

Winter
17

harvest gatherings

Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

*Hunger is not a choice.
Giving is.*

www.sharedharvest.org
800-352-3663

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Our Mission:

To find, rescue and distribute food to people living in poverty through an efficient network, uniting the public and private sectors;
To raise awareness of the impact of poverty.



FEEDING
AMERICA



OHIO
ASSOCIATION OF
FOODBANKS

Written and edited
by Bob Long &
Richard O Jones

The unpredictable, uncertain future

Poets and prophets aside, it has always been next to impossible to predict the future, and it's not getting any easier.

In 1963, Molly Orshansky, an economist working for the Social Security Administration, came up with a simple formula to assess the risks of low economic status for a journal article.

Her formula was a simple one: the cost of a minimum food diet (one highly-reliant on low-cost staples such as dried beans and rice) multiplied by three, based on a 1955 Department of Agriculture statistic saying that low-income non-farm families spent 1/3 of their income on food.

The formula did not factor in the costs of transportation, health care, child care, housing, taxes, or utilities. It specifically didn't include the cost of telephone, because in 1963 you could get a job without one, and it certainly didn't include the costs of Internet access or saving for a college education for the children.

Orshansky said that the number was not meant to determine when a family had adequate funds for survival, but simply when they had inadequate funds, and it is not adjusted for the cost of living in different geographic areas.

Even the federal Office of Management and Budget warns that the poverty level was designed to be a rough statistical measure and "not developed for administrative use in any specific program."

Nevertheless, after President Lyndon Johnson announced his "unconditional war on poverty" in the 1964 State of the Union Address, this formula became the "federal poverty level," set initially at a little more than \$3,000 for a family of four. Sixty bucks a week.

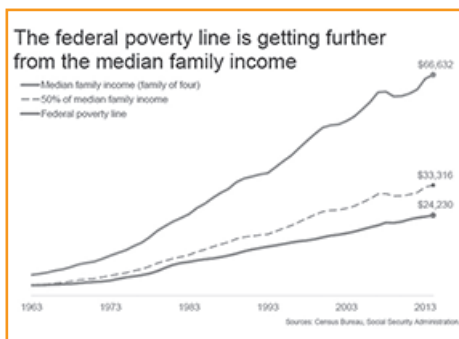
A lot has changed since 1963, but the method for determining whether a family has "inadequate" funds has not. The poverty level has gone up to keep pace with inflation, but it is wholly inadequate in measuring the real costs of living in 2016—if indeed it ever was adequate. Many of the programs we facilitate multiply the Poverty Threshold by two as a baseline for participation

because the "official" number does not reflect reality and gives the rest of the nation a false sense of what it takes to survive in contemporary America.

Attempts to come up with a more accurate method of determining the threshold have fallen by the wayside because

doing so would double or triple the number of families considered living in poverty. No administration wants that on their record, even with the asterisk.

But we are no better at predicting the future than they were in 1963, and we live in uncertain times. This year's election has ushered in a new, untested administration, with no specific policies on federal programs designed to improve the lives of the very people we serve. **(Cont'd on Pg. 3)**



This US Census Bureau graph shows the growing disparity between the average family and people in poverty. The top line shows the median income for a family of four now tops \$66,000. The dotted line represents half the median income, while the bottom is the federal poverty line of \$24,230.

Notes from our director

I have been thinking a lot about language lately, specifically the words we use and how they affect us and those around us. We can use words to build us up or tear us down; words can express hope or fear, love or hate. Words can make peace or start wars, calm or incite, cut to the quick or salve the wound.

Words tell the world who we are, not only by what we say, but also by how we say them, and how those around us hear them. We each bring our own experience with language into every conversation we have with one another. Some of us have become experts at using language to protect ourselves because words have been used as weapons against us, or we are uncomfortable using words that describe difficult issues.

No longer do we use the word hunger to describe people who don't have enough to eat. Now we use the words food security. You are either food secure, or you are not. If someone asks you if you are hungry, you completely understand what they are asking. If someone asks you if you are food secure, would you know what they mean? These words certainly obscure how a person feels when they are faced with empty cupboards.

Chronic unemployment becomes labor surplus – doesn't sound as bad and reduces the impact of the words to describe the reality many people who live in poverty face. Calling jobs that do not pay a living wage 'underemployment' somehow makes us think that the person in that job just isn't working hard enough. These changes in our language make it much easier to ignore the problems. And ignoring problems makes it much easier to ignore people who don't fit

within our language universe. If someone lives in poverty and faces hunger, it must be their fault because they are underemployed, or they live in an area where there is a labor surplus, or they must just be lazy.

Here is the reality – people who live in poverty earn about two times less than the median income in southwest Ohio - \$56,900 is the median annual income for a family of four, while \$24,300 in annual income puts a family of four at the poverty level. At the poverty level everything feels like it costs twice as much of your income because your income is two times less than average.

It's like going to the grocery and finding that a \$4 gallon of milk now costs \$8 or a loaf of bread which costs the median income family \$2 while the family in poverty *feels* like it costs \$4, or fueling the car which actually costs about \$2.14 per gallon, *feels* like \$4.28 per gallon – because they have two times less to spend.

So it doesn't matter how hard you work, if you live in poverty you simply cannot make ends meet. This doesn't make you lazy, it makes you desperate and frustrated – just like punishment for a crime you did not commit.

Here are some words for you: Understanding, compassionate, considerate, caring, and generous. Let's begin our conversations about the difficult issues our neighbors face with these words in mind. These words make it possible for us to find common ground. And from common ground springs hope for a better life for all of us. It really is all about the language we use to describe the future all of us want.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Flocking Project
Late winter

Pledge to Volunteer
January-April

Volunteer Appreciation Month
April

"Stamp Out Hunger" project
of the National Association of
Letter Carriers
Saturday, May 13



Unpredictable Future (From Page 1)

The Child Nutrition Act was due for reauthorization in 2016 but as of this writing has not yet been passed by congress, and each passing day makes it seem more likely that we are going to lose some of the programs we fought hard to get, such as the Summer Food Program and increased eligibility in the Women, Infants and Children program.

It also seems unlikely that we will see a significant increase in the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour—as if it were possible to feed, clothe, and house a family for \$300 a week! An unexpected illness or the break-down of an automobile can be catastrophic for

families already living on the edge of survival.

President Johnson got it right in 1964 when he said, "... the war against poverty will not be won here in Washington. It must be won in the field, in every private home, in every public office, from the courthouse to the White House," and that "no single weapon or strategy will suffice."

And now, it has become more important than ever that we "in the field" rally our forces, to join together in the fight to make sure that the children of America do not go to bed hungry, do not go to school hungry, and are given an equal chance to survive and succeed in this unpredictable, uncertain world.

Inmates get help preparing for return to society

You've nearly completed your prison sentence and are about to be released back into society. But where will you find a job, a car, a place to stay or food to eat?

Shared Harvest Foodbank's SNAP Outreach workers Gloria Bateman, Peter Engelhard and Robert Zohfeld are trying to ease that transition for inmates at Lebanon Correctional Institute (LECI) and the Warren County Correctional Institute (WCCI).

When inmates are 30-60 days away from release, corrections officials begin holding classes to help acclamate them to life on the outside. That includes having the inmates fill out applications for SNAP benefits so Shared Harvest's SNAP staff can assist them.

Bateman said SNAP workers began visiting LECI inmates in September and WCCI in November.

"The inmates who are closest to being released from prison will meet with us so we can go over their SNAP applications and make sure everything is filled out properly," Bateman explained. "The day they're actually released, we file their application so they hopefully can be approved to receive SNAP benefits within a week or two."

Bateman said the SNAP staff also encourages inmates to talk with the foodbank where they'll be living in case they need other assistance such as medical benefits like Medicaid.

Stories from the front lines

Shared Harvest's SNAP Outreach Program helps people learn if they qualify and can apply for SNAP or other supports. SNAP Outreach worker Robert Zohfeld shares a story about hunger and homelessness in the holiday season.

I met Amanda at the Franklin Area Community Services pantry. She had been homeless, living under a bridge for the past several months. After listening to her story, I was able to process Amanda's SNAP application and got her on Medicaid as well.

As an Ohio Benefits Bank counselor, I sign clients up for government programs that give them the resources they need to survive.

While Amanda has since found a place to live, she knows what it is like to be hungry, cold, and scared

without a home. Her hardships have made her care more for people in her community.

I found Amanda to be an inspirational person who takes the time to help anyone she can because of her own difficult life experiences.

One thing Amanda told me she has done is write survival schedules for homeless strangers to give them a chance to get the food they need and shelter from the cold. We need more people like her to remind us we are all capable of helping each other.

It's about more than college debt...

"This program asks no questions. We aren't taking names. Our biggest concern is that if they're food insecure at school, it means they're food insecure at home too."

Shannon Golden- founder of I Combat Hunger

Society has been telling young people for decades that a college degree is the key to a successful career. But a host of issues have turned the goal of a college degree into a loan debt nightmare for many students.

What's even more shocking is that some financially-strapped students face hunger. That issue has caused Miami University's Hamilton Regional Campus to launch "I Combat Hunger" - a program believed to be the first of its kind at an American university.

It also has caused Wright State University to open an emergency food pantry for students.

Basic loan debt facts

The New York Federal Reserve reports more than 44 million current or former students face nearly \$1.3 trillion in college debt today. The average monthly loan debt payment after graduation for students in the 20-30 age range is \$351, but many students face much higher totals.

So how did we get into this loan debt crisis? The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports

that years of cuts in state funding of public colleges and universities have driven up tuition and resulted in faculty reductions and fewer course offerings. These decisions have made college less affordable and less accessible for students needing a degree in today's economic environment.

The report noted Ohio is still 15% below the level of support it gave college students prior to the 2008 recession.

We spoke with several Miami Hamilton students about their loan debt and hunger-related concerns.

Shannon's Project

Miami Hamilton junior Shannon Golden remembers sitting next to a girl in class and knew she was facing hunger. While the woman initially denied it, she later admitted she hadn't eaten for three days.

"I took her to the Harrier's Nest cafeteria and got her something to eat, then to Kroger to get groceries," Shannon said. "I struggle financially myself, living on \$700 a month, so I knew if there was one person like this, there had

to be more."

Shannon approached the former dean of Miami Hamilton, Bob Rusbosin, who helped her gain approval for "I Combat Hunger", providing free meals to students who didn't have the money.

"This program asks no questions," Shannon said. "We aren't taking names. Our biggest concern is that if they're food insecure at school it means they're food insecure at home too."

Miami Hamilton Food Services Supervisor Mica Henry had been buying meals for some students prior to I Combat Hunger, and she says the program is fantastic.

"We have students, staff and faculty who contribute to it," she said. "Even people who have used I Combat Hunger come back when they have money and contribute. We normally have 1-2 students a day who get meals from this plan."

As for Shannon Golden, she already faces \$76,000 in loan debt with more on the way. She's majoring in social work where she hopes to "advocate for the poor, the marginalized and the mentally ill."

Left: Josh is a sophomore at Miami Hamilton; **Center:** Junior Shannon Golden worked with Food Services Supervisor Mica Henry to start "I Combat Hunger" to help students who can't afford a meal. **Right:** Sophomore India works for Mica at Harrier's Nest.



... it's about hunger for some students

More loan debt stories

India's story

India is a junior at Miami Hamilton. She started on the main Oxford campus but had \$10,000 in loan debt after her freshman year. She switched to Hamilton where tuition is cheaper. India works two jobs while trying to take a full-time course load.

She anticipates at least \$40,000 in debt when she graduates but hopes it will be worth it. "My biggest fear is that if I don't get my degree, I'll have to continue pinching pennies like I do today," she said. India's career dream is to work with foster children or in adolescent counseling.

Josh's story

Josh tried college in the late 1990s, left school, paid off his debt and worked in the corporate world. "I worked in a job for many years, but the corporate culture wore me down," he said. Josh started at Miami Hamilton in 2015 and expects to finish with \$57,000 in debt. His goal is to work for an arts organization as an administrator.

"You can't put a value on your emotional health when it comes to the career you want," he added. "Getting a degree with loan debt is still worth it."

Brenda's story

Brenda is about to graduate from Miami Hamilton. She survived drug and alcohol addiction as well as homelessness, before turning her life around. "I've been a student here for five years working on a degree in civic and regional development," she explained. Brenda has been actively involved in a community garden project at MUH for four years. Like Josh, she anticipates \$57,000 in loan debt when she is finished.



Brenda is a non-traditional student at Miami University Hamilton. She works at the Harrier's Nest cafeteria and is close to achieving her dream of a college degree.

Advocacy Project - federal childhood nutrition concerns

Congress was unable to reach a compromise on the reauthorization of the Childhood Nutrition Act in 2016, leaving much uncertainty as to what will happen to the bill under the new administration.

The House and Senate have drastically different visions of nutrition programs for young Americans. Advocates for child nutrition programs support the Senate bill that would streamline the rules, making it easier for after school or summer programs to provide snacks or meals to children in need.

However, the House plan rejects that idea and makes it tougher for families to apply for Federal free or reduced price lunches. That bill also makes it harder for schools to do effective outreach to families whose children qualify for those meals.

Percentage of students in Federal free and reduced price lunch program in our area:

County	# of Students	On Fed. Lunch
Butler	59,732	43%
Darke	9,177	37%
Miami	16,262	36%
Preble	6,388	44%
Warren	37,054	18%

The head of Shared Harvest's advocacy project, Sarah Ormbrek, urges you to write to your Ohio senators and representatives, urging them to support the landmark Senate version of the Childhood Nutrition legislation. For more information:

Contact Shared Harvest' Sarah Ormbrek:
800-352-3663 or
sarah@sharedharvest.org

You can also visit:
www.sharedharvest.org and click on the
"Raise Your Voice" icon to learn how
you can become an advocate in the fight
against hunger.

MillerCoors Trenton workers help Backpack children

The MillerCoors Trenton Brewery used its annual October conference to lend a hand to Shared Harvest Foodbank's Backpack Program.

A group of 350 employees spent one hour of their day packing 4,000 small brown paper bags of protein bars, trail mix, raisins, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The bags were inserted into the larger Backpacks that were distributed to children in the program that provides nutritious snacks and meals for weekends.

"We did not receive a grant for adding toothpaste and toothbrushes for our Backpacks, so these bags prepared by MillerCoors help us promote good dental hygiene," said Shared

Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

Miller Coors has a large-scale volunteer event each fall to coincide with the start of the annual United Way campaign.

"An important component of the United Way campaign is giving back through volunteering in addition to fund raising," said MillerCoors Trenton brewery plant manager Denise Quinn. "Providing Shared Harvest with thousands of these bags for children in need makes a significant impact in our surrounding communities."

Volunteers decorated bags with stickers, drawings, and positive messages for children in the Backpack program.



FLAMINGO FLOCKING FOODBANK STYLE

The Flamingo Flocking Season is here. Granted, it's an ornithological rarity, but we have confirmed reports that large flocks of flamingos will be landing on the lawns of unsuspecting Butler County area residents sometime in the near future.

Our highly confidential sources tell us that these particularly tacky birds, (pinkus flamingous plasticus) tend to show up in the dark of night, accompanied by several Shared Harvest Foodbank volunteers, who generally do their best to not laugh and guffaw too loudly as they surreptitiously plant flocks of pink flamingos on local lawns. Each flock of 12 is just \$25, so we can plant as many flocks as you'd like.

COULD YOUR YARD BE IN THEIR FLIGHT PATH?

Fortunately, there are a variety of cures for a flamingo infestation. Should you wake up one morning to a sea of pink flamingos on your lawn, take heart! There will be instructions on how Shared Harvest Foodbank will come remove the pesky critters.



Your lawn gets de-flamingoed and you have a chance to flock a neighbor or two.

GOT FLAMINGO-PHOBIA?

No worries! By placing a quick call, you can purchase Flamingo Flocking Blocking Insurance to spare your home the embarrassment of blushing in various shades of pink!

DON'T GET MAD, GET EVEN!

Should you find a flamingo flock in your yard, you can "share the joy" by contacting the nice folks at Shared Harvest Foodbank to send the flock flying (for a flocking fee of course) ... **TO ANYONE ELSE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**

For more information, call Mark Lim, Resource Development Coordinator of Flamingo Flocking at 513-874-0114 or

email him at:
mark@sharedharvest.org

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory:

Of: Phyllis Acton
By: Ronald Acton

Of: Vincent Sacco
By: Anonymous

Of: Charles Brewer
By: Izetta Brewer

Of: Frank G. Capozzi
By: Judith Capozzi

Of: Pauline Doyon
By: Gregory & Margaret Carson

Of: John E. Eichold
By: Jean Carter

Of: Lou Clear
By: Theodore Clear

Of: Steve Esposito
By: Tony & Mary Esposito

Of: Jewell & Ronald Baker
By: Phyllis Flynn

Of: Joey Gibson
By: Dennis & Mary Garland

Of: George W. Gault & Rebe Massong
By: Terry Gault

Of: Thomas Sr., Dorothy & Tom Jr.
Cappella for the holidays
By: Todd & Carolyn Groeber

Of: Marlan Hedgecock
By: Ronald & Robin Herzog

Of: Richard Holzberger
By: Becky Holzberger

Of: Josephine Loving
By: Edward Loving

Of: Betty Weber
By: Bari Meyer

Of: Harry & Landon Otto
By: Loretta Otto

Of: Robert E. Sanford
By: Peggy Sanford

Of: Thelma Schutte
By: Richard Schutte

Of: Edward P. Seversen
By: Brenda Seversen

Of: George & Dan Staarmann
By: Mary Jo Staarmann

Of: Janita D. Bowles
By: Michael & Janice Watsell

Of: Lou Armstead & Donna Yockey
By: Mike & Karol Wolf

In Honor:

Of: Laura Cole & Will McAdams
anniversary
By: Anthony Cole

Of: Mary Knollman
By: Leonard Knollman

Of: Helping people in need
By: Herman Napier

Of: Paul & Betty Thompson at
Thanksgiving
By: Pam Sackenheim

Of: Carrie J. Salo's birthday
By: Dennis Salo

Of: Thanksgiving
By: Olivia & Jenny Wan

Food Donors & Drives

Food Donors:

ABC Trucking
Advance Foods
Anonymous
Arctic Express
Bradly Clark
Busken Bakery
Chickpea Chicks Hummus
CLEARresult
Colorado Premium Foods
Continental Express
CRS Trucking
DHL
Ellenbee Leggett
ERB Truck Lines
Essendant
Estes
Freestore Foodbank
Frisch's Restaurants
Frito-Lay Company
Girl Scouts of Western Ohio
Heinz/Portion Pac Inc
J.M. Smucker Company
JAG Trucking Inc.
J-Mar Trucking
K & B Trucklines
Kellogg's
Love's Transportation
Meals of Hope
Meijer Distribution Center
Mondelez/Kraft Biscuit
Mondelez/Nabisco
Needy Baskets of Southern Miami
County
Nestle Company
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Omega Warehouse
Prairie Star Farms
Prime Trucking
Procter & Gamble

Rotex Transportation
Royal Logistics
Sanderson Farms
Schwanns Food Service
Taylor Warehouse
Total Quality Logistics
Tropicana
Vendor Supply of Ohio
Venture Logistics
Victory Wholesale Grocers
Weaver Brothers, Inc.
West Ohio Food Bank
White Castle

Retail Pick-up:

Aldi's
Kroger Company
Marsh's Supermarkets
Meijer Stores
Target
Walmart

Food Drives:

AK Steel Souper Bowl
Barclay Card
Bourdeau Dental Studio
Bridgeport Elementary School
Brookdale Senior Living
BSI Engineering
Butler County Job & Family Services
Butler County Bar Association
Butler County Childrens Services
Butler County Clerk of Courts
Butler County Fair
Butler County RTA
Butler County Transit
Butler Tech Bio Service Center
Butler Tech FFA
Butler Tech Teachers Mtg Food Drive
Butler Tech/D Russell Lee

Buzzard Bay
Carmax
CE Power
Cheesecake Factory
Childrens Hospital
Community First Solutions
Cort Business Services
Dayspring Montessori
DDC DNA Diagnostic
Delta Kappa Gamma Chi Chapter
Dollar Tree
Elements Wellness
Elks Lodge #422
ES3
EyeMart Express
EyeMed
Fairfield High School
Fairwood Elementary
Fed Ex
Fill that Bus
First Financial Bank
GE
GE Aviation
Hamilton Freshman
Heritage of Miami Bluffs
Hi-Tek Manufacturing, Inc.
Kensington Park Apartments
Kraft Heinz
Kroger Employee Bag Off
Lane Libraries
Liberty Center
Liberty Mutual/Safeco
Lifespan
Linden
Lyondell Basell
Macy's
Macy's Bag Hunger
Manheim Cincinnati
MK Dental Excellence
Monroe Terrace Apartments
NALC Stamp Out Hunger
New Beginnings Covenant Church

Northrup Grumman
Ohio Dept. of Rehab & Corrections
Ohio Means Jobs
OPW
PNC Bank
Pole Zero
Ridgeway Elementary
Riverview Elementary
Ryan's Tavern
S.A.N.E.
Schneider Electric
Showcase Cinemas
Sojourner
Summit Academy
Swimoutlet
Talawanda FFA Chapter
The Cleaning Authority
The Dry Cleaning Shop
Thyssenkrupp Bilstein
Towne Properties
Triplefin
YMCA

Individuals

Paul Allen
Anita Batra
Robin Blankumsce
Peter & Kathleen Deltufo
Jim Fatheree
Holly Foster
Joseph Frees
Diane Goodman
Bruce Hartle
Mack Kerr
Vada Love
Matthew Oswald
Kathy Simpson
Sharon Teeple
Bob Tunnat
Maureen Zapf





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Gloria Bateman	SNAP Outreach
Dylan Bostwick	Driver/Warehouse Associate
Ann Copple	Administrative Assistant
Nick Davidson	Direct Services Associate
Rick Devine	Operations Manager
Peter Engelhard	SNAP Outreach
Nate Hoskins	Warehouse Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Richard O Jones	Communication Consultant
Mark Lim	Resource Development Coord.
Bob Long	Communication Specialist
Heather Merritt	CSFP Administrator
Sarah Ormbrek	Agency Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Terry Perdue	Chief Fiscal Officer
Darrell Sandlin	Chief Operating Officer
Mike Stamper	Retail Pickup
Mike Williams	Driver
Mitchell Willis	Director of Development
Robert Zohfeld	SNAP Outreach

Holiday drives offer hope for 2017

Several major holiday campaigns will help Shared Harvest Foodbank take the harshness out of winter for many local families.

Kroger's Check Out Hunger project allows shoppers to make donations to the foodbank by scanning coupons as they check out. Through December 19, Shared Harvest had received \$32,155 in donations.

Cox Ohio's annual

Community Food Relief allowed Journal-News readers to support the foodbank. As of December 19, \$8700.36 had been received.

About 70 businesses, schools, civic groups or churches participated in Shared Harvest's Holiday Aid food or fund drives in November and December. Over 31,000 pounds of food had been donated by mid-December with more to come.

CHECK OUT HUNGER

\$1 = 7 meals

100% of your donation helps Shared Harvest Foodbank provide food for families in need right here at home.



Shared Harvest
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Hunger is not a choice. Giving is.

Cashier will add amount to your purchases.

\$1 = 7 meals

\$1

Shared Harvest

Cashier will add amount to your purchases.

\$3 = 21 meals

\$3

Shared Harvest

Cashier will add amount to your purchases.

\$5 = 35 meals

\$5

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