSA LINK** *Manager, Distribution & Continuous Improvement*

Melissa is excited to join the hard-working team in the Distribution Department after

four years of working on the Foodbank's Volunteer Department. In her role, she will help to improve processes and inspire a culture of lean, continuous improvement across the organization, in addition to supporting the work of the Distribution team.

## **STEPHANIE YANOK** *Distribution Lead*

If you have stopped by the Foodbank recently to pick up an order, you may not have seen Stephanie. She has been hard at work behind the scenes in her new role supporting the Distribution Department by managing grants, special programs and a variety of reports.

## **LAURA DEUBEL** *Administrative and Product Specialist*

Each day, food and other needed items arrive at the Foodbank's dock from

manufacturers and our network of local retail partners. Laura works to ensure these products are entered into the inventory management system so they can be made available to network partners.

## **LINDA SCHNEIDER** *Distribution Specialist*

When network partners arrive to pick up orders, they are greeted with a smile and warm hello from Linda. She can answer questions about products, suggest items to add on to orders, and add MarketPlace items to orders.

## **RYAN DYKE** *Distribution Coordinator*

If you have picked up an order, placed an online order, or called to schedule an appointment, you probably had the pleasure of speaking with Ryan. He enjoys helping network partners with their order and appointment scheduling needs.

## Agency Equipment Swap

The Foodbank recently connected network partners to one another to share equipment. Williard United Church of Christ closed and had refrigerators and freezers they wanted to donate to our hunger-relief network. The Foodbank connected two local pantries with the equipment at no cost. Those pantries were then able to donate their gently used equipment to two other food pantries. If your program is replacing equipment and would like to donate it to another network partner, contact **Keith Freund at [kfreund@acrfb.org](mailto:kfreund@acrfb.org)**.



## Partner Program Launching in January

The Network Partner Program fully activates in January! The purpose of the Network Partner Program is to build a strong, sustainable, collaborative network within the communities served by the Foodbank to optimize our collective work. All network partners received preliminary reports of placement within the program earlier this year, and a list of options to move to new levels.

In January, final placement in the program for 2018 will be shared as part of the network partner mailing. Partners will then be able to utilize available perks corresponding to their level.

If you have questions about the Network Partner Program or placement within the program, please contact **Gary Green at [ggreen@acrfb.org](mailto:ggreen@acrfb.org)**.



# Working Together to Serve More Seniors

This year, the Foodbank launched the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to provide nutritious food boxes to seniors. The case limit for the program is determined by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The Foodbank partnered with 11 organizations in four counties to serve 500 seniors each month. The boxes include cereal, juice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, pasta, a protein item, shelf stable

milk and cheese. The box also includes a nutrition information flyer to educate seniors and encourage them to stay healthy. Seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations served by our network. The Foodbank is committed to working with partners in the community to better serve seniors. A request to increase the case limit and serve more seniors has been made to ODJFS. The Foodbank will evaluate possible new partners and expand this program in 2018.



## 2018 Roundtable Topic Preview

The Foodbank has been working hard to create a schedule of informative, thought-provoking roundtables for our network partners. Using input from the Network Summit and Network Partner Program feedback, the offerings are based on the current needs and interests of our network partners. These sessions are sure to offer relevant information for all program types.

Many sessions are intended to maximize participation in the Network Partner Program. Roundtables providing information about collaborative fundraising opportunities, Speaker's Bureau training, and communications will not only prove informative – but will help you advance in the program.

### CLIENT EXPERIENCE

This year, there will be a few roundtables focused on the client experience and how to become better advocates for those we seek to help. A pantry simulation will provide an opportunity to experience the way in which clients find food programs, and the barriers they may face in accessing the help they need. A SNAP Outreach roundtable will provide up-to-date information on how the federal food program operates and how to connect clients to additional food resources.

### ADVOCACY

An advocacy roundtable will provide tips on how to engage with legislators and updates regarding the 2018 Farm Bill, which determines funding for federal food programs including TEFAP and SNAP.

### MENU PLANNING

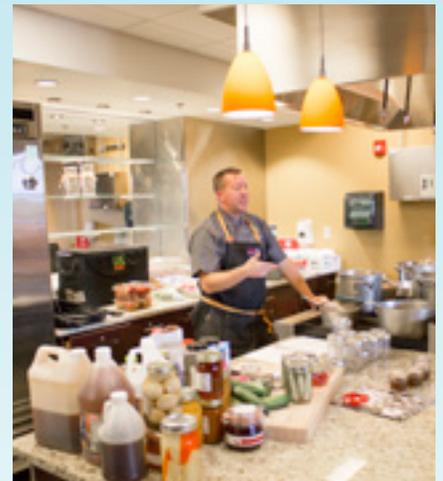
For network partners looking to better utilize available food from the Foodbank, staff from the Foodbank will host sessions about menu planning and navigating the best deals on the Foodbank menu. Chef Quinn will also return to offer fun, interactive cooking demonstrations using items found on the menu.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

Finally, the Foodbank will provide opportunities for partners to build organizational structure and capacity. This includes building a board, succession planning, emergency preparedness, and opportunities to network with other food programs by county.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The final roundtable schedule will be included as part of the network partner mailing in January and in the News & Events section of the Agency Zone of the Foodbank's website. Network partners are encouraged to visit the Agency Zone starting in January to register for roundtables.



*Chef Quinn from US Foods demonstrates how to cook with items found on our menu*

## REMEMBER!

Attending one roundtable session meets one criterion of the Engaged Level of the Network Partner Program.

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

### HOW TO SHOP THE FOODBANK MENU

*At the Foodbank*

Wednesday Jan. 17 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### COLLABORATIVE FUNDRAISING

*At the Foodbank*

Thursday Jan. 25 9:30am - 11:30am

### SNAP

*At the Foodbank*

Wednesday Jan. 31 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### INS AND OUTS OF COMMUNICATION

*At the Foodbank*

Wednesday Feb. 7 1:30pm - 3:30pm

### COUNTY NETWORKING

*Doylestown United Methodist Church  
153 Church St., Doylestown, OH 44230*

Wednesday Feb. 21 9:00am - 11:00am

*Helping Hands Ministry*

*Northside Christian Church*

*7615 Ridge Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281*

Wednesday Feb. 21 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### PANTRYTRAK TRAINING

Thursday Jan. 18 9:30am - 11:30am

Friday Feb. 16 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Wednesday Feb. 28 9:30am - 11:30am

### NEW PARTNER ORIENTATION

Wednesday Jan. 17 9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday Feb. 9 9:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday March 1 9:00am - 4:00pm

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

The Foodbank recently launched the Question of the Month initiative to gather feedback from network partners on a regular basis. The questions have covered a variety of topics, including volunteer needs, Foodbank availability on evenings/weekends, and rating the overall experience of picking up food.

Because of feedback, interested programs have been connected with SNAP outreach assistance and the Foodbank is exploring providing training opportunities to network partners outside of regular business hours.

The Question of the Month is administered in different ways - sometimes in the Foodbank warehouse, via email to program contacts, or in both avenues. All network partners are encouraged to provide feedback to help the Foodbank continue to serve the network better! If you have a suggestion for a question, or would like to provide additional feedback, email **Jessica Robb at [jrobb@acrfb.org](mailto:jrobb@acrfb.org)**.

**TEAM APPLE** 

City of Akron, Holmes, Medina  
and Wayne Counties

 **TEAM BREAD**

Carroll, Portage, Stark,  
Summit, and Tuscarawas Counties

## SAVE THE DATE!

### HARVEST FOR HUNGER KICK-OFF BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 15, 2018 doors open at 7:30am

JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER  
77 E. MILL STREET, DOWNTOWN AKRON

