

SPRING

15

# 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.

## Meijer goes extra mile for needy families

Needy families in Shared Harvest Foodbank's five-county region receive a lot of wholesome foods each month from grocery chains that take part in the retail pick-up program, rescuing food that would otherwise go to the landfill.

But the Meijer Tipp City Distribution Center goes above and beyond that program to provide additional food to Shared Harvest each month.

Distribution Center Director Mike Sullivan says what he's doing fits the core values of the family-owned retailer that believes its job is to better the communities in which it operates.

Grocery chains participating in retail pick-up typically offer small quantities of perishable foods that weren't purchased by the sell-by date. Sullivan is able to ask Shared Harvest what types of foods it needs and offer a broader range and larger quantity of food to help local pantries.

"We're able to offer full cases of food, everything from chicken, pork, and beef to coffee, bottled water, juices, cereal, soup, dairy products and more," Sullivan said.

The Meijer Distribution Center has been providing additional food to Shared Harvest for the past 2 years from its warehouse.

"Meijer has been a tremendous blessing to us, but more importantly to the thousands of families who turn to our network pantries, soup kitchens and shelters for help," said Shared Harvest Foodbank Executive Director Tina



Osso.

"We appreciate the fact that the distribution center can help us fill the need our network of charities have for meat, dairy and other vital products."

Sullivan says Meijer places great emphasis on serving people in need. In fact, the retailer donates more than 6 percent of its net profit to charity each year. The hallmark of the Meijer hunger relief efforts is its Simply Give program, which has helped neighborhood food pantries keep their shelves stocked since November 2008.

This signature program has generated nearly \$14 million, thanks to the continued generosity and support of Meijer customers, team members and food pantry partners who are committed to helping feed hungry families.

This is in addition to Meijer's food rescue program that has donated more than 16.5 million pounds of food – or more than 13.8 million meals – to local foodbanks like Shared Harvest since 2008 when the program began. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a meal as 1.2 pounds of food.



*The Meijer Distribution Center in Tipp City helps provide additional food to Shared Harvest's network of pantries and soup kitchens in Butler, Warren, Miami, Darke and Preble Counties.*



FEEDING AMERICA



OHIO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOODBANKS

Written and edited  
by Bob Long

## Notes from our director

People always ask me, "How are things at the foodbank?" And I always reply, "The food is moving in and out, the lights are on and the bills are paid – it doesn't get much better than that!"

The sense of fulfillment I get from being able to say that over and over again always brings a smile to my face.

But this is not easy. We have struggled to keep up with the need, as the number of families who turn to our network to meet their basic needs has dramatically increased, and finding food donations has become increasingly challenging. But we all just keep our heads down, our spirits up, work hard and leave the rest to faith.

The generous support for our vision: 'Hunger is not a choice, giving is,' strengthens our faith that somehow, whatever we need will arrive just as we need it. And that has been proven true over and over again.

A perfect example of that faith just happened. In mid-February we realized that we had about four weeks of breakfast foods in inventory for children in our Backpack Program. Every day since that discovery, I went in search of donations to carry the Backpack program till the end of the school year.

As the days passed with no luck, the staff was getting worried; nervous that we would run out of breakfast items and the children would go without that important first meal of the day. I kept repeating, "Have faith.

When we need it, it will come."

As I write this, I just got an e-mail confirming we secured a trailer load donation from Kellogg's. While it's not enough to carry us through the program's end, it will get us very close. And I have faith that when we need more, we will find it.

I learned a long time ago that if you do good things, good things happen. And the work of the foodbank is a good thing – it is a way to bring food to people who need it, provide services while preserving the dignity of people who are struggling and give them some hope for a better tomorrow.

We also have learned that we could not do what we do without engaging a diverse system of supporters: corporate food donors, government food commodities and grants, local food drives, thousands of volunteers, United Way, corporate fundraising events, Feeding America, foundations, civic clubs, churches, schools, our partner agencies – and you.

We can never express enough thanks to all of you for keeping the food moving in and out, keeping the lights on and insuring our bills are paid. It doesn't get much better than that.



**Tina Osso**  
Executive Director

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, May 9**  
**Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive**

**September 2015**  
**Hunger Action Month**

**Friday, September 18**  
**Member Agency Conference**

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

**Saturday, October 24**  
**Make a Difference Day**

**November 1- December 31**  
**Kroger's Check-out Hunger and Bringing Hope to the Table**



## Kroger Check-Out Hunger reaches new high

Customers of the Kroger Company showed their generosity during the annual Check-Out Hunger campaign. They donated \$24,740 to Shared Harvest Foodbank, the largest total in the nine year history of the project. The project includes 21 Kroger stores in Shared Harvest's five county service region.

Check-out Hunger allows customers to use coupon pads for \$1, \$3, \$5 or \$10 and add that total to their grocery bill when they pass

through the check-out line.

"Every year, we set a goal with the hopes of exceeding it," said Kroger Public Relations Manager Rachael Betzler. "This year, Kroger customers and associates have proven their generosity and support of a worthy cause. We're proud to be a part of a campaign that sees the importance of helping our neighbors in need."

The 2014 campaign raised almost \$3,700 more than 2013.



*The manager of the Fairfield Kroger store, Lynn Fondelier (left) joins Shared Harvest's Tina Osso and Ben Powers to celebrate a successful Check-Out Hunger campaign.*

## Panera's Dough-Nation Project helps Backpack

Children will benefit from a donation by Panera Bread to Shared Harvest.

The foodbank has received a \$10,000 check from Panera's Dough-Nation promotion, which encourages customers to put their spare change in boxes by the register anytime they visit a Panera cafe in the five counties Shared Harvest serves.

"Panera Bread is committed to serving Cincinnati and surrounding communities,



and we're proud to give back to local organizations and create a positive impact," said Craig Flom, President of Breads of the World, LLC, franchisee of Panera Bread in Cincinnati.

Panera is a strong supporter of Shared Harvest's Backpack program and has designated its donation to support efforts to provide ready-to-fix meals and snacks to elementary and pre-school participants on the weekends.

## 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 us the story of a teen forced to stay at a homeless shelter.

I've been helping people with SNAP benefits for ten years. In that entire time, I have only helped two or three young people sign up for food stamp benefits. I recently met Devon at Serve City Food Pantry in Hamilton, and he told me he was staying at the agency's Chosen homeless shelter.

Devon had just turned 18 years old and was told he had to leave the group home where he lived because he was too old to remain there. He is really concerned about how he will finish his senior year in high school, where he will live and how he can survive.

I let him know that Chosen would help him contact the agencies he needs to continue his education and anything else he needs now. We talked for a little while

because he seemed to want to get things off his chest. Devon signed up for medical coverage and SNAP with me.

I was very shocked to hear how the system handles children who do not have parents or relatives to live with. They just get kicked out of the system as soon as they turn 18 with no assistance in finding a place to live or a place to turn for help.

How do we expect teens like Devon to continue their education and get into college if they are put out on the streets during the school year? Then society wonders why there are so many homeless people living on the streets with no jobs or education to get a good job.



## Numerous community groups hold food drives...

**"I think it's a campaign that makes everyone feel good. What we find is that some of our schools that have the most need are the ones who truly come out and give the most."**

**Joni Copas, Director of Communications  
Hamilton City Schools**

### Fill That Bus Campaign

For six years, the Hamilton City School District's Character Education team has been teaching students the importance of compassion and respecting others.

You can tell the program is having the desired impact by the way students have responded to the annual Fill That Bus food drive the first two weeks in February.

Students collected 28,574 pounds of food for Shared Harvest Foodbank this year, about 3,000 pounds more than last year. It's the highest total since the district moved from an initial 6-week campaign to a two-week drive in 2010.

"Each of our schools was very creative in the way they encouraged students to collect food," said Joni Copas, Director of Communication for the Hamilton City Schools. "They have fun with it, and the timing is good because we do it prior to the start of state-mandated testing."

Individual schools staged events like Twins Day, Hat Day and Sports Day to entice kids to see how many canned goods they could donate on those days. High school students

also had a fun contest to see which teachers should get a pie-in-the-face during a March assembly.

The final day of the drive was the most hectic as students and staff helped load food onto buses at a dozen buildings throughout the district. Bus drivers also volunteered their time to take bus loads of food to Hamilton High where it was loaded onto a truck for the foodbank.

"We owe a special thanks to teachers Tim Carpenter, Don Tegge and the Hamilton High carpentry class for doing the heavy lifting in loading a semi-trailer with these donations," said Shared Harvest Foodbank's Community Engagement Director Ben Powers.

"We are also grateful to Tim Reynolds of Butler Tech Commercial Driver School for bringing the 18-wheeler to load and transport the food to our warehouse."

Since Fill That Bus was launched in the winter of 2009, students have collected more than 186,000 pounds of food.

In addition to the schools, Copas says the district also has

received help from employees of the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Rotary Club, the Kroger Store on Erie Highway and Fort Hamilton Hospital.

"I think people just enjoy doing this every year," Copas explained. "I think it's a campaign that makes everyone feel good. What we find is that some of our schools that have the most need are the ones who truly come out and give the most."

Copas said many students realize their own family might benefit from this campaign in a district where 70% of students are in the federal free or reduced price lunch program.

"We've had Hamilton High carpentry class students say they like helping with this because their families or their neighbors have been helped by Shared Harvest or local pantries," she added.

The future of Fill That Bus is a bit unclear right now. Superintendent Janet Baker will retire at the end of the school year, and a new superintendent will be involved in discussions about its future.

*Below left: Highland Elementary students hold up canned food donations during a Sports Day event for Fill That Bus.*

*Center: Crawford Woods students had a Hat Day to support Fill that Bus.*

*Below Right: Butler Tech was kind enough to donate a driver's time and the use of its tractor trailer for Fill That Bus donations.*



## ... to assist local families in need

### Holiday Food Drives

Christmas brings out the generosity in many of us, and that's very evident when you look at the variety of holiday food drives that help Shared Harvest Foodbank. The sponsors range from schools to daycare centers, small and large companies, medical facilities, mobile home parks, apartment complexes and libraries.

More than 40 organizations contacted Shared Harvest to obtain barrels, posters or transportation to support their holiday campaigns in November and December. They brought in nearly 56,000 pounds of food to help their neighbors in need.

"We have many organizations who faithfully contact us every year to conduct a holiday food drive for us," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso. "Their generosity helps us to ensure people in need will have food during the difficult winter months."

In addition to its annual Check-Out Hunger cash donations at the holidays, Kroger stores also contributed thousands of pounds of food donations through a combination of food drives.

G.E. Aviation employees spend lots of time volunteering at Shared Harvest, but they also found time to collect nearly 4,400 pounds of food. Miami University Hamilton donated 4,200 pounds. Humana employees conducted a campaign that generated 2,850 while The Lane Public Libraries donated 2,750.

Shared Harvest would like to thank everyone who took time to organize a holiday campaign as well as other food or fund drives in 2014.

### Help NALC Stamp Out Hunger

Letter carriers like Eric Yost of Hamilton and Joni Evans of Trenton take the issue of hunger personally. Because they deliver mail, they know many families on their routes who are struggling to put food on the table.

That's why the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive of the National Association of Letter Carriers means so much to them. Local NALC members urge you to **circle Saturday, May 9 on your calendar** and set out a generous supply of non-perishable items for them to pick up.

"I think it's such an important drive because there are a lot of kids on our routes who may only get one meal a day due to the fact their families are hurting," said Yost, who is coordinating the Butler County portion of the national campaign. "By us doing this drive, we can help ensure these kids have food in their homes when they're on summer break from school."

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one day food drive in America, and local carriers have been collecting food for Shared Harvest since 1995. Yost has been involved in the leadership of the local campaign for more than 15 years.

"We get to see the problem first hand when we deliver the mail," Yost said. "We know the stories of many of these families."

Butler County letter carriers have collected nearly 1.2 million pounds of food for Shared Harvest over the past two decades.

*Below left: Riverview Elementary students help load boxes of food on to a bus on the final day of the district's Fill That Bus campaign. Below right: Highland Elementary students also put their canned goods into boxes at school.*



## More examples of support from our community partners

### Potash focuses on hunger relief efforts

**PotashCorp** has shifted its philanthropic efforts to focus on food sustainability.

The Cincinnati - Harrison office has donated \$10,000 to Shared Harvest Foodbank. Finance/HR supervisor Kim Lawson says the company has been working with Shared Harvest for the past three years, making a total commitment of \$21,000 to the foodbank from 2012-14.

The Harrison office is part of



the company's Phosphate Division. **PotashCorp** is the world's largest fertilizer company, producing the three primary crop nutrients: potash, nitrogen and phosphate.

The company has business interests in seven countries and is a key player in the growing challenge to feed the world.



*Shared Harvest receives a \$10,000 donation from PotashCorp. Pictured L-R: Angela Carbonell of PotashCorp; Shared Harvest's Tina Osso and Kim Lawson of PotashCorp.*

### Warren County golf course event aids foodbank

Members of a private golf club in Warren County are taking part in a national campaign to fight hunger.

The food and beverage director of TPC River's Bend in Maineville, Vic Ertmanis, says all public and private TPC clubs nationwide chose the first week of March as a fund raising event for Feeding America and its local foodbanks.

Ertmanis says the golf club donated \$3 for each lunch and \$5 for dinners from March 4-6. The club also held a fish fry on March 6 as

part of the event.

"Knowing our members, I realized they would be more supportive if they knew this event would benefit a local charity, and that's when I contacted Shared Harvest," Ertmanis said.

TPC River's Bend is one of 14 private resort-fee golf clubs that are part of the PGA's Tournament Players Club. Ertmanis is hopeful that the event will become an annual effort to support Shared Harvest.



### Newspaper readers chip in to help Shared Harvest

Shared Harvest Foodbank received nearly \$15,600 in donations from readers of the Journal-News during the annual Community Food Relief project.

2014 marked the 11th year that Cox Ohio has asked subscribers to assist the foodbank during the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's holiday period. Community Food Relief resulted in 421 gifts to Shared Harvest, an average of \$37 per donor.

That included one first-time donor, Mary Jane Fox of Oxford, who told us, "I've never done this before, but I saw an ad in the Journal-News. I'm 93-years old, and if I can help an unknown friend that's great!"

Another donor from Hamilton said, "Sorry this

cannot be more to help those who are so unfortunate at this time. Thanks for your willingness to help those in need."



The Journal-News launched the Community Food Relief campaign in 2004. Over the 11-year period, newspaper subscribers have donated more than \$190,000 and local Community Foundations have added \$89,000.

"People often feel it won't matter because they can't make a large donation, but we like to remind them that every dollar they give provides 7 meals for people in need, said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso."



## Memorials and Honorariums by our donors...

### In Memory:

Of: Bryce & Essie Acton  
By: Ronald Acton

Of: Eloise Andrews  
By: Robert Andrews

Of: Eleonora Maybury  
By: Anonymous

Of: Dorothy Fouts  
By: Paul & Lori Beiser

Of: Patricia Black  
By: Robert Black

Of: Edward Bolger  
By: Alice Bolger

Of: Pauline & Paul Bonner Sr.  
By: Paul Bonner

Of: Virginia Bowman  
By: Kathleen Merz & Earl Bowman

Of: Gordon Braam  
By: Anna Braam

Of: Sue Breen  
By: Donald Breen

Of: Barbara Biggs  
By: Robert & Mildred Bretland

Of: Lee Coombs  
By: Wilma Coombs

Of: Joann Coombs  
By: William Coombs

Of: Doreen Clarke  
By: Angela Clarke

Of: Tim Myers  
By: Nellie Bly Cogan

Of: April Dawn Hayes  
By: Mark Cox

Of: Sheila Crehan  
By: Matthew Crehan

Of: Carolyn Draper Wall  
By: Douglas & Nancy Draper

Of: Mavin & John Young  
By: Michael & Lisa Dreyer

Of: Family members who died this year  
By: Ronald & Virginia Dutze

Of: Joseph Elam & our beloved  
veterans  
By: Virginia & Jenny Elam

Of: Sally Foster  
By: Ronald Enderle

Of: Ron Murphy  
By: Fort Hamilton Physical & Medicine  
Department

Of: Nancy & Charlie Panko  
By: Thomas & Molly Fritz

Of: Richard (Dick) Schaefer  
By: Vicente & Maureen Gallardo

Of: George Kirby, Frances Kirby, Duane  
& Helen Gambrell  
By: Michael & Carol Gambrell

Of: Tom Geiger  
By: Louis & Cheryl Day-Geiger

Of: Howard & Bette Green  
By: James Green

Of: Eldon Colvin  
By: Michael & Darlene Giuliano

Of: Clement Hale  
By: Barbara & Laura Hale

Of: Steven Hart  
By: Kathleen Hart

Of: Glodine Harbaum  
By: Steven Isgro

Of: Robert Joseph  
By: Susan Joseph

Of: Dick Cunningham  
By: B.A. Joyce

Of: John & Celia Thyen  
By: Carl & Charlotte Kettman

Of: Angela King  
By: Steven King

Of: Roland & Anna M. Vaughn  
By: James & Gayle Korb

Of: Mr. & Mrs. George N. Kunz  
By: Sharon Kunz

Of: Jimmy Lawson  
By: Rebecca Lawson

Of: Jim Leipzig  
By: Donna Leipzig

Of: Josephine Meyer Loving  
By: Edward Loving

Of: John V. Griesmer  
By: Anne McAdams

Of: Kenny McCann  
By: Nancy McCann

Of: Robert McDaniel  
By: Sandy McDaniel

Of: Joyce Hertlein  
By: Jeff & Rhonda Meckstroth

Of: Roch Lopriore, Nancy (Lopriore)  
Augsburger, David Lopriore, Nathan  
& Maxine Miller  
By: Stephen, Melanie & Lance Miller

Of: Peter Ippolito Jr.  
By: Isao & Barbara Noda

Of: Loved ones  
By: Darlene Onyett

Of: Jim Paulus  
By: Sue Paulus

Of: Laurel & Robin Pendergrass  
By: John & Jeri Pendergest

Of: Norm Frain & Ken Anderson  
By: Daniel & Sherri Randall

Of: Edwin R. Reeves  
By: Marilyn Reeves

Of: Benny Rhoads  
By: Lillie Rhoads

Of: John Osso  
By: Mary Clare Schellenbach

Of: Helen Palmer  
By: Donna Seiple

Of: Norma Skidmore  
By: John Skidmore

Of: Nelson Snider  
By: Daniel Snider

Of: Mary Richle  
By: Neal & Patricia Soll

Of: Herman Croucher  
By: Judy Stallman

Of: Hal Jasper  
By: Scott & Tamara Stauber

Of: Bill Williams  
By: Jon & Courtney Sulentic

Of: John Sunderhaus  
By: Rebecca Sunderhaus

Of: James M. Vance  
By: Karl & Georgie Vance

Of: Mary Watts  
By: Danny & Phyllis Watts

Of: Betty Weber  
By: Daniel Weber

Of: Russell J. Willer  
By: Georgia Willer

Of: Dan C. Schwarz  
By: Delbert & Joan Young

### In Honor:

Of: David Stainton  
By: Anonymous

Of: Julie & R.J. King  
By: Anonymous

Of: David Sobecki & the Miami Hamilton  
food drive - fall 2014  
By: David Berg

Of: Holidays & Thanksgiving  
By: James & Nancy Brunner

Of: Carolyn June Callis  
By: Roberta Caldwell

Of: Danya  
By: Musilm Contractor

Of: John Lewis  
By: Robert & Nancy Cottrell

Of: Our son Robbie at the holidays  
By: Debra Dalton

Of: Birthday of Robert Ossego  
By: Chuck & Marianne Duerre

Of: Lisa E. Dunlap  
By: Kris Ector

Of: Lisa E. Dunlap  
By: Karen Rodriguez

Of: Love thy neighbor as thyself  
By: Virginia Elam

Of: Dick Benkert  
By: Robert & Bonnie Erwin

Of: Martha Jane Spain  
By: James & Susan Fitton

Of: Lewis Gibson for the holidays  
By: Ann Gibson

Of: Dick & Mary Griss  
By: Alan Gold

Of: Dick & Mary Griss  
By: Robin Solazzo

Of: Children & families for the holidays  
By: Dick & Mary Griss

Of: Peter & Martha Harvey  
By: William Harvey

Of: Mark N. Cohen  
By: Martha Henderson

Of: Mark N. Cohen for the holidays  
By: Bonny Jones

Of: Shirley Hall for Christmas  
By: Ron & Robin Herzog

Of: Martha Hemming  
By: Timothy & Mary Johnson

Of: Christmas for William Morrison  
& Nancy Lisek at Butler County  
Children's Services; Kelly Jones,  
Stewart Leonard, Barbara Fabelo,  
Joyce Chestnut & Ami Manley at  
Butler County Dept. of Job & Family  
Services  
By: Jerome & Dawn Kearns

Of: Mary Knollman  
By: Leonard Knollman

Of: The holidays  
By: Cassandra Koelblin

Of: Lillian R. Lobuono  
By: Anthony Lobuono

Of: Tina Osso & Bob Long for years of  
dedicated service to Shared Harvest  
By: Faith Long

Of: Kathy Mussman, a friend who goes  
above & beyond, especially this  
year  
By: Cynthia Markwell

Of: Ruth Schlabach  
By: Susan Marvin

Of: Velda Dudley's birthday  
By: Michael & Patricia McCracken

Of: Christmas for Sydney, Jordan &  
Justin Rose  
By: Wilford & Constance McClain



## 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

## Memorials & Honorariums (cont'd.)

Of: Evelyn Meiner for  
Christmas  
*By: Rob & Betty Meiner*

Of: Cheryl Peters  
*By: Andrea Moore*

Of: Retirement of Randy Flora  
*By: Ohio Education Association*

Of: Tina Osso & Chuck Osso at  
Christmas  
*By: Monjoni Osso*

Of: Tina Osso  
*By: David & Norma Pennock*

Of: The Holidays  
*By: Kay Sallee*

Of: Herstel Bigley  
*By: Mary Clare Schellenbach*

Of: Iris B. Setaro  
*By: Joseph Setaro*

Of: Harleen & Charmeen's  
birthday  
*By: Parminder & Supinder  
Singh*

Of: Cora Millard  
*By: Tommy & Judith Stallman*

Of: The holidays  
*By: Mike & Sharon Tebbe*

Of: David Cassetta  
*By: Ruth Tenbusch*

Of: Thanksgiving  
*By: Joseph & Barbara Urell*

Of: Steve & Phyllis Schwartz  
for Christmas  
*By: Greg & Jo Walker*

Of: Mary Maye, 93, an amazing  
mom  
*By: Robert & Patricia Wheeler*

Of: Dr. Samuel L. Deleeuw for  
Christmas  
*By: Joan Witt*

*Use the enclosed donation envelope  
if you would like to remember a loved one  
or honor someone special in  
our Shared Harvest newsletter, or  
donate online at [www.sharedharvest.org](http://www.sharedharvest.org).*

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