Join the AAIC Hunger Walk

The diverse faiths of the world share a common compassion to nourish the hungry and the vulnerable, especially children. That shared compassion finds expression during the Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) Hunger Walks.

Susan Davis, AAIC member and Treasurer, originally became involved with the AAIC by leading the Akron CROP Walk, a walk that supported an international emergency-relief organization.

Five years ago, the AAIC Board decided that they could better serve their community and their mission statement by hosting a local walk that was inclusive of all faiths.

The Akron CROP Walk changed to the AAIC Hunger Walk and was hosted in Fairlawn. After three years of successful walks, Susan expanded the event to include additional locations in Stark County and Wooster.

Last year, with the three walk locations established and a donation to the Foodbank that provided more than 92,000 meals, Susan knew she could do more.

At 84 years of age, Susan spends her time passionately sharing the power of diversity and living her personal mission to help those in need while building a better, kinder society through the message of the Hunger Walks.

So this year on May 3, 2015, hundreds of community members will walk to stop hunger at five locations including: Fairlawn, Hudson, Medina, North Canton and Wooster. The AAIC has an ambitious goal to raise $55,000, enough for 220,000 meals for those facing hunger locally.

When asked the question why she does what she does, Susan answered, “We all have a common respect for a common cause. When people are brought together from diverse backgrounds, amazing things happen.”

TO SUSAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTAGIOUS LIGHT AND FOR REMINDING US TO NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE SHEER POWER OF PASSION.

Join us this year at the Hunger Walk. To register, please visit hungerwalks.org.
Happy National Volunteer Month

Did you know a group of trained volunteers inspect every non-perishable food item that is donated to the Foodbank? We do this because we want to make sure the items we distribute are items we would be proud to feed our own families.

We are blessed to have many committed volunteers who visit our volunteer center regularly. We went to these regular volunteers and asked a simple question:

Why do you volunteer here?

It’s all about the love, and I love helping people and giving back. I’ll sum it up with my favorite quote, “It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”

LINDA

I enjoy helping others in need. I’ve been blessed and want to share my blessings with others.

ERNEST

I love coming here and being with the incredible people. To me, coming here isn’t work, it’s enjoyment.

TONY

I come here because I like to help people. It makes me feel good to be here with my friends.

KATIE

These four volunteers represent a team of people we are proud to call friends and members of the Foodbank family. This month, we look forward to celebrating all of our volunteers! Learn more about our volunteer program by visiting our website and clicking on Volunteer under the Get Involved section.

Join our advocacy efforts

In the crowded Atrium of Ohio’s Statehouse, Foodbank President & CEO and Board Chair of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Dan Flowers, recently spoke to legislators, food bankers and farmers from across the state. He talked about the importance of state funding to Ohio’s network of foodbanks and how it helps not only Ohio’s farmers, but also food insecure Ohioans, including those right here in our community. Dan’s efforts set the stage to receive more funding for our important programs.

BUT WE NEED YOU—OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND FRIENDS—TO MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD.

Sign up to receive advocacy alerts and sign our state budget endorsement by visiting our website and clicking on Be an Advocate under the Get Involved section.

Do you have an important story about our work that you want us to share with legislators? Email it to advocate@acrfb.org.
There is still time to get involved with this year’s Harvest for Hunger campaign!

Harvest for Hunger is the Foodbank's largest fundraising initiative. The campaign is a collaborative effort of four food banks serving 21 Ohio counties. One hundred percent of all Harvest for Hunger donations will go directly toward feeding hungry men, women and children in our community.

"I hope you know how much we appreciate each and every one of you. We can not do this without you. This campaign is what puts millions of meals on the tables of people in need in this community. It is what allowed us to give away more food, and more produce in 2014 than any other year in our history. This is it!"

DAN FLOWERS
President & CEO

What are corporate matching gifts, and does my employer offer them?

Corporate giving programs inspire employees to give back to their communities by offering a matching donation to the nonprofit of their choice. Although different companies have different rules and regulations, giving through your employer is a great way to double your impact! Simply check with your company’s Human Resources department, and inquire if your employer will match your charitable gift. Please contact Leslie Genovese at 330.535.6900 or Igenovese@acrfb.org with any questions.

HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE To host a food & funds drive, simply register and download a coordinator’s kit from the Foodbank’s website, akroncantonfoodbank.org.

The biggest impact in the fight to end hunger is made through financial donations. **EVERY $1 PROVIDES 4 MEALS.**

VOTE FOR HARVEST FOR HUNGER VIRTUAL IDOL This online singing competition is for individuals and groups of all ages. Visit virtualidol.org and vote for the video of your choice! $10 = 10 votes = 40 meals. The video with the most votes on April 30, 2015 will be named the 2015 Harvest for Hunger Virtual Idol winner!

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WIN THIS GUITAR AUTOGRAPHED BY THE BLACK KEYS

In an effort to give back to their community, The Black Keys will be selling raffle tickets to benefit your Foodbank.

Purchase Raffle Tickets Online TBKguitar.com through June 26th
Thank you Polar Bears

This year at the Polar Bear Jump, coordinated locally by the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club, more than 700 jumpers plunged into the icy waters of Portage Lakes and raised more than $100,000, enough to provide 400,000 meals for those facing hunger locally.

One of the brave jumpers was President & CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Dan Flowers. “We are so grateful for the people who showed their generous and adventurous spirits by jumping into the Portage Lakes to support the Foodbank.”

A special thank you to the team from FirstEnergy Corporation, who raised more than $26,000, and the team from the Law Offices of Kisling, Nestico & Redick, who raised more than $25,000!

Sitting outside of a food pantry surrounded by her children running and smiling on the playground, Bernadette is talking about the blessings in her life. Her husband works 40+ hours a week as a line clearance tree trimmer to provide for their family.

“He’s an extremely hard worker,” Bernadette shared. “He supports our beautiful family, but I’ve learned that everyone needs a little help sometimes.”

At the food pantry, Bernadette receives wholesome food like bread, meat and fresh vegetables, but it’s the sense of community being created at the pantry that she loves the most.

“Just listen to the people in there,” Bernadette says. “This place is not only supplying people with food, they are talking, sharing and encouraging. This pantry provides food, but also fellowship.”