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FOODBANK

Hunger is not a choice.
Giving is.

www.sharedharvest.org 800-352-3663

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Our Mission:

Thanks to our food donors

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.







Written and edited by Bob Long

The many faces of American poverty

We often focus attention on what we do to fight hunger in our LOCAL communities. But hunger is a much broader problem, one that requires a national organization to work with foodbanks to find innovative solutions.

Shared Harvest is part of a network of 200 foodbanks that rely on food, funding and expertise from Feeding America, the national hunger relief agency.

"The problems we see in our five county service area reflect the trends we see nationwide such as childhood poverty, rural and urban poverty and lack of food for our seniors," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

According to Feeding America, the most recent government

statistics on poverty from 2014 show nearly 47 million Americans (15 percent) live in poverty. While hunger and poverty go hand in hand, people living above the poverty line are still at risk of having to do without basic neccessities.

Childhood Hunger

Food insecurity is harmful to everyone but it's devastating to children. Feeding America estimates 15 million children face hunger. The organization has found that 84 percent of client households with children report they buy the cheapest food possible, even if they know it's not the healthiest option, because they have to have enough food.

Shared Harvest is one of many local foodbanks that have achieved success with the BackPack Program, providing nutritious meals and snacks for elementary children on weekends.

Senior Hunger

Seniors face many medical and mobility challenges, and that can put them at risk of hunger. Facing major medical issues on a fixed income is very difficult, and that's why Feeding

> America serves seven million seniors age 60 and over each year.

Shared Harvest and many other foodbanks rely on the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program to provide extra food each month to seniors living at or below the poverty line.



has found food insecurity is actually greater among rural families than urban households. It's ironic since these families live in the rural or farm communities that help feed the world. The latest statistics show 17 percent of Americans living in rural areas are below the poverty line.

What Feeding America does

On pages 4-5 of this newsletter, you'll learn more about the partnership Feeding America has with foodbanks like Shared Harvest. The information provided by local foodbanks helps the national organization understand the many faces of poverty, while the flow of food, funds and expertise from Feeding America to foodbanks plays a key role.



Notes from our director

We feed people because...

My mom used to sew many of our clothes when I was little. She had this old foot powered pedal Singer sewing machine in a wooden desk like contraption that shone with the years of dusting and waxing. She loved that machine. She loved the rhythm it created for her as she created for us. Most would say it was her hobby, but I think it was her way to rebuild her spirit and soothe her soul.

My dad loved the newest and best, so he bought her one powered by electricity with some bells and whistles to make, what he thought of as a chore, easier for her. She used that new machine but, even as a child, I could tell it was not the same for her. The last sewing machine my dad bought for mom was the super deluxe, do everything at the touch of a button machine, and mom stopped sewing.

One of the last things my mom sewed was for her own use. It was a bath robe made from a quilted material, and was fashioned like a cape, rather than a robe. She used that robe as a cover when she sat down to watch TV, until it was almost in tatters. So, one Christmas, I bought her a throw to replace it thinking it was time to discard that old raggedy robe. She never did. The throw looked nice on the couch, but it never found its way to her lap.

In thinking about this now, as I am the age that my mom was when I bought her that throw, I understand how much emotion we may have invested in the things we have had for a long time. They carry memories for us; they are part of the life we have made for ourselves.

As a society, we have taken to

easily discarding things – like my dad, it is about having the newest and the best, regardless of whether there is anything wrong with the older and functional. We do this with things but we also do this with people.

We are in the middle of renewing the annual applications for people who receive food through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. This program provides about 35 pounds of food each month to folks who are 60 years or older and live close to or below the poverty line. Many of these people are those who built this country, fought in our wars, taught our children, cared for us when we were in the hospital, made the things we use in our everyday lives, created the future we now live in. Yet they still struggle to put food on the table.

They have wisdom to share and stories to tell. They could help us navigate this world we live in, but we don't have the time or inclination to listen. We just discard what should be a precious resource, to the point that the prevalence of hunger in this aging population brings no outcry, no focus on solutions, no understanding of the scope.

Like my dad did not understand how that old foot powered sewing machine was part of mom's experience and I did not understand how that old bath robe was more than just fabric; I think we don't understand, as 15,000 baby boomers turn 65 years old every day, we have a crisis in hunger coming that we can no longer disregard. And this is why we feed people.



Tina Osso, Executive Director

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Steve Woody
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UPCOMING EVENTS

NALC Stamp Out Hunger food drive

Saturday, May 14

Shared Harvest Farm To Table Tour & Community Conversation Saturday, June 25

Hunger Action Month
September



Letter carriers ask you to fight hunger locally May 14

For more than 15 years, letter carrier Eric Yost has been involved in the local leadership of the nation's largest single-day food drive.

"We make it so easy for people," Yost said, referring to the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive of the National Association of Letter Carriers. "We come to your house to deliver your mail, and all you have to do is set out food for us to pick up that day."

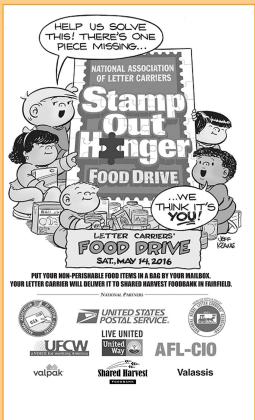
The food drive always falls on the second Saturday in May, so you can put donations by your mailbox Saturday, May 14. Local NALC Branches 426 and 43, plus rural carriers will collect your donations, which will be taken to Shared Harvest for sorting and distribution to local food pantries, shelters and soup

kitchens during the summer months.

"A lot of Butler County children can rely on meals at school during the school year, but this drive helps families put food on the table when their kids are on summer break," Yost said. "This is a great opportunity for people to go through their pantries and find items they can share with others."

NALC members in Butler County have participated in Stamp Out Hunger since 1995, hauling in more than 1.2 million pounds of food during that time span.

"As carriers, we get to know about the lives of many of our customers, so we see first hand the people who benefit from this drive," Yost added.



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 Sylvia, while Kate Dart talks about age issues in the workplace.

Sylvia's story

Things were going well for Sylvia. She had a great job that she really loved. But when I met her at Saint Raphael's in Hamilton, I learned her life has unravelled in the last two years.

First, she left her place to move in with her ailing mother to provide the care she needed. Then the worst thing happened - a car accident that left her with serious injuries that made it impossible to work.

I was able to sign Sylvia up for SNAP benefits, and she also applied for Medicaid. I also was able to get her help paying her utility bill. Sylvia would love to return to work but serious shoulder problems could prevent that. I spent close to an hour talking to Sylvia, and I could tell just listening made her feel a little better about her situation.

Age poses issue in the workplace

I've noticed more and more clients in their forties coming to me to sign up for SNAP benefits.

Most of them are people who have had a job but don't right now. They're on a mission to find a job with a living wage because they're too young to retire. The problem seems to be that they are at an age where employers would prefer someone younger, even though these individuals have another twenty or more years of good work left in them.

This can be a depressing situation, especially if they are trying to provide for a family. I do what I can to help with their groceries through SNAP benefits, medical coverage and other programs like HEAP for utility assistance. With luck, they'll have a chance to start over again.

Feeding America: helping foodbanks...

"You have 199 other foodbanks who are doing the same things you are, but in a slightly different way. You can draw from that knowledge and experiece as part of our network."

Every two years, foodbanks like Shared Harvest get a visit from the staff at Feeding America to ensure their operations comply with federal, state and network regulations.

The visit is part of an agreement Shared Harvest signs to be part of the nationwide network.

"Feeding America is a membership organization that includes 200 foodbanks which provide food to over 60,000 charitable partners in every state and for every county in America," said Judy Alberg, Compliance and Capability Director.

Alberg and Retail Information Services Manager Justin Block visited Shared Harvest in April to talk with staff and inspect warehouse operations.

Inspections

"Foodbanks handle a large volume of food, so we want to make sure they're handling it the same way a restaurant or grocery store would," Block said.

"Warehouses must be fit for food storage so we look for potential problems with rodents, make sure everything is properly stored and that temperature settings are correct in coolers or freezers."

Board & staff visits

But the site visit by Feeding America is more than a warehouse inspection. "Meeting with your staff and board of directors is one of the most valuable aspects of our periodic visits, in my opinion," Alberg said. "You're part of a larger network, and there is so much information to be shared and learned from other foodbanks."

Block said it's important to make sure the board of directors is invested in what the foodbank is doing. The site review also looks at program administration and financial issues to ensure every aspect of the foodbank is functioning well.

One thing Feeding America can do, for example, is help foodbanks when they are trying to launch a new program or service.

"You have 199 other foodbanks who are doing the same things you are, but in a slightly different way. You can draw from that knowledge and experience as part of our network." Block said.

Justin Block, Feeding America

Technology

Improvements in technology can expedite the flow of food to people who need it most.

"As foodbanks adopt new technology, the accuracy of the data they send to us gets better, and when we add technology on our end, it helps us process things more rapidly," Block said.

For example, Feeding America has an online system today where foodbank drivers or local pantry drivers can log on to immediately display the food pickups they've made. New technology also helps foodbank partner agencies place orders for food more rapidly.

Feeding America has introduced new webinar training for incoming board chairs.

"We also work hard to communicate initatives and services that are available to foodbanks from the national office," Alberg said.

According to Alberg, much of the money raised by Feeding America is also passed along to local foodbanks through grants to support operations, build capacity or start new initatives.

Bottom left: Feeding America's Senior Manager of Retail Services, Justin Block looks over product stored in Shared Harvest's warehouse.

Bottom center: Tina Osso and Justin discuss the site visit and Justin (below right) checks the temperature in a cooler.







... improve service to local people

Retail Pick-up plays huge role in network partnership

Small ideas sometimes lead to large results down the road, and the Retail Pick-up Program is a great example of that. It all started when Kroger and Shared Harvest Foodbank came up with an idea in 2004 to rescue perishable frozen and fresh meats that consumers didn't purchase by the sell-by date, so they could be offered to families in need through local pantries.

Today, Feeding America coordinates the national effort to rescue perishable foods that otherwise would go to a landfill. Senior Manager of Retail Information, Justin Block, says food waste is a huge problem. "In 2015, our network's food rescue efforts from grocery stores saved 1.4 billion pounds of food that otherwise would have gone to waste but instead went to people facing hunger," Block said.

Justin's team manages relationships with national or regional grocery retailers like Kroger, Walmart and Target while also working with 200 foodbanks and their partners who actually go to the stores to rescue food, then send him reports.

"We try to get a sense of the types of food they're picking up so we can tell donors how well they're doing in providing nutritious food to the people we serve."

Perishable foods are valuable to people in need since many items are too expensive when you have limited income. "Meat, dairy, produce - all really healthy things - need to go in a matter of hours or days to a person facing hunger, and that's what this program does." he said.



Justin Block points out a small issue on the loading dock as part of the Feeding America inspection.

Here's how Shared Harvest Foodbank benefits from its membership in Feeding America

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Food Recieved	\$3,813,048	\$3,810,076	\$4,432,538	\$4,021, 869
Funds Recieved	\$9,008	\$80,595	\$45,738	\$137,203
In-Kind Benefits	\$12,482	\$12,661	\$16,028	\$23,888
Grand Total	\$3,834,538	\$3,903,333	\$4,494,304	\$4,182,960

Advocacy Project

Shared Harvest's first Farm To Table Tour & Community Conversation will be held Saturday, June 25th.

The day will be spent visiting the foodbank, a local farm that participates in our produce program and one of our partner agencies.

The purpose of this event is to gain diverse perspectives about hunger from foodbankers, farmers, pantry customers and staff - the voices behind the statistics

Contact Shared Harvest's Sarah Ormbrek at 800-352-3663 for participation details.

To learn more about other ways you can join Shared Harvest's advocacy efforts, e-mail Sarah:

sarah@sharedharvest.org

Shared Harvest trucks getting makeover

You'll easily be able to identify one of Shared Harvest's trucks in the near future. The foodbank is seeking sponsors to pay the cost for graphics so four of our trucks can be branded and look the same.

Shared Harvest's smallest truck already has been wrapped with one side panel showing the little girl on the left and the other displaying the boy on the right eating a strawberry.

"The benefit to us is the visibility this gives us as we travel our routes to pick up food donations and deliver food to our partner agencies in the five counties we serve," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso. "Raising visibility raises awareness and hopefully will generate more support for hunger relief right here at home."

Osso said any company that is willing to sponsor wrapping the truck will have their logo listed on each side panel as the sponsor of the graphics. It will give the sponsor high visibility in our region every day.

It will cost \$6,400 to wrap the 26-foot truck, \$6,000 to wrap the 24-foot truck and \$2,200 for the cargo van. The timetable depends on weather and a 3-4 day time period when the trucks will have to be off the road.

Osso stressed the foodbank will not use operating funds or other donations for the project, only the designated funds raised specifically for the graphic work.

Contact Director of Development Mitchell Willis for sponsorship opportunities at 800-352-3663.



Kroger customers give generously to foodbank

Grocery shoppers at local Kroger stores are getting used to seeing this logo while going through the checkout line during the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season.

Shoppers set a new record for generosity by contributing \$29,914 to Shared Harvest Foodbank through Kroger's annual Check-Out Hunger campaign, a project that celebrated its 10th year in 2015.

Kroger said donations exceeded the 2014 campaign by more than \$5,000.

Twenty-one stores in Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami Counties asked customers to

use coupons displayed at each register to make a donation of \$1, \$3, \$5 or \$10.

"We deeply appreciate the generous support

of customers and Kroger employees for Check Out Hunger, because it helps us provide food to our most vulnerable neighbors during the difficult winter months," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

Additional \$35,000 to Shared Harvest during the holidays through a second promotion called Bringing Hope to the Table. That campaign garners support from Kroger vendors, who offer special sales to raise money to fight hunger.



Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory:

Of: Bryce & Essie Acton; Phyllis Acton By: Ronald Acton

Of: Bill Aker

By: Charles & Sandy Aker

Of: Vincent Sacco By: Anonymous

Of: Richard "Dick" Holzberger

By: Anonymous; Altiora Group LLC; Diana Capobianco; Anthony Cole; Todd &Carolyn Groeber; Steve Isgro; Kiwanis Club of Lindenwald; Mary Jane Mayer: Helen McClellan: Bob & Betty Meiner; Stephen & Kristina Moore; Ronald & Kathlyn Morgan; Michael & Lisa McNamara; Charles & Marilyn Ostendorf; Colleen & Shirley Dillon Perkins; Roderick Nimtz; Nancy Postow; Thomas & Marilyn Ruwe; Nicole Schmidt; Robert Sherwin; Harold & Clelia Simpson; Bingo Team C at St. Julie Billiart Parish; Venis Torge; Bill & Theresa Valerius; Scott & Bonita Whittlesey; Susan Wolf

Of: Heather Sawmiller

By: Joan Avery; Laura Dowers; Debi Gann; Cindy Grantz; Jody Platt; Maria Sparks

Of: June Beckman

By: David & Martha Bach

Of: Paulette & Paul Bonner Sr.

By: Paul Bonner

Of: Charles E. Brewer By: Izetta Brewer

Of: Mary (Settle) Bradberry

By: Joy Brown

Of: Michael Cifuentes By: Carolyn Cifuentes

Of: Tim Myers

By: Nellie Bly Cogan

Of: Walter F. Mayer By: Anthony Cole

Of: Paul Deaton

By: Joshua Deaton

Of: Kyle Tristan Dodson By: Doug & Cindy Dodson

Of: Carolyn Draper Wahl By: Douglas & Nancy Draper

Of: Joseph Elam By: Virginia Elam

Of: Alan T. Hudson

By: James & Susan Fitton

Of: Father Norbert McCarthy By: Vince & Maureen Gallardo

Of: Tom Geiger

By: Louis & Cheryl Geiger

Of: George A. Gill By: Betty Ann Gill

Of: Howard & Bette Green

By: Patrick Green

Of: Glenn Haendel By: Sharon Haendel

Of: Betty Joyce Cunningham By: Ronald & Robin Herzog

Of: Donald Hingsbergen By: Rosemary Hingsbergen

Of: Mary Ann Hornung

By: Greg & Peggy Hornung

Of: Betty & Matt Lasita By: Patti Irwin

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

Of: Hugo Brady By: Ann Kinnett

Of: Bernard Mack By: Yolanda Mack

Of: Jason Marshall

By: James & Frances Marshall

Of: Aunt Charlotte Ruhl-Johnson

By: Susan Marvin

Of: Dr. Jerry McClure By: Frances McClure

Of: Alison Shuemaker By: Margaret McIntosh

Of: John Rebman

By: Steve, Melanie, Lance, Adam and Michelle Miller

Of: Daniel Rozek By: Laura Morrin

Of: Mildred Ippolito

Bv: Isao & Barbara Noda

Of: Grace Noll By: Frank Noll

Of: Loved ones

By: Darlene Onyett

Of: Harry & Landon Otto

By: Loretta Otto

Of: Carl Weisgerber

By: Kevin & Kathleen Pater

Of: Raymond & Trish Anderson By: Helen & Lillian Pater

Of: Robin Pendergrass

By: John & Jeri Pendergrass

Of: Alma Pheanis
By: Johnathon Pheanis

Of: Sam Shoemaker

By: Jill Powell

Of: Margaret

By: Scott Richards

Of: Heather Cantley
By: Ernest & Peggy Riley

Of: Mary L. Robertson By: Laura Robertson

Of: Charles H. Roesch By: Elizabeth Roesch

Of: Tony Rogers
By: Sandra Rogers

Of: Carolyn Rose

Of: Harry & Bess Rosenweig By: Johnathon Rosenweig

Of: Robert Sanford By: Peggy Sanford

Of: Therese

By: Louise Schanding

Of: Louis & Doris Schellenbach

By: Mary Clare Schellenbach

Of: Thelma Schutte By: Richard Schutte

Of: Art Sloneker

Bv: Marlene Sloneker

Of: Phyllis Snyder By: Alan Snyder

Of: Florence Roof

By: Mary Joe Staarmann

Of: John Stivers

By: Patricia Stivers

Of: Bill Williams

By: Jon & Courtney Sulentic

Of: Bill Thomas

By: Steven Thomas

Of: William Tumblison By: Joan Tumblison

Of Janet & Janet 1

Of: Joseh & Jaunita Winkler By: Mary Beth Umbstead

Of: Daniel Webber II By: Daniel Webber

Of: Marvin, Audrey & Karen Wentzel

By: Mary Sue Wentzel

Of: Pam Kusneske By: Richard Yenser

In Honor:

Of: Moya Jones By: Anonymous

Of: Morgan Avery's passion for the foodbank

By: David & Sandy Avery

Of: Feed the poor for Jesus Christ

By: Shirleen Bisdorf

Of: Adan

By: Rebecca Blanton

Of: Mary Block & Connie Roark

By: Kenneth & Kimberly Block

Of: Persecuted Christians worldwide

By: Michael Blucker

Of: Wolfred Family By: Anne Brewer

Of: Alice Straszheim By: Jorene Burgess

Of: Bob Jones' birthday By: Ellen Campbell

Of: Jack McAdams; Madelynn & Max Cole

By: Anthony Cole

Of: God

By: Faye Curran

Of: Margie Davidson By: Keith Davidson

Of: Chelsey & Jordan Cales at

Christmas By: Dusty & Debbie Friedley

Of: Jeff's birthday

By: Richard & Mary Griss

Of: Jeff & Jack Paisano, The Bell Family & Robin Solazzo at Christmas

By: Richard & Mary Griss

Of: Central Academy in Middletown

By: Paul & Debra Grodecki

Of: Grandchildren

Bv: Neil & Karen Hand

Of: Paige Gillespie & Maureen Meyer at Fairfield East Elementary

By: Brad & Annie King

Of: Mary Knollman

By: Leonard Knollman

Of: Mr. & Mrs. John Winkel By: Robert & Sharon Primm

Of: Shared Harvest By: Russell Maxfield

Of: Chuck McKinney

By: David & Janet McKinney

Of: Norma Skidmore By: Francina McNeil

Of: Colt Spears, great grandson

By: Bari Meyer

Of: K. Mitchell

By: Priscilla Mitchell

Of: Lynn, Lizzy, Jackie, Andrew & Elise at Christmas

By: Tony & JoAnn Schutte

Of: Jerry & Betsy at Christmas By: Mike Schutter

Of: The holidays

By: Michael T. Schutter

Of: Mr. & Mrs. Greg Walker

By: Steve & Phyllis Schwartz
Of: Glory of God
By: Daniel & Eva Snider

Of: Cora Millard By: Judy Stallman

Of: Christmas

By: Edward Sweeney

Of: John & Gertrude Truefel

By: John Truefel

Of: Rick Devine's dedication to Shared Harvest Foodbank

By: Tweedle

Of: Dr. Samuel DeLeeuw for the

holidays By: Joan Witt

Foodbank Staff

Gloria Bateman SNAP Outreach

Dylan Bostwick Driver/Warehouse Associate
Ann Copple Administrative Assistant

Crystal Corbin Community Engagement Manager

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

Bob Long Communication Specialist
Sarah Ormbrek Agency Relations Director

Tina Osso Executive Director
Terry Perdue Chief Fiscal Officer
Darrell Sandlin Chief Operating Officer

Mike Stamper Retail Pickup

Mike Williams Driver

Mitchell Willis Director of Development

Food Donors & Drives

Food Donors:

Anonymous

DHL

Chickpea Chicks Hummus
Colorado Premium Foods
Continental Express
Ellenbee Leggett
Essendant

Estes

Freestore Foodbank JAG Trucking Inc.

Kellogg's

Kraft Biscuit (Mondelez)

Meals of Hope

Meijer Distribution Center Needy Baskets of Southern

Miami County
Ohio Association of
Foodbanks

Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services

Schwanns Food Service

Smuckers Vendor Supply of Ohio Victory Wholesale Grocers

Food Drives:

AK Steel (Souper Bowl)

Barclay Bridgeport

Brookdale Senior Living Butler Co Job & Family

Services

Butler Co. Bar Association

Buzzard Bay

Cort Business Services Delta Kappa Gamma Chi

Chapter

Fairwood Fill that Bus

Hamilton Freshman School

Linden Macy's Ridgeway Riverview Ryan's Tavern Sojourner

Talawanda FFA Chapter Towne Properties

Triplefin

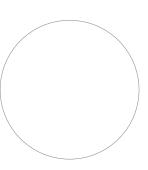
Individuals

Holly Foster Diane Goodman Kathy Simpson

Retail Pick-up:

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





Spring 2016

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