ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Please ensure each Network Partner completes the Network Partner Feedback Survey, sent via email, by November 2, 2018.

• Did you know the Foodbank offers frozen MarketPlace items? If your site has the capacity to take frozen items, ask Foodbank warehouse staff about frozen MarketPlace options when picking up your next order.

New USDA Items Available in December

The USDA plans to spend up to $1.2 billion to support U.S. farmers by purchasing products to be distributed through the nation’s food bank network. The product, purchased through a trade mitigation package, is expected to provide record amounts of USDA products for the national food bank network and its hunger-relief partners.

The purchased products will include apples, beef, blueberries, corn, cranberries, dairy, grapes, lentils, orange juice, peanut butter, peas, pork, potatoes, rice and walnuts.

The first product loads should arrive at the Foodbank in mid-December. To help keep your program informed about available products, we will send regular emails with product details and expected delivery dates. We hope to help you maximize your ability to take advantage of these products. Please make sure you and any other leaders from your organization are receiving emails from the Foodbank. If you need to make any changes to your program's email addresses, please contact Keith Freund at kfreund@acrfb.org or 330.777.7576.

To assist in distributing the high volume of product to individuals and families in need, the USDA is encouraging existing food pantries and hot meal sites to offer additional food distributions to the public. Nonprofit organizations and churches not currently operating a public food program, could also offer a seasonal or limited-time emergency food program.

If your organization is interested in starting a public food program, or if you know an organization that may be interested, please contact Gary Green at ggreen@acrfb.org or 330.777.7575, or Linda Steinhebel at lsteinhebel@acrfb.org or 330.777.2303.

Consider adding additional food distributions to the public to help disburse USDA product.
Help Families Access More Food

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides a modest amount of money to low-income households, which can be used to purchase food items only. Nationally, SNAP benefits enable 12 times the number of meals provided by Feeding America’s network of food banks. The program is available to all children, adults and seniors who meet requirements set by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

SNAP is under-utilized, and there are individuals and families visiting food programs in the Foodbank’s network who may be eligible for this resource who do not currently receive it. Some families may need help applying for the program. Pantries should connect them to the Foodbank by providing a SNAP referral.

HOW TO HELP

1. Ask individuals if they already receive SNAP benefits. If they don’t, send their name and contact information to the Foodbank. Our SNAP team will contact the individual within one business day. If using PantryTrak, you can easily refer individuals to us. To learn more, contact Amber Levesque at alevesque@acrbf.org or 330.777.1059.

2. Sign up for advocacy alerts at akroncantonfoodbank.org/advocate. Currently, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are discussing the Farm Bill, and specifically, funding for SNAP. This is an important aspect of the food safety net, and programs are encouraged to contact their government officials and advocate for SNAP.

Hunger Action Month a Success

September was Hunger Action Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness of food insecurity and to bring the community together to address the issue on a national level.

Operation Orange, the annual 24-hour volunteer event hosted at the Foodbank, welcomed nearly 2,000 volunteers who helped relabel canned goods and oatmeal, repackage produce, and sort and inspect frozen meat. This year, more than 100 network partners volunteered during the event and helped provide the equivalent of more than 143,000 meals to be available through our hunger-relief network.

Hunger Action Day of Service engaged 53 volunteers who assisted at eight different partner locations within four counties. Volunteers contributed more than 135 hours of service helping clean, organize and landscape at various network partner locations. One partner said of the experience, “We truly appreciate how the volunteers worked so hard to make the grounds of the facility look groomed, and create additional storage to enable us to serve the community better.”

SPECIAL HOLIDAY REMINDERS

Are you planning a holiday distribution in addition to normal pantry days? Would you like to have the option to pull a separate report for your holiday distribution?

In PantryTrak, you can sign up for an extra service event called Holiday Box. This allows programs to make reservations in PantryTrak for a future date and keeps individuals served specifically on that date, separate from the pantry.

If you are interested in adding this feature, contact Krystal Levstek at klevstek@acrbf.org or 330.777.1051.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

• The Foodbank will be closed November 22-23, 2018 for Thanksgiving.
• The Foodbank will be closed December 25, 2018 for Christmas and December 31, 2018 for inventory.

Learn more and register at SelflessElf.com