

SUMMER
15

Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

*Hunger is not a choice.
Giving is.*

www.sharedharvest.org
800-352-3663

Inside this Edition

Notes from our director	2
Summer food programs for kids get underway	3
Our SNAP staff shares the story of a nurse in need	3
Shared Harvest lands advocacy grant	4
How you can help during Hunger Action Month	5
NALC Stamps out Hunger Panerathon launches early registration	6
Honorariums and Memorials LambJamb to help Shared Harvest	7-8
Thanks to Northrop Grumman	8

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

harvest gatherings

Congress debates child hunger programs

School districts and anti-poverty organizations will have an eye on Washington D.C. as they get ready for the start of the 2015-16 school year.

House and Senate committees have already launched hearings on a bill to reauthorize the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010, which expires September 30.

Congress is considering new funding levels and ways to strengthen or improve multiple programs that ensure children have access to healthy, nutritious food.

Feeding America, the parent organization for the nation's foodbanks, is focusing its efforts on strengthening five programs including the National School Lunch Program.

The bill also provides funding for the School Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. That program reimburses childcare centers, Head Start and other programs that provide snacks or meals at the end of the school day. The Women, Infant, Children Program (WIC) provides nutritious food and education for low-income mothers and infants.

One area of special concern is the Summer Food Service Program, which offers meals or snacks to low-income children during the summer months when they're particularly vulnerable.

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio has voiced concern about the low participation rate of Buckeye state children in the summer feeding

program.

The Ohio Department of Education says 680,000 kids qualified for free or reduced price lunches, but Brown said only about ten percent of those children - roughly 70,000 - participate in summer programs.

"Summer break shouldn't mean a break from good nutrition," Brown said in a press release. "But for too many Ohio children who qualify for free

or reduced-price lunches during the year, the end of the school years means the end of healthy meals."

Feeding America and Senator Brown share the goal of reducing the red tape that prevents some organizations from operating

summer feeding programs for kids. He's confident of bi-partisan support for the package of child nutrition programs.

Feeding America says one of its priorities is to increase flexibility in the federal legislation for local program operators to reach kids on weekends and holidays, as well as over the summer.

The agency wants to encourage schools to make their buildings available to local nonprofits in the summer to nourish more children when school is out.

Feeding America also points out many schools don't offer breakfast programs. Only half of the children in the free lunch program have an opportunity to participate in school breakfast programs.

County	Children on school lunch	% on School Lunch
Butler	23,111	39.4%
Darke	3,289	40.0%
Miami	5,521	35.3%
Preble	2,924	44.4%
Warren	6,773	18.6%

This table shows the total number and the percentage of children in each county that rely on the National School Lunch Program.

Notes from our director

I worry about the 'greying' of the staff and volunteers involved in our hunger relief efforts. This is hard, sometimes back breaking work, this business of moving food by the case from one place to another. Here at the foodbank, we have forklifts, pallet jacks and two wheelers... but someone still has to stack the cases onto the pallets. Our drivers still have to hand off cases from our delivery trucks to the waiting arms of volunteers who then carry those cases into their pantry, soup kitchen or shelter to be opened to stock the shelves – bending and lifting and carrying all the while.

There are those who do this heavy lifting of hunger relief and then take the time to advocate for change. We should not have to do this kind of work, and we wouldn't be doing this kind of work if the people who turn to us as a last resort could earn a living wage; if higher education were an opportunity open to everyone who wants it; if housing were safe and affordable... if, if, if.

The saddest part of this work is realizing the scope of hunger affecting our children and the daunting task before us to rescue those who are the future of this country. In this great country, 44% of all SNAP beneficiaries are children. In Ohio nearly half of elementary students receive free or reduced price lunch. One in four people standing in line at our partner food pantries is a child. Our Backpack program served an average of 3,000 kids per week over the school year; Summer Food For Kids Programs are in full swing.

While our Backpack program is 100% supported by contributions and partner cost sharing, all other child nutrition programs are supported by

federal funding, and each plays an important role in alleviating childhood hunger. Charity is also an important component of battling childhood hunger. It is not, nor should it be, the only weapon in our arsenal. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 is set to expire on September 30 and is currently being reviewed; we are lucky to have received a grant to increase our advocacy during this critical period.

These child nutrition programs touch the lives of millions of low-income children each day, and reauthorization provides us an opportunity to improve and strengthen these programs. Research demonstrates the ability of child nutrition programs to improve educational achievement, economic security, nutrition and health. We need strong healthy children to grow into productive adults to take our place when we can no longer do this work. Our advocacy work is really just telling the stories of people living with hunger to policy makers, to donors, to our community, and we do have stories to tell.

"For our students who participate, the Backpack program not only provides for a physical need, but it provides a source of encouragement. The students are aware of their situation and the food reminds them they are not alone; someone sees the need and cares." - *Comment of a teacher at Highview Elementary*

Whether it is charity or federally funded child nutrition programs, these kids know about hunger, they face it nearly every day, and by providing a meal at school or over the summer at a feeding site or a bag of food for the weekends – we can all show them that we see the need and care.



Tina Osso,
Executive Director

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 23
ServSafe training

September 2015
Hunger Action Month

Saturday, September 12
LambJamb at Hanover Winery

Friday, September 18
Member Agency Conference

Sunday, September 20
*Panera Bread's
5K-10K Panerathon*

Saturday, October 3
Zombie 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, October 24
Make a Difference Day

November 1- December 31
Kroger's Check-out Hunger

*Cox Ohio Community Food
Relief*

Summer feeding sites expand in Butler County

The number of school children at risk of hunger during summer break is a major concern for local charitable organizations.

Hamilton Living Waters Ministry, the Salvation Army in Middletown and the Troy Lunch Club in Miami County are among those spearheading efforts to provide lunches or snacks for kids.

Living Waters Director Cathy Hester saw the need to expand her summer meals program into other communities and townships this year. She is operating 11 sites in Hamilton, Fairfield, Monroe, Oxford and the Fairfield Township area.

In addition to lunch, many of her sites offer daily programs for children. The same is true for Salvation Army of Middletown's Summer Food for Kids program, which offers lunches and programs to nine sites in the Middletown area.

City parks and mobile home parks are popular sites that attract

many children who might go hungry without Summer Food for Kids.

Saint Mary Catholic Church in Oxford worked with Hester to launch a first-time program at Island Lake Mobile Home Park in McGonigle and Miami Mobile Home Park in Oxford.

Saint Mary's Sarah Seals said she knew there were many children who needed help. "We saw there wasn't a summer food program for Talawanda School students, so we had to change that," she said.

The two sites offer food on Mondays and Wednesdays plus programs run by the Center for Family Solutions.

"The response to the program has been overwhelming," Seals said. "We have volunteers clamoring to help give out the food and interact with kids including church volunteers, teachers and parents."

St. Mary is also providing BackPacks from Shared Harvest to participants and other kids as well.



Above: Mobile home parks are a great opportunity to gather children for a summer meal or snack program. Below: Volunteers at Hamilton's Living Water Ministry make lunches and prepare to deliver them to 11 sites.



From the front lines... a true friend to people in need

Shared Harvest's SNAP Outreach Program helps people learn if they qualify and can apply for SNAP or other supports. This month, SNAP Outreach worker Gloria Bateman tells the story of a nurse who needed help.

With the thousands of people who come to America, you never know what they have gone through to get here. They are all looking for freedom, good jobs, good education and a great place to raise a family.

Maria traveled with her parents from Mexico when she was 10 to find the great American Dream. She went to school and received a great education and became a nurse. She worked just like her parents and saved the money to become a citizen.

She really enjoys her job of going to her patients' homes, checking their vitals, making sure they are eating, and taking their medications. She talks to them, realizing that for some, she is the only human

contact they will have that day. Then she moves on to the next patient.

She is raising her own children to become good citizens and to get a good education. But her nursing job just doesn't pay enough to cover rent, utilities and put food on the table for three. So Maria makes once a month trips to her local food pantry, where I met her. I was able to sign her up for SNAP and Medicaid for the family. She really wasn't sure if she would qualify, but she does because her income is so low.

She is working to save money to go back to school to become a Registered Nurse, and because of her strength and dreams for her family's future, I think she will exceed her plans.

Shared Harvest lands major advocacy grant...

"We'd really like to engage our community with our clients, our pantries and our legislators... Advocacy is really about educating not just politicians but our entire community about poverty."

Sarah Ormbrek

Sarah Ormbrek always wanted to do advocacy work. Now, Shared Harvest's Agency Relations Director will have that opportunity.

Sarah discovered Feeding America planned to award five \$100,000 advocacy grants to foodbanks nationwide. Executive Director Tina Osso encouraged her to write a proposal.

Sarah admits she was surprised when Tina told her Feeding America was so impressed by the grant requests that it decided to award ten \$100,000 grants, and Shared Harvest was among the recipients.

Three of the ten grants went to Ohio foodbanks including Mid Ohio and Freestore, but Shared Harvest was one of the smallest.

The foodbank has received the first \$50,000 installment for the two-year grant, and Sarah outlined her ambitious goals for helping make lawmakers and the community aware of the prevalence of hunger in southwest Ohio.

Video Storytelling

A portion of the first year grant funds will be used to purchase video cameras, editing equipment and microphones so Sarah can do video storytelling about hunger and poverty.

Foodbanks have done paper plate campaigns where clients write their story to lawmakers on paper plates. Others have used still photos for storytelling. But Sarah feels letting people share their life on video would be a more powerful message.

"The Congressional Management Office did a study that showed if lawmakers were undecided on an issue, 80% were likely to make up their mind based on comments from a constituent as opposed to hearing from an advocate like me," Sarah said. "We could send flash drives to state or federal legislators with these powerful messages on topics like child nutrition, school lunches or SNAP."

Breakfast Forums

Sarah would like to host two or three legislative breakfast forums annually, with each one addressing a specific hunger topic.

Her goal is to get local, state and federal lawmakers or their staff to attend the events at Shared Harvest's warehouse. She also envisions having community leaders, food pantry, soup kitchen staff and clients attend.

"We'd really like to engage our community with our clients, our pantries and our legislators," she explained. "Advocacy is really about having to educate not just politicians but our entire community about hunger and poverty."

Future leaders

Another part of Sarah's advocacy would take place on Miami University's four campuses. She thinks it's important to educate student government leaders and students in classrooms about hunger, since they're our future leaders.



Left: Shared Harvest's Sarah Ormbrek proudly displays the \$50,000 check Feeding America awarded to the foodbank for an advocacy project.

Right: Sarah was among five representatives who spoke to the Ohio Senate Finance Committee about protecting people in need in the state budget. Left to right: Lisa Hamler-Fuggit of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Marilyn Tomasi of Mid Ohio Foodbank, Sarah, Mary Oshea of the Cleveland Foodbank and Dan Flowers of the Akron-Canton Foodbank.



...one of only ten awarded nationally!

Agency Advocates

Another part of Sarah's advocacy plan is to develop an Advocacy Committee for Shared Harvest's partner charities. She's trying to identify people at pantries, soup kitchens or shelters who would be willing to speak to local media or to politicians about a variety of hunger-related topics.

"I also want to be able to take agency people with me on advocacy days in Columbus so they can share stories of the people that seek help from them," Sarah noted. "I have some reliable, committed people who've already said they're willing to help."

Continued Support

The Feeding America grant will only get Shared Harvest started on a strategic plan for long-term advocacy efforts. Part of the plan is to launch a campaign to ensure the foodbank can continue giving a powerful voice to people who lack the money to press lawmakers for change.

In June, Sarah was introduced to the advocacy world when she joined four colleagues in an appearance before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee seeking an additional \$2.7 million for two programs that provide food from Ohio farmers to the state's network of foodbanks. Sarah and the others waited most of the day for their chance to testify, only to find the bill had been changed to add most of the money they requested. Her written comments were entered on the record.

When she told Tina Osso she never actually got to testify after hours of waiting, Tina laughed and said "Welcome to the real world of advocacy; sitting on hard chairs for hours on end to get a chance to speak for three minutes and then not even getting to do that!"

Hunger Action Month

Shared Harvest Foodbank is exploring ideas to help you learn more about the problem of hunger.

September is national Hunger Action Month, and Miami University students have been working with Shared Harvest's Community Engagement Director Ben Powers on creative ways to encourage people to get involved.

One suggestion is to make a savings jar and find unique ways to save money and donate to Shared Harvest. For example, the group suggests a brown bag lunch instead of going out to eat and putting the savings in the jar. They suggest making coffee at home instead of going to the drive-thru and collecting the savings in the jar. They also encourage considering car pooling and putting the gas money saved in the jar. At the end of the month, they can donate the savings to fight hunger right here at home.

You're also encouraged to explore volunteer opportunities at Shared Harvest, or volunteer to help the foodbank at fundraising events like Panerathon (September 20) and the Zombie Walk (October 3). Powers hopes to have a Volunteer Appreciation Day Saturday, September 26.

For the social media generation, the foodbank encourages people to visit www.sharedharvest.org and like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. Powers uses social media to make you aware of events, volunteer opportunities or stories on hunger.

Hunger Awareness Month is intended to get the conversation started, to raise awareness and engage more people in ending hunger.



Left: Sarah Ormbrek attended the the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference hosted by Feeding America and FRAC. Sarah visited Speaker John Boehner's office on her final day.

Right: For Hunger Action Month, you can take time like these Heinz employees to check into volunteer opportunities at Shared Harvest Foodbank.



NALC's "Stamp Out Hunger" helps in summer months

Barb Sheyer of Hamilton and Joni Evans of Trenton are used to carrying a much heavier load on their mail routes the second Saturday of May.

Both carriers have been involved for 21 years in the Butler County portion of the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

The nation's largest single-day food drive collected 33,784 pounds of food in Butler County this year and nearly 4,800 pounds of food in Warren County.

"I always get an adrenalin rush because it's so cool to know you're helping people," said Barb Sheyer. "It's only one day a year, but it's such a good thing."

Local members of NALC Branches 426 and 43 as well as rural carriers collected non-perishable donations on Saturday, May 9. The drive benefits Shared Harvest Foodbank and its network of food pantries, soup kitchens

and shelters.

"I do deliver to many needy families, and I know that when the kids are out of school for the summer, they may not get a decent meal," said Joni Evans, who helps coordinate the event in Trenton each year. "Our food drive can help feed many kids, and there's a big need in Trenton."

The Butler County Coordinator of the NALC's "Stamp Out Hunger" drive, Eric Yost, agrees the drive is vital to families who have to provide extra meals for their kids in the summer. "We get to see the problem first hand when we deliver the mail," Yost said. "We know the personal stories of many families."

The Butler County NALC campaign has brought in 1,216,002 pounds of food since it began in 1995.

Our thanks to the NALC and the many volunteers who helped out, along with schools and churches that promoted it.



*Above: A letter carrier hands bags of food to volunteer Kaylee Kuhr in Middletown.
Below: Wendy Hess and Shared Harvest's Mike Stamper work at the Hamilton Post Office.*



Left: The "old pros" - NALC retirees Johnny Walker, Bob Caldwell and Jack Turner have been helping with Stamp Out Hunger at the Middletown Post Office since the 1990s!

Right: Boy Scout Troop 984 helped unload food at the Fairfield Post Office.



Ready... set... Register now for...

You can get your exercise and help Shared Harvest Foodbank and Mason Food Pantry by participating in the 8th annual Panerathon to Fight Hunger. The event takes place Sunday, September 20 at 9 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Mason.

Panera is offering a new discount this year. The cost for individuals is just

\$20 if you sign up by July 31st. Online Group Registration also is being offered for the first time this year.

The event includes 10K and 5K runs and a 5K walk as well as family fun activities. The registration fee goes up to \$30 August 1. To learn more and to register, visit www.Panerathon.com and select Cincinnati.



Memorials and Honorariums by our donors...

In Memory:

Of: Douglas, Scott & Phyllis Acton
By: *Ronald Acton*

Of: Richard Brune
By: *Rose Brune*

Of: Jo Ann Coombs & Jack Coombs
By: *William Coombs*

Of: Charles E. Day, Garth Day & Mildred Day
By: *Louis & Cheryl Geiger*

Of: Kenneth Dalrymple
By: *Arlene Holden*

Of: Ernest Jones
By: *Maxine Jones*

Of: Mary (Ryan) Corbin
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Of: Loved ones
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By: *Ernest Slaughter*

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By: *Karl & George Vance*

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By: *Janice Adams*

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By: *Anthony Cole*

Of: The first birthday of Jack McAdams
By: *Anthony Cole and Daniel & Patricia Haizman*

Of: George Conrad
By: *Charles & Doris Conrad*

Of: Charles E. "Bud" Killen
By: *Mark Cox*

Of: 2nd Floor I.M.C. at Fort Hamilton Hospital
By: *Mark Cox*

Of: Laura Fields
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Of: Shirley Gilbert
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Of: Barbara Gardner
By: *Arnold & Virginia Hacker*

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By: *Darlene & Tom Jacobs*

Of: Mary Knollman
By: *Leonard Knollman*

Of: Paul & Mary Westcott
By: *Paul & Patricia Westcott*

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Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Schwanns Food Service
Service Trucking
Tropicana
United States Department of Agriculture
Vendors Supply of Ohio
Victory Wholesale Grocers
White Castle

Food Drives:

AK Steel "Souper Bowl"
Anonymous
AARP

Australian Sands Tanning Resort
Butler County Educational Services Center
Bethany United Methodist
Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty
Brookdale Assisted Living
Children R Our Future Daycare
First Financial Bank
Hamilton Board of Education
Hamilton City School District's "Fill That Bus"
Kroger Operations
Macy's Bag Hunger
MH Equipment
NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
Nickerson Supplies
Ron Murphy Memorial Food Drive
Roofing Supply Group
Team Builders Savannah Center
The Bar Association

Retail Pick-up:

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



LambJamb and Butler County Fair help foodbank

The Butler County Fair Board and local sheep producers have come up with two ideas to help Shared Harvest Foodbank. Supporters of the 3rd annual LambJamb at Hanover Winery on Morman Road plan an auction as part of their event with proceeds going to the foodbank.

Fair Board member and Kroger employee Nick Forrest says five regionally known chefs will be matched with five lamb producers and five local personalities, and each team of three will cook up something special with lamb and other side dishes. Guests will get to sample the food made by each team and select a People's Choice Award. In addition, professional judges will hand out two awards to chefs.

"A butcher from Wyoming Meat Company will harvest the lamb and show people the various cuts of meat that come from lamb, and that's a highlight of the event," Forrest said.

LambJamb will also feature a live band, dinner

and then the auction to benefit Shared Harvest. A public relations specialist for Hanover Winery is trying to line up special packages like a cruise or a timeshare at a Florida resort among the auction gifts.

LambJamb will run from around 3pm to 10 pm.

Butler County Fair to help Shared Harvest

Families will benefit from another promotion being planned on the final day of the Butler County Fair Saturday, August 1.

Forrest said attendance is normally light on the last day, so he proposed the idea of letting people enter the fair with a donation of canned goods for Shared Harvest.

"That's a savings of \$8 per person, so for a family of four or six, you're looking at a total savings of \$30 or \$40," Forrest said. "We just wanted to create an opportunity for families to come to the fair who might not otherwise be able to afford that."

Foodbank Staff

Gloria Bateman	SNAP Outreach
Dylan Bostwick	Driver/Warehouse Associate
Ann Copple	Administrative Assistant
Holli Curry	CSFP Administrator
Kathy Dart	SNAP Outreach
Nick Davidson	Direct Services Associate
Rick Devine	Operations Manager
Nate Hoskins	Warehouse Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Terri Jacobsen	Food Production
Bob Long	Communication Specialist
Jack Mairn	Food Procurement Specialist
Sarah Ormbrek	Agency Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Terry Perdue	Chief Fiscal Officer
Benjamin Powers	Community Engagement Director
Darrell Sandlin	Chief Operating Officer
Mike Stamper	Retail Pickup
Mike Williams	Driver

Thanks to Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman Xetron employees have found many creative ways to help Shared Harvest Foodbank fight hunger locally for more than a decade.

VERITAS - The Veterans, Employees and Reservists Inspired to Act and Serve - decided to hold a raffle with proceeds benefitting the foodbank. That resulted in a check for \$1,738.

Northrop Grumman Xetron workers have been donating to Shared Harvest since 2004.

Over the years, their contributions have included both cash and food donations. In addition, employees answered the call when



Northrop Grumman Xetron employees present a check to Shared Harvest's Ben Powers.

Shared Harvest needed more volunteers to help assemble BackPacks for elementary students, providing them with weekend snacks and meals.

If your group would like to help us, contact Community Engagement Director Ben Powers at 800-352-3663 or: ben@sharedharvest.org.

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