Question of the Month Recap

Last year, the Foodbank launched an initiative to gather regular feedback from our network about topics of interest through the Question of the Month. It has included questions about volunteer needs, the Foodbank menu, the Network Partner Program, potential retail pick-up opportunities and the Foodbank warehouse. Because of your feedback from the Question of the Month, we're working on a few new projects!

• Network partners, at the Collaborative Level or higher, can request volunteer support at their programs. Learn more about this on the next page.
• The Foodbank is exploring opportunities to connect network partners directly to local retail partners to pick up donated food.
• The Foodbank is using feedback about the menu to consider additional items for the Amazing Values menu.

February’s Question of the Month is geared toward introducing potential new partners to our hunger-relief network. If you have a connection to a food program in your community that is not a current network partner, please provide their contact information to a member of the NPP team so we can share the benefits of partnering with the Foodbank. Network partners that participate this month will be entered for a chance to win a $25 gift card.

PantryTrak Advanced Training

The Foodbank will begin offering a new training opportunity for PantryTrak users this spring. The PantryTrak advanced training is for PantryTrak administrators and will include how to pull special reports and gather additional information from the system, how to incorporate SNAP referrals into program operations, and other relevant topics. The Foodbank will continue to offer a basic PantryTrak training for volunteers and staff to learn how to complete client intake and troubleshoot common problems.

Not using PantryTrak? Contact the Foodbank to learn more about this free system that simplifies client intake and captures the most accurate statistics for your food pantry.
Volunteer Opportunities

The Foodbank received feedback from our network partners about ensuring a sufficient number of opportunities to advance within the Network Partner Program. To do this, we’ve added volunteer days to meet one of the criterion of the Engaged Level within the program. If a network partner was unable to attend the Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast and is unable to attend Operation Orange, there are now more opportunities available to get involved. Attending any of the following will count toward the Engaged Level of the program:

**Wednesday, June 6:** Volunteer Night, 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

**Friday, September 7 – Saturday, September 8:** Operation Orange (24-hour event)

**Saturday, December 22:** Selfless Elf 5k

To register for a volunteer opportunity, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/volunteer. Questions about registering? Call 330.535.6900 and ask to speak with a member of the volunteer team.

**OH THE PERKS!**

For network partners at the Collaborative Level or higher, the Foodbank has begun recruiting volunteers to help at your programs! This includes volunteers for one-day projects and for ongoing opportunities. Check the network partner mailing to review your level and see if your program qualifies for this opportunity.

Questions? Contact Jessica Robb at jrobb@acrfb.org.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The Foodbank distributes an average of 90 food orders each day!
- Every 30 minutes, from 7:30am-3pm, approximately six different agencies pick up orders from our warehouse.
- 130,000 pounds of food leave the Foodbank each and every day!

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Ohio Food Programs Manual

The state of Ohio released a new version of the Ohio Food Programs Manual in November 2017. The update to the manual provides further clarification to existing USDA and state policies. All Emergency Feeding Programs, food pantries, hot meals, and shelters, are required to have a copy of the Ohio Food Programs Manual at their program site. The manual is available for download in the Forms section of the Agency Zone under the Resource Center. For questions about the OFP Manual, contact Gary Green at ggreen@acrfb.org.
The Foodbank offers roundtable sessions to provide training and networking opportunities to our hunger-relief partners. The 2018 schedule includes many guest speakers and topics requested by our network partners. The schedule is below, and additional topics may be added throughout the year. For more details and to register for a roundtable, visit the Agency Zone of the Foodbank’s website. As a reminder, attendance at a roundtable session meets one criterion of the Engaged Level of the Network Partner Program.

COUNTY NETWORKING
Wednesday, March 7
9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
The Word Church
1700 Brittain Road, Akron, OH 44310
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Brimfield Community Cupboard
1235 Tallmadge Road, Kent, OH 44240

Wednesday, April 18
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Stark County Public Library
715 Market Ave. N, Canton, OH 44702
1:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Harbor of Hope at Barrs Mill Church of God
4677 SR 93 NW, Sugarcreek, OH 44681

PASTAbilities
Tuesday, March 20
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Demo Kitchen

SNAP: WHAT, WHO, HOW
Thursday, March 29
9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
North Canton Church of Christ
1301 E. Maple St.
North Canton, OH 44720

ADVOCACY 101: FARM BILL
Wednesday, April 4
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Community Room

MEET DAN FLOWERS, THE FOODBANK’S PRESIDENT & CEO
Tuesday, April 10
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Wooster Hope Center
807 S. Spruce St., Wooster, OH 44691

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, May 3
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Community Room

MARKETPLACE MYSTERY BASKET
Tuesday, May 22
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Demo Kitchen

PANTRY SIMULATION
Tuesday, June 12
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Board Room - Community Room

MARKETING 101: COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT
Wednesday, June 20
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Community Room

MARKETING 102: SOCIAL MEDIA
Wednesday, June 20
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Community Room

Thank you to the many network partners who joined us on February 15 for our Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast at the John S. Knight Center. We heard from community leaders about the impact the Foodbank and our network have on hunger in our area. Guests witnessed volunteer groups and agency pick-ups taking place from our warehouse in real time via a live-feed video chat with WKYC-TV3’s Amani Abraham.

We hope you’ll continue to support the Campaign which helps support food distribution all year long.

For more information, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/hfh.