

FALL
2019

**Shared Harvest**

FOODBANK

HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.
GIVING IS.

www.sharedharvest.org

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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



Richard O Jones
Editor

harvest gatherings

A Toast To Tina

In honor of
Tina Osso's
retirement,
colleagues and
co-workers
remember her
legacy and her
love



She's always been the storyteller. She can captivate an audience better than any religious or political figure I've ever seen standing in front of a podium. She would have conferences and people would go to her sessions just to hear her talk. She is inspirational; she is funny. There's always some sort of a Aesop's Fable lesson to her stories, whether it's talking about what she does or talking about politics.

Those are things that I will always remember. She was very kind, very giving, and held the knowledge of the ages and had a dark side to her humor like me.

Erin Wright

Ohio Association of Food Banks

I don't think I ever met anybody who had the passion for their work like she does. I was always a little overwhelmed at her dedication to what she did. We got along really well. She was very impressive to me with how she carried herself for the need. She started the backpack program and some things for kids, and she was just very passionate about trying to serve hungry people and do everything that she could to help you.

The first apples I ever hauled for the

Ohio Association of Foodbanks was down to Fairfield, driving the truck myself, making the delivery in person so I could thank her for buying those apples because it meant an awful lot to our farm to have a place to sell those the apples to. She on the other hand, wanted to make sure she met the grower because it meant so much to her to be able to get fresh fruit to feed the hungry with, and one of the things that wasn't in their diet was fresh apples. So we with equal enthusiasm wanted to meet one another and it became a real partnership. We felt like it was a win-win situation for us, but the real winners were the poor and the hungry.

Lester Lynd
Lynd Fruit Farm
Pataskala, Ohio

I've had the opportunity to work alongside Tina and the team at Shared Harvest for most of my 15 years at Feeding America. Tina may not remember this, but she shared her wisdom and strategies on successful food drives in a workshop I facilitated at one of the first national Food Conferences in 2005. As I transitioned onto the Member Engagement (formerly

Continued page 5...

A Letter From Our Director...

Terry Perdue



In times of adversity, a leader arises as a beacon of light for others to find their way, a voice crying in the wilderness illuminating the path. In the early 1980s, Butler County was in desperate need of a collaborative food distribution network for people living in poverty. Tina Osso answered the call and persevered with a fervent compassion to meet the need.

She united the efforts of existing charities, helped build new ones, and independently procured resources to establish Shared Harvest Foodbank. She formed systems and processes to serve people in a way that preserved their dignity, respecting the unique circumstances that caused them to be in a position of need. She courageously stood against disparate public policy that alienated and ostracized people living in poverty. She told the stories of thousands whose lives hung delicately in the balance, depending on the kindness of strangers to sustain them. She boldly spoke the truth, revealing the reality of oppressive views and beliefs to crowds who opposed her with a tenacity that Tina alone possesses.

Now, nearly forty years later she is retiring at the end of 2019. Her identity is so enmeshed in her tireless work, she is unable to distinguish herself from the mission that she pursued for so many years. Tina fought to humanize the perception of people who fell lower on the socio-economic scale, offering a face and a name to demonized victims of circumstance. She endured, compelled to change this misconception by sharing the wisdom she gleaned through research and personal observation.

Throughout history, an enlightened few have led millions to reevaluate our humanity and remind us that we were created to love and be loved. In our small corner of the world, Tina is one of these few. In this newsletter, we travel through time and reflect on our humble beginnings and progressive growth over the years. Perhaps you are among the many who stood beside us and made this journey possible. For that, I thank you and encourage you to keep up the fight. As anthropologist Margaret Meade so eloquently stated, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Affectionately,

Terry L. Perdue
Terry Perdue

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The Kroger Company

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Whole Foods

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Journal-News
Community Food Relief Drive
Through December 16

February 2020 Leap Year
29 for 29 Food Drive
Contact Ann Copple for Details
ann@sharedharvest.org

National Volunteer Week
April 19 – 25, 2020
Contact Rachael Copple for Details
rachael@sharedharvest.org

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
May 9, 2020
Contact Ann Copple for Details
ann@sharedharvest.org

Red Nose Day
May 21, 2020
Contact Rachael Copple for Details
rachael@sharedharvest.org

Schedule a Pop-Up Pantry
Contact Robert Zohfeld for details
robert@sharedharvest.org

Third Annual Food for All Food Truck Rally & Music Festival
September 26, 2020
Contact Rachael Copple for Details
rachael@sharedharvest.org

www.sharedharvest.org/news

Advocacy Corner

Lisa Hamler-Fugit
Executive Director
Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Tina always approached her service to others as a social justice calling.

Through these many decades she always challenged us to do more, and to think differently about our work and the approaches we took to addressing the issues that caused hunger and food insecurity.

From her early days as a struggling young mother, in that red polyester suit, she worked to rescue food to feed her hungry friends and neighbors, she always kept her eyes on the prize.

She rallied other foodbankers to join forces and share their ideas on how to work differently, sharing scarce resources and involving all sectors including government towards a common purpose.

Tina is and will always be the mother of invention, from championing and harnessing the State of Ohio's efforts to secure federal food programs, she worked to develop the plans for The/Temporary Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance (CSFP) commodity distribution programs in Ohio. Today, these programs are critical lifelines that provide over 25% of all the food distributed in Ohio through the statewide network of emergency and supplemental food programs.

Seeing the value of working together and how these collective efforts could be used to leverage even more food and resources, she worked to create the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. She worked long hours to establish the framework and to help set the table to bring all the foodbanks together, to develop and work towards a shared goal and vision. This was no easy task, yet she forged ahead.

Through the good times and the bad, she dealt effectively with the difficult issues and people that have crossed her path. She soldiered on from one recession to the next, to welfare reform and the radically changing political landscape, encountering serious head winds, she was never deterred.

Her determination and grit, always anchored by her faith, she never missed an opportunity to reach out, increasing awareness of the tragedy of hunger and poverty – she has called on all of us to show our better angels and to “get off our butts to do more”.

Tina's accomplishments and legacies are vast and far reaching. From her skills and abilities of capturing the voices of the hungry through her Hunger Forums, Hunger Profiles, numerous Hunger Studies to the thousands of Paper Plates she helped to collect, she has been instrumental in bringing the issue of hunger out of the shadows.

As the mother of invention she has been the statewide and national leader for data collection efforts launching Virtual Case Manager, to creating Choice Food Pantries and Back Pack programs, to launching the Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program SNAP-O Outreach to her unwavering support of the Ohio Benefit Bank and the development of the Ohio Food and Agricultural Clearance Programs – Tina's commitment and legacies will carry on.

We will carry on, working to uphold and carry out your commitments Tina to the cause of social justice and to help end hunger in our communities, state and nation.

Enjoy your retirement Tina and I look forward to your next career - as an elected official I hope.

Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

A Brief History

On March 3, 1983 the foodbanking concept was presented to a group of folks from churches, social services organizations, local government, Civil Defense and United Way.

On June 26, 1983, we delivered the first load of food to Family Services 'Summer Food for Kids' program as a 'mobile' foodbank – we had no warehouse at that point.

On October 1, 1983, we opened our first warehouse.

From June to December 1983, we distributed over 300,000 pounds of food to 12 member agencies in Butler County.

In March of 1984, we incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization in the State of Ohio, receiving our final ruling from the IRS in May 1986

By the end of 1984, we were serving Butler and Warren counties with all product and seven other counties with USDA.

In 1985 our USDA territory expanded to 19 counties and our Second Harvest (now known as Feeding America) territory grew to include Preble, Darke and Miami Counties. Those were the days of the free cheese give away's. We were receiving nearly 9 tractor trailer loads of 5 pound blocks of American Cheese each month.

In 1986, we organized all of our USDA mass distribution locations to encourage participants to write letters on paper plates to stop the de-funding of the USDA program. We generated over 25,000 letters – our first empty plate campaign restored funding for USDA and increased the number of items available. We purchased the warehouse we are now located in

December 26, 1986 purchased the warehousing complex and the 10.363 acres of ground it sits on

In 1988, we became a certified affiliate of Second Harvest (now Feeding America), which provided direct access to food donations nationwide.

In 1991, we opened our food salvage division to accept damaged

Continued next page...

FOOD FOR ALL FOOD TRUCK RALLY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL



Thank you to all of our patrons and sponsors who made the Second Annual Food Truck Rally & Music Festival a huge success! We estimate approximately 5,000 people in attendance helped us raise more than \$12,000, which allows us to provide 96,000 meals to neighbors in need of food.



History *(continued)*

product that needed to be sorted, evaluated and boxed for distribution to our member agencies. Became a founding member of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks.

In 1995 sold our salvage warehouse in Middletown and combined all operations in one location. Built our first freezer.

In 1998, all of the other tenants in our warehousing/office complex moved out and we took over the entire complex for warehousing and office space.

In 2000, completed our first capital improvement project, rebuilding 6000 square feet of dry storage and building our second freezer.

In 2002, a small group of food pantry directors, OSU Extension and SHF began developing a Choice Pantry model – which allows food pantry clients to select their own foods. Today, our model is used

state wide and nationally to help food pantries transition from the traditional pre-packed model of food distribution to “client choice” which integrates ancillary services like nutrition education and SNAP (food stamp) Outreach into the shopping experience.

In 2003, SHF began distributing food directly to senior citizens through USDA's Commodity Supplemental Food Program, at the time serving an average of 1,570 senior citizens each month, up to 1,740 today.

In 2005, SHF became the first Foodbank in the country awarded a Food Stamp Outreach grant to identify and reduce the barriers families were experiencing in applying for Food Stamp benefits. Now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our outreach program has been integrated into the Choice Food Pantry model and with three staff who out-station in food pantries helping clients apply for SNAP benefits.

In 2006/2007 school year, we

launched the Backpack program in Butler County which provided nutritious and easy to prepare food to an average of 600 elementary students each week who were identified as exhibiting signs of chronic hunger as identified by school staff. The bags of food are provided to these students to use on the weekends when other resources may not be available. Now the Backpack program serves students each week in 91 elementary schools and nine high schools in 18 public school districts and one private school.

Over the past 36 years, SHF has grown to distribute food to over 90 charitable organizations in five Southwestern Ohio Counties; Butler, Darke, Miami, Preble and Warren. In 2018, SHF distributed 5.2 million pounds of food through our membership in these five southwest Ohio Counties. SHF acts as a regional agent for the administration and distribution of USDA TEFAP commodities through four sister foodbanks, serving an additional 26 counties in Ohio.

Toast To Tina *(continued)*

Compliance and Capability) team eight years ago, Shared Harvest was part of my portfolio of 30 food banks. Tina couldn't have been more welcoming or encouraging to me, and was eager to share much of the history between Shared Harvest and Second Harvest/Feeding America. Her current title of "Chief Historian" couldn't be more fitting, as I've heard she has copies of Feeding America Site Visit (Audit) reports that go back 25 years or more! And as a fellow baby-boomer, I've enjoyed our energetic conversations regarding past eras and our own journeys – both professional and personal! Tina: Best wishes on your retirement and I hope you'll share some of your writing and/or photography!

Judy Alberg

*Director Member Engagement
Feeding America*

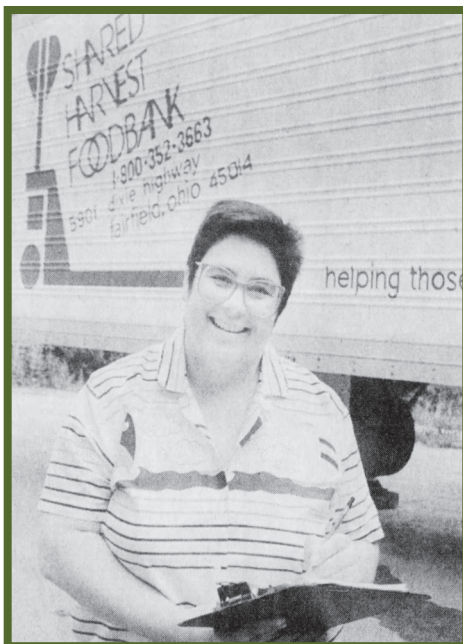
Tina Osso is very passionate about stopping hunger. In my 12 years working at Shared Harvest Foodbank, I helped start the SNAP Outreach Program. She helped me realize that helping people was my true calling. Tina thank you for everything and I wish you a wonderful retirement.

Gloria Bateman

*SNAP Outreach Coordinator
Retired*

I don't even know how to begin to explain how I feel about Tina. Over the 25 years that I was with Shared Harvest Foodbank she was my employer then became my friend, landlady, neighbor and so much more. She would probably also tell you what a pain in the behind I was at times. But of all the people I've known in my life Tina is one of the most dedicated to what touches her heart. She has been the backbone of Shared Harvest and to tell you the truth, I never thought she would leave. My respect and admiration for her will always be with me. Have a wonderful next adventure, Tina. You're leaving the foodbank in great hands! All my best....

Kate Cox-Dart



The Cincinnati Enquirer, August 5, 1988.

Tina is one of the most compassionate people I've ever met in my life about everything, the food and people who are without food. She will do anything to get food to anybody. I've watched Shared Harvest grow from one little area to the great big thing it is now. When I worked out at the Humane Society, we even got things out there from her, so she helps everybody. If someone needs it, she'll get it one way or another.

Glenna Carroll

Serve City

There are certain people in this world who have an infectious enthusiasm for life and living that simply draws you in. Tina Osso is one. I began my journalism career in 1989 as the editor of the now defunct *Fairfield Echo*, and I first met Tina in the Shared Harvest warehouse where she was hosting a group of Miami University Hamilton students for a luncheon where they (and I) learned about her mission to rescue food to feed the hungry. From then on, it was always a treat to work on a story with her. She was always good for a quote or analysis when talking about social justice issues. So in 2011, when I was given an assignment to write a series of in-depth profiles on "People of Influence" in Butler County, Tina was my first call. The resulting story was part of a packet that earned me an Ohio Associated Press Award as Feature Writer of the Year (rock star David Crosby and anthropologist Jane Goodall were the other profiles in that packet). To read a reprint of that story and the inside story of the beginning of Shared Harvest Foodbank, visit www.sharedharvest.org and click on the NEWS tab.

Richard O Jones

*Editor
Harvest Gatherings*

I remember the first conference I went to, she had everybody line up in the hall to show the disparity of opportunities people may have. So she asked if you grew up eating a nutritious meal before you went to school take a step forward and if you didn't, take a step back. At the end of all the questions — did you have books in your house to read? Did you ever go to a library? And other questions related to food and childhood issues—she said, "Look around you and find the person you started out next to. Where are they now? How did they get there? It was so impactful. She was amazing. She always listens, no matter what it is. She is an idealist, but she finds a way to get from Point A to Point B without beating anybody up with that idealism.

Jennifer Ripperberger

Family Service of Middletown

I've known Tina to be one of the most compassionate and understanding individuals in her role. A lot of times you get people who function as directors, as they get power they get kind of distant. But Tina was always available to me. She always understood the nuances of the issues we face that prohibited us from staying completely between the lines. Those were things that helped her to help us help our population.

Maurice Maxwell

Family Service of Middletown

A Lot of Hog



Forty-three buyers from the Warren County Farm Bureau purchased 39 hogs at the Warren County Fair, which came out to 4,375 pounds of pork, including the Grand Champion Gilbert. All of it was processed and donated to Shared Harvest Foodbank.

Stuffing Buses



Three Butler County School districts — Hamilton, Lakota, and Middletown — participated in the “Crosstown Stuff the Bus Food Drive,” a friendly competition from October 21 to November 1. The big winner, however, was Shared Harvest Foodbank, who was the recipient of the portion collected by Hamilton City Schools.

Pop-Up Pantries



PIQUA



MIDDLETOWN



HAMILTON

Rain or shine, Shared Harvest Foodbank has continued to work with partners in our service area for food distributions to move the excess trade mitigation commodities we are receiving through USDA and to provide a little extra food to those in need.

IN MEMORY OF...

Ruby Owens by Anonymous
Daniel E. Brown by Barbara Brown
Frank G. Capozzi by Judith Capozzi
Beth Holmes by Anthony Cole
Carolyn Lemom Cox by Margaret Conboy
Ryan Coffey by Mark Cox
Morris & Rosalie Otto by Mark Cox
Jimmie Roberts
by Timothy & Lucy DeFazio
Jean Wisecup Butterfield
by Steven Edwards
Carol Miller Leslie by Betty Emenaker
Allan Miller by Betty Emenaker
George & Francis Kirby, Diane & Helen
Gambrell by Michael & Carol Gambrell
Tom Geiger by Louis & Cheryl Geiger
Joseph Goins by Patricia Goins

FOOD DONORS

80 Acres
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Colorado Premium Foods
Conan Systems LLC
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Interstate Warehousing
JM Smucker
Keebler
Kellogg's
Kraft
Meijer Distribution Center
Mondelez/Nabisco
Nickerson Business Supplies
Norpac Foods
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
P.A.W.S. Adoption Center
Prime Transportation & Logistics
Simple Mills
Sioux Honey
Smithfield Foods
Snyder Lance
Tip Top Canning
Tri State Ingredients
Tyson Foods
US Food Service
USDA
Uzbek Worldwide
Weirs Farms
Westrock/McCormick

RETAIL RESCUE

Aldi's
Kroger Company
Meijer Stores
Target
Walmart

Mrs. Edna Clements by Eleanor & Mary
Jane Stephens Gorman
Jeffery Hacker by Arnold & Virginia Hacker
Fred Herchenhahn
by Sandra Herchenhahn
Jane Joecken
by Jeffery & Geraldine Joecken
Julia & Peggy by Gail Ray & Ann Kinnett
Charlotte Nieman by Fred & Karen Lakes
Geri Loving by Edward Loving
Lois Sager by Susan Marvin
Kevin Schlabach by Susan Marvin
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Allan Miller by Stephen & Melanie Miller
Andrew Resko by Kimberly Nelson
Harry & Landen Otto by Loretta Otto

FOOD DRIVES

Abra Body Shop
AK Steel
AK Steel Souper Bowl Drive
Anonymous
Axxess Financial
Barclay Cards
Brookwood Elementary
Butler County Bar Association
Butler County Educational Services Center
Butler County Retired Teachers
Butler County Sheriff
Butler Tech Bioscience Center
Cheesecake Factory
Cincinnati Financial
Cloverleaf
Coffee Place
Cup Over Flowing
Delta Kappa Gamma
ES3
Fill that Bus - Hamilton City School District
First Financial Bank
Heights of Knollwood
Honda
JF Berns
Let's Feed Miami
Macy's
NALC Stamp Out Hunger
Ohio Valley Pagan Society
Presto
Quarter Barrel
Robert Half
Skidmore
Thyssen-Krupp Bilstein
Ultimus Fund Solutions

THOUGHTFUL GIVING

No child should ever go hungry. The Backpack program is an inspired, caring and effective program to support children. *By M Angela Clarke*

It is a blessing to help support an organization that will help feed those in need. *By Patty Corfman*

In celebration of Jeff Griss's birthday. *By Richard & Mary Griss*

In celebration of Mary Kay Kemper's birthday. *By Ronald & Robin Herzog*

I donated because I believe in giving back and sharing the good fortunes provided by God, to those in need. *By William Heyser*

To Mark Cotton for Christmas. *By John & Bonny Jones*

We give because we know there are many hungry people out there. *By Norma Pennoch*

Betty Gross by June Pierce
Warren Richards by Scott Richards
Tony & Rina by Sandy Rogers
Min Wehr by Carole Rothfuss
Louis & Doris Schellenbach
by Mary Clare Schellenbach
Kathy Sarlo by Christopher Schleifer
Iris Setaro by Joe Setaro
Mr. Balubhai and Urmila Shah
by Nutan & Pushpa Shah
Lee & Jean Sheyer by Barbara Sheyer
Richard Smith by Virginia Smith
Tom Stallman by Judy Stallman
Betty Weber by Daniel Weber
Jimm Brandner by Terry & Sharon Weekley
Jeff Ingles by Jackie Weil
Keneth E Wills by Jenny Sue Wills

IN HONOR OF...

Tina Osso's Retirement
by Courtney Combs
Family living and deceased
by Donna Denning
Mary Knollman by Leonard Knollman
Charlotte & Linda Nielsen
by Karen & Fred Lake
Rev. Jeff Silver by Rob & Betty Meiner
Tina Osso by Larry & Carrie Sargent
Gordon F. & Mary Louise Smith
by Gordon & Lois Smith
Band of Brothers Group
by Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

INDIVIDUAL

FOOD DONORS

Thomas Costello
Alex & Isabelle Kraeger
Amy Kramer
Karen Poleyett
Judy Schaefer
Jeff Young

**EACH ONE DOLLAR YOU GIVE
PROVIDES EIGHT MEALS
FOR A NEIGHBOR IN NEED**



HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.
GIVING IS.

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FALL 2019

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FOODBANK STAFF

Ann Copple	Administrative Assistant
Rachael Copple	Volunteer Manager
Tom Duggins	Driver/Warehouse Worker
Peter Engelhard	SNAP Outreach
Amberlee Finkes	Supply Chain Manager
Sean Hassler	Driver/Warehouse worker
Nate Hoskins	Distribution Center Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Nikki Jennings	SNAP Outreach
Richard O Jones	Communication Specialist
Christian Leggett	Warehouse Worker
Sandra McCauley	Finance Manager
Heather Merritt	CSFP Administrator
Sarah Ormbrek	Partner Engagement Manager
Tina Osso	Historian, Storyteller, Archivist
Terry Perdue	Executive Director
Darrell Sandlin	Director of Operations
Mike Stamper	Driver/Warehouse Worker
Mike Williams	Driver
Robert Zohfeld	Programs Manager



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