

FALL
2018

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



Called to KINDNESS Independent Ministries Reach Out to Homeless

One recent Sunday afternoon, Christine Birhanzi gathered a dozen volunteers, armed some with sandwiches and lemonade, others with bagels and loaves of bread, to seek out Hamilton's homeless.

This they have done every Sunday for just over a year, since last October when Christine gathered a bunch of winter coats and took them to Tent City. Among them were Peter Engelhard, a member of Shared Harvest's SNAP Outreach Team, who joined Christine about six months ago to offer mobile technology to help the homeless folks apply for SNAP, Medicaid and other support services.

Today's tour includes several local motels where dozens of indigent people live day-to-day, hand-to-mouth, often not knowing where the next meal is coming from or even if they'll be able to pay for another night. The afternoon came to an end in a parking lot just outside of a strip shopping center, with one of her crew blowing an air horn.

Behind this shopping center is Tent City, which has come under scrutiny lately by the city. The people live there—maybe 50 or more at one time, according to one former resident—when they don't have anywhere to go. Some have reported living there for seven years or more. They've been ordered to leave. Arrests have been made.

Continued on page 4...

What's it to YOU?

Shared Harvest
Foodbank
volunteers share
thoughts on
KINDNESS



Sometimes being kind is just sitting there and letting people talk because they need an ear. Whether you can do anything about it, but at least, you've let them vent or rejoice or whatever it is that they are feeling or needing to do at the time. Maybe they don't get that at home or maybe they don't get that at work or maybe they don't have a family, but it's sometimes just responding by being there.

— Connie Wyatt

More on page 5...

Notes from our director...

When my son went off to college in 2004, I gave him my set of 20 life “rules” to hopefully help him as he experienced life’s challenges. Rule #20: Remember, you will never know how many lives you touch with kindness but those you hurt will be with you always.

This rule came to me in a life lesson about 25 years ago. I was standing on the porch of my church’s office early one morning waiting for someone to unlock the door. This guy was walking down the opposite end of the street, he appeared disheveled and was mumbling to himself. I pushed back farther on the covered porch, hoping he wouldn’t see me. He did, crossing the street and talking to me about being homeless and looking for some place to stay. He started to tell me about what happened to him, but I cut him off and told him where the shelters and soup kitchens were and then someone opened the office door and I slipped inside. But not quick enough. As I was closing the door on this guy, I saw the hurt in his eyes, he was telling me I was just like everyone else... that no one heard him or cared about his life or what happened to him, and he stalked off.

I have never forgotten this guy. All he needed was a little kindness, someone to hear him, to listen to his story. I could have shown him a small kindness early that fall morning, but I didn’t and those few moments have become part of my life’s memories.

Fast Forward: Recently, my brother posted a picture of us together on Facebook. I don’t Facebook so he called me and said that the great thing about Facebook is how many people stay in touch or find each other. In this instance, one of our childhood friends reached out to my brother and posted a note about the old neighborhood and things we used to do. He said at one point he had surgery and he was stuck at home. He told my brother that I was the only one who used to go over and bring games to play with him while he was stuck in bed. I don’t remember this at all, but he did some 55 years later. Again, Rule #20.

Kindness is like this currency we can give away for free. When someone is so down on their luck that they must go to a charity to get food, being met with kindness by strangers makes the experience much different than they thought it would be: gentler, less judgmental, more hopeful. What that person doesn’t see is the kindness of all of the people who worked to get food on that charity’s shelves, the kindness of the donors, of the folks who keep the pantry clean, or do the dishes after a meal at the soup kitchen.

We can all use a little kindness, we can all give a little kindness. You may never know how many lives you can touch; from those who are the recipients of your kindness to those who are witness. Kindness is contagious... and courageous when it seems that many have forgotten how to be kind or have decided that kindness is weakness. Just remember Rule #20, like that homeless guy 25 years ago that I carry with me to this day, to the expression of a kind act some 55 years ago that I don’t even remember.



Executive Director

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Kroger Round Up

Round up your grocery purchase to the nearest dollar
Every time you shop

Fairfield vs. Loveland Girls Basketball Foundation Game

Fairfield High School Arena
Tuesday November 20
4:30, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations

The Journal-News Community Food Relief Begins November 22

Want to conduct a food drive for the holidays?

Contact

Sarah Ormbrek
513-874-0114

or

sarah@sharedharvest.org

Visit
www.sharedharvest.org
for more information



ADVOCACY CORNER

Sarah Ombrek

As of 2017, over 40 percent of the meals that were provided to families in need within our network came from either USDA commodities from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) or through our SNAP (formally known as food stamps) outreach.

Federal nutrition programs like SNAP and TEFAP are not only a lifeline for millions of families struggling to make ends meet, they are also a key part of how we as a society honor our shared commitment to take care of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Farm Bill represents an opportunity to strengthen and improve these programs, which are also critical to the health and well-being of America's farmers and the agricultural industry.

As of this writing, the Farm Bill was not renewed before its expiration date of Oct 1, 2018, with leading bill negotiators openly acknowledging that it will remain in limbo until after the midterm elections.

While it would have been ideal for the Agricultural committee to come together and

renew a bill on time that would strengthen anti-hunger programs such as SNAP and TEFAP, we still have time to call our Congress and ask them to support a bill that protects the structure and funding of SNAP and provides sufficient resources for TEFAP to help foodbanks and their partner agencies successfully provide healthy meals to people who have nowhere else to turn. This simple act of kindness and courage to speak up can make a difference in the lives of people right here at home.

SNAP and TEFAP provide food assistance for children, seniors, and veterans



**Tell Congress to protect
Americans facing hunger!**



THE KROGER ROUND-UP

We had some special visitors over the summer: Beth Thomas, Meredith Majors and Peyton Kirby, the Kroger cashiers who generated the most donations in the Kroger Round-Up program during the first quarter of the year. Their combined efforts allows us to provide 3,640 meals!

Called to Kindness *continued*

This particular Sunday is a week past the deadline, but when the ministers of S.L.I.M. blow the air horn, shouting that the food is here, several men straggle out of the bushes, hungry for a sandwich. One of them, it appears, is in the dusky shadows of a heroin overdose. But it's all under control. Christine's day job is outreach for Sojourner Recovery Services and some of her ministers are former clients. They know the ropes here, and this is not the first person they've counseled today in regard to substance abuse.

On this, one of the last hot weekends of the year, they've also handed out first aid kits, personal hygiene items, loaves of bread, bagels, and bottle after bottle of cold water. In fact, two cases weren't enough and after the first stop, Christine was digging in her back pocket for money to send one of her ministers on that mission.

Though they embark from Christine's home church,

this ministry is not affiliated with the church. Until a few months ago, she didn't really have a name for it, but when one of her devoted volunteers who went by "Slim" passed away, the name came to her as if in a dream.

"And the day after he died, I woke up and I said 'SLIM, Saving Lives in Ministry.'"

She asks and remembers every name. The people she serves call her an angel.

One elderly gentleman who goes by Booker, tells of how he and his wife first met Christine back in the spring, when he got out of prison.

"We had nothing. We was living up on tent city with somebody in their tent. And they just happened to say Christine would be down here serving food. So we went down and asked if she had a tent. Christine got

I was with a Sojourner client last week, and we met this gentlemen who had been homeless for about a year and didn't have shoes. My client took off his shoes and gave them to him. I said 'Don't take your shoes off. Now I'm gonna take you back to the house and you're not gonna have any shoes on, and I'm gonna lose my job because I'm taking you out and you're giving people your clothes. Don't do that!' But he did and the guy that he gave his shoes to is now in treatment.

— Christine Birhanzi



PHOTOS: Front page: Christine Birhanzi, foreground, leads her flock to the edge of a shopping center parking lot where Justin J. Bihner blows an air horn to attract the people living in Tent City while Gerald Pilgrim and Ni Ayre Nelson look on. Above left, Peter Engelhard, Kyle Montano, and Marcia Brandeburg serve food from the bed of Christine's red pick-up truck. Above right: Mark Mills purchased a Bengal's "party bus" and uses it to deliver clothing and other personal items to the homeless.

us a tent and sleeping bags and we lived up on tent hill in our own.”

He tells of how Christine gave them shoes and winter clothes—“Dressed us full”—and even went so far as to help him maneuver through government bureaucracy to get his medical records, social security card, and state ID.

Booker and his wife were among those evacuated from Tent City and they now have a room at a nearby hotel. It’s still day-to-day living for them, but Booker is grateful and optimistic.

“I’m telling you she picked me up from a long way down,” he said. “It’s most definitely getting better. She got me where I can get my retirement. I’m waiting on Social Security this year. And if it wasn’t for her I’d still be out here trying to struggle to get it.”

S.L.I.M. is not the only ministry working with local homeless. She wasn’t out there long before she met Mark Mills, who calls his endeavor the Helping Hamilton Ministry, which he started by quitting his job as an iron worker and purchasing a short school bus painted up like the Cincinnati Bengals. He and his volunteers ride the same Sunday circuit as S.L.I.M. Christine’s shiny red pickup is packed with food, the former party bus is a free dry goods store on wheels, packed with t-shirts, socks, toiletries, and brand new teddy bears, among other miscellaneous personal needs.

“My wife says Jesus loves you where you’re at,” he said. “So we love them in the woods in the tent. I’m not out here to change you and bring you somewhere to live. I’m here to give you sandwich and love you. Give you a blanket, give you a pair of socks. We have people that just come out and talk to us.”

“I know that I can’t save everybody,” Christine said. “And I also know that there’s times where I just have to brush the dirt off my feet and go on to the next person.

“But I know that’s the right thing to do because I would hope that if I was in that situation somebody would do it for me. We gotta take care of each other. It’s really rather simple, isn’t it?”

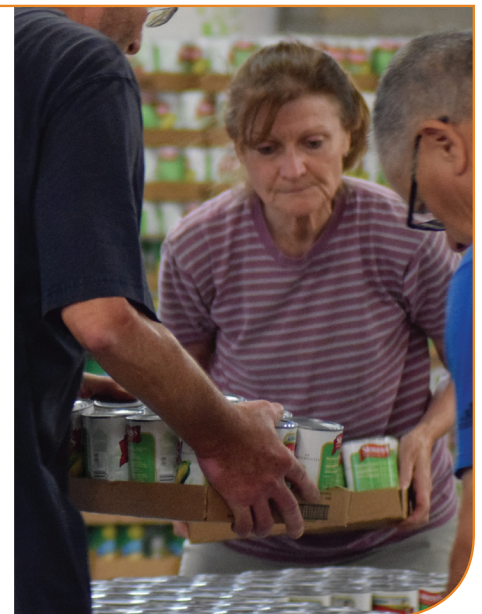


Kindness is sort of an action, something you do to help someone, to show some mercy or serve someone. It’s not an obligation. It’s something you choose to do to help somebody. I see it as giving back, doing something for someone else.

— Tim Roetger

Every time, I leave here feeling so much better that I helped somebody, whether it was the Backpack Program or the senior boxes that we put together. I know it’s getting out there to people that need it. I think people are generous if you give them a chance.

— Judi Hart



I might say kindness is treating other people the way I would want to be treated, but it’s more the way they need to be treated. The things that somebody else needs are not necessarily the things that I need, so I need to be looking for what they need and helping them get that, or helping to provide that to them.

— Bev Pugh



Hunger In Real Life

True Stories From Shared Harvest SNAP Outreach

I met Michael, a World Trade Center survivor, at a food pantry in Warren County. Michael told me he has PTSD from the event, but he has been managing very well lately.

Michael told me that he wanted to apply for SNAP benefits. He felt overwhelmed with all of the paperwork, and I was more than happy to help him. After I finished assisting him in applying for benefits, he told me that he was happy someone was there to help him.

I shook his hand and

Michael thanked me.

I caught up with Michael about a week later when he called to let me know that he missed his phone appointment with Job and Family Services. He asked me if I could help him schedule another one.

"Not a problem!" I responded.

Michael let out an audible sigh of relief.

"I was so worried," he said. "I was just caught up with everything else that was going on around me, especially with it being September 11th. Today has

just been a real rough day for me."

I told him I understood that today might be a hard day for him, and if he needed any additional assistance, he could always give me a call.

Being able to talk to Michael and know that I was able to change his life for the better, made me smile.

For Michael, receiving SNAP benefits will help him focus on trying to better himself and not worry about where his next meal will come from.

— Nikki Jennings



BIG THANKS ...

... to everyone who made our first food truck rally a great success: All the truck operators who served delicious food and cold beverages all day long, the people who ate the delicious food and drank the beverages, the musicians

who provided entertainment throughout, the volunteers that kept it all running smoothly, and to our sponsors Dinsmore & Shohl, IBEW, and two who wish to remain anonymous.

So mark your calendar for the **Second Annual FOOD for ALL Food Truck Rally, September 28, 2019**, again at Marcum Park. We've already got the date reserved!

IN HONOR OF...

Of our wonderful GiGi for all her help!
by Jessica Aguilar
Tina Osso on her birthday
by Nat Cole
Kevin Seiter, Mike Daviaux, Jim Burgess and Denny Even & Carl Kissen
by Donna Denning
Dave & Marty Bach, Nianna & Mark Leuthold at Christmas '18
by James & Mary Lou Fening

The first birthday of Lauren Allen Foley
by Daniel & Diane Foley
The wedding of Liz & Gene Fugate
by David & Holly Foster
The anniversary of Lou & Ann Fritz
by Molly Fritz
Mark Cox, a devoted friend of my son
by Leona Gabbard

The birthday of Elizabeth Day
by Richard & Mary Griss
Jeffrey Griss on his birthday
by Richard & Mary Griss
Mary Knollman
by Leonard Knollman
Jennifer Holzberger and Bob Trupp's marriage
by John Kues
Ron & Bessie Goldschmidt
by Rob & Betty Meiner

The 50th wedding anniversary of Sam & Nancy Woody
by Ernie & Cindy Pendergrass
Fran Frazee
by Judy Stallman
Nancy Ginter
by Edna Stamper
The Birthday of James Vance
by Karl & Georgie Vance

IN MEMORY OF...

William M. Bunger UMC
by Warren Bunger
Peggy Burdette
by James Burdette
Isabell Johnson
by Mark Cox
Ben Even, Ron Seiter, Wally & Dewey Denning
by Donna Denning
Richard Donnell II, Richard Donnell III & Ralph Donnell
by Lorraine Donnell
Craig Wenner
by Janet Eckerfield
Marilyn Jacoby Edwards
by Steven Edwards

Our Veterans
by Jenny Elam
Faye Cosby
by Karen Fuchs
Joey Gibson
by Dennis & Mary Garland
John Gay
by Wilma & Leslie Gay
Tom Geiger Louis & Cheryl Geiger
Ruth Dalrymple Wilhelm
by Arlene Holden
John Edwards
by Arlene Holden
Gayle Korb
by Jim Korb

Josephine Loving
by Edward Loving
Sharon Goins
by Susan Marvin
SSG. Robert A. Massarelli
by Pat & Mary Massarelli
Carol Ann Farrell
by Zachariah Muhlenkamp
Mildred Ippolito
by Barb & Isao Noda
Harry & Landen Otto
by Loretta Otto
Ron Prickett
by Ruby Prickett
Margaret Richards
by Scott Richards

Louis & Doris Schellenbach
by Mary Schellenbach
Kathy Sarlo
by Christopher Schleifer
Tom Stallman
by Judy Stallman
Phyllis Distaola
by Virginia Hacker
Frances Vordem-Thoren
by Richard Vorden-Thoren
Gerald L. Wirsch
by Alberta Wirsch
Gaile Woody
by Steve Woody

THOUGHTFUL GIVING

When my Mom was dying, she said, "Mic, we need to feed the children."
By Mickey Bement
No child should go hungry in a country rich with food!
By Don & Mary Jo Briggs
Paying it forward.
By Jeff Bruns
I chose to give to others as is the way of Christ to help those in need.
By William Heyser
Everyone deserves a nutritious meal.
By Amy Matney

INDIVIDUAL FOOD DONORS

Sue Bray
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Cheryl Erlinger
DJ Ferguson

Cassandra Jung
Marcine Mootry
Judy Schaefer
Dan Whitney

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Smuckers
St. Paul Seeders & Feeders
Stouffers Food Service Sales
Sunshine International
Taylor Farms
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Tri State Ingredients
Tyson Foods
USDA
Vendor Supply of Ohio
Victory Wholesale Grocers
White Castle

FOOD DRIVES

AK Steel
AK Steel Souper Bowl Drive
ARC Document Solutions
Barclay
Bern's Garden Center
Butler Co Educational Center
Comfort Keepers
Delta Kappa Gamma, Chi Chapter
Dollar General
Elements Wellness Center
Fill That Bus/Ridgeway Elementary
First Financial
Food Truck Rally
H&R Block
Han's White Tiger TKD
Hi Tek
IKEA
Kroger HQ
Lambda Chi Alpha
Liberty Mutual
Lilly Pulitzer Inc.
Macys Bag Hunger
Manheim
Pitt Ohio
Plus Group
Stamp Out Hunger/NALC Food Drive
Villas of Park Place

RETAIL RESCUE

Aldi's
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FOODBANK

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GIVING IS.**

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FALL 2018

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Foodbank Staff

Ann Copple	Administrative Assistant
Rick Devine	Operations Manager
Peter Engelhard	SNAP Outreach
Amberlee Finkes	Program Support Specialist
Sean Hassler	Driver/Warehouse worker
Nate Hoskins	Warehouse Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Nikki Jennings	SNAP Outreach
Richard O Jones	Communication Specialist
Heather Merritt	CSFP Administrator
Sarah Ormbrek	Community Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Terry Perdue	Chief Fiscal Officer
Darrell Sandlin	Chief Operating Officer
Mike Stamper	Retail Pickup
Taylor Wellman	Driver/Warehouse
Mike Williams	Driver
Robert Zohfeld	SNAP Outreach

COMING NOVEMBER 22

Your chance to
Practice A Little Kindness

The annual
Journal-News/Shared Harvest Foodbank
Community Food Relief Fund Drive

