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Written and edited by
Bob Long

Harvest Gatherings

Fall 2008

Celebrating 25 years of service

Gene Roe fondly remembers the early days when the federal government provided five pound blocks of cheese to people in need.

She helped to establish a food pantry at Hamilton's Allison Avenue Baptist Church and was among the first 12 pantries to receive food from Shared Harvest Foodbank.

"The church donated a room for the pantry, and people donated refrigerators and freezers to get us started," Gene recalls. "I contacted Tina, and I still remember Tina and Sharon (Waldron) bringing us that cheese in their truck."

There was no warehouse when Shared Harvest delivered its very first load of food to Family Services 'Summer Food for Kids' program in Middletown on June 26, 1983. It wasn't until October that the foodbank had a warehouse in which to work.

In its first six months, Shared Harvest distributed 300,000 pounds of food. Compare that to the nearly 8-million pounds distributed in 2007!

"Tina has worked tirelessly for people," explains Gene Roe. "She has great compassion for people who don't have a thing. I don't know how she did it over the years, but she always helped us to get the freezers or refrigerators we needed."

Gene's sentiments are shared by so many others including Jim Paulus, long-time director of the Butler County United Way. "I've never met anyone who was more perfectly placed in a job than Tina Osso at Shared Harvest," Paulus says.

"I'll never forget the first time I toured the warehouse when we were considering Shared Harvest for United Way funding. Tina had this

doberman who followed us around the warehouse. When I asked why, she explained the doberman was her security system!"

The director of the Middletown Area for United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Mike Sanders, remembers his first encounter with Tina.

"She showed up at the United Way office in Middletown in an old, beat-up step van with the idea that she wanted to fight hunger by fighting waste," Sanders recalls.

"I'm proud to say Middletown United Way was so impressed with Tina's dream and vision that we were the first United Way to allocate funds to Shared Harvest. We congratulate Tina and her staff on 25 years of service to people in our communities."

The director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food banks says Shared Harvest played a vital role in getting state funding for food banks.

"One thing that people don't realize is that Tina Osso was the mother of state funding for hunger relief," says Lisa Hamler-Fugitt.

(Continued on Pg.3)

Thanks to our 25th Anniversary Sponsors

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From the Director's Desk

The foodbank is about people as much as it is about food, and I've spent my newsletter columns this year talking about the people who helped Shared Harvest get started. Too often it is my face, words and actions that most of you know, but it is the staff who have met the challenges, worked through the everyday crisis and continue to adapt to the changing needs hunger and poverty present. You see their names and titles elsewhere in this newsletter, so let me tell you about some of those names.

Darrell Sandlin arrived on the scene late in 1983. He was assigned to the foodbank to work for his family's welfare check – yes even then, if you received cash assistance you were required to work it off.

Darrell had experience in warehouse work and was invaluable in helping us set up systems for storage and distribution. He was hired April 1, 1984 and is now our business director. He helped take us from a fledgling foodbank to the full service operation we are today - touching lives in 39 counties in Ohio – and along the way he worked for and received his GED.

Darrell is the finest example of a person who, given the right opportunity, will rise to the occasion and realize his full potential. He has been a dependable partner and friend doing his job day in and day out with humor and dedication.

Tracy Estes was hired in the summer of 1984 as a warehouse worker to pull orders for our member agencies, drive trucks picking up donations and delivering food, which he continues to do today. He has personally touched nearly each of the millions and millions and millions of pounds of food that flows through the foodbank every year. Tracy has been a silent partner, a relatively unknown foodbanker whose muscle and determination ensured the smooth flow of food from donors docks to our warehouse to our member agencies and finally onto the tables of millions of families in need over the past 24 years – all with little recognition for the very important work he does.

Jerry Tucker, or Tucker as we call him, came to the foodbank in the early 1990's. He quickly took on the task of keeping the warehouse organized, overseeing schedules, dispatching trucks and working his way into becoming our Operations Manager.

Tucker has nearly single-handedly taken our fresh produce program from a paltry 90,000 pounds the first year to over 1.5 million pounds each year. Understanding the critical nature of moving fresh produce quickly, Tucker is in contact with our member agencies to move the majority of truckloads within 48 hours of receipt and in many instances produce received in the morning is gone by the afternoon. This is no small task. He does all this with a smile on his face, doing whatever it takes so that kids can have apples,

peaches or nectarines, and moms can fix fresh sweet corn, greens, potatoes and a huge variety of other vegetables so critical to a healthy diet for their families.

Both Kathy Dart and Debbie Houston arrived at the foodbank in the early 90's also. Nearly hidden in the back warehouse of the foodbank they are responsible for the integrity of the food we distribute. Any food arriving that is damaged or collected in food drives must be inspected before distribution. This is slow, methodical work as each item must be checked for damage, expiration dates, cleaned and sometimes labeled, then sorted and boxed in preparation for distribution.

Both Kate and Deb are perfect for this job, not because of any extensive training – although there has been some – but because they had to use food pantries themselves as they were raising their families. They witnessed first hand the quality of food they received when in need – some not fit for human consumption – and now they have the opportunity to insure that no family gets that type of food from one of the pantries in our network. Just because you are poor doesn't mean you should be fed garbage.

These folks are just five of the 14 foodbankers we have on staff. Although they are the longest term, in no way are

they any more important than those not mentioned... Mike Williams our primary driver, on the road everyday in our big rig... delivering food and picking up large donations; Jack Mairn finding the food donations critical to our success; Chuck Osso (my older brother) who insures our member agencies are up to snuff while, with nearly heroic effort, brought our Back Pack program to life. He expects to serve nearly 2,000 elementary students each week this school year with food for the weekends.

There's Steve Cox directing our Commodity Supplemental Food Program serving nearly 1,300 senior citizens each month with 30 pound boxes of food and Gary Thomas steadfastly pulling orders and keeping the warehouse clean. There's Gloria Bateman helping families who visit our food pantries apply for Food Stamps that will help them be less dependent on charitable food distribution; Sam Taylor running routes everyday to Kroger, Whole Foods and Biggs in our retail pick up program, providing a half a million pounds of center of the plate food each year to families in need.

And our own Bob Long, without whom, you would not be reading this newsletter. I am so very proud of all of these folks, they are the reason Shared Harvest Foodbank is celebrating 25 years of service. How about a nice round of applause for the real faces of the foodbank!

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.

There are many kinds of plates :

Old plates

NEW PLATES

Tin plates

Ceramic plates



Paper plates

Styrofoam plates

Wooden plates

Heirloom plates

But the very best **pLates** of all are filled with **food**.



If you have enough on your **pLate** to share,
consider making a donation to Shared Harvest Foodbank to help us fill empty plates.

For every dollar you donate, we can fill eight empty plates.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.



25th Anniversary cont'd from front page

"She worked tirelessly to reconvene our state association and to get member agencies to convince the state legislature to fund hunger relief. It was her advocacy that led then Governor Voinovich and the legislature to provide that support, which has grown from \$1.5 to \$8.5 million per year."

Hamler-Fugitt says Osso's hands-on approach has been invaluable in talking with lawmakers through the years. "She's able to tell stories about the people we serve in a very convincing way," she adds.

There have been many milestones in Shared Harvest's journey from 1983 to today.

Within two years, the foodbank had expanded its services to Warren County while providing USDA products to seven other counties.

The current warehouse at 5901 Dixie Highway in Fairfield was purchased in 1986, and two years

later, Shared Harvest became a certified affiliate of America's Second Harvest, providing access to food donors nationwide.

The last seven years have seen the foodbank enter the field of direct services, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors, which started in 2003, along with the Mobile Pantry to serve rural families in need.

In 2004, Shared Harvest launched its Food Stamp Outreach Program at food pantries, helping clients apply for food stamps.

The foodbank joined with Kroger to start a Retail Pick up Program to rescue perishable foods in 2005, and 2007 witnessed the start of the Back Pack Program, providing weekend groceries for 1,300 children from six Butler County school districts.

From June 26, 1983 to August 30, 2008 Shared Harvest Foodbank has distributed **174,412,629** pounds of food!

Kroger, state help deal with storm impact

The September 14 wind storm that left many southwestern Ohio families without power for up to a week also wreaked havoc with our partners in the emergency food network. Initially, half of these agencies in Butler and Miami counties were closed for periods of time.

"We were fortunate that power was restored to the foodbank the day after the storm, so we didn't lose anything in our freezers," says Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso. "That enabled us to store perishable foods from our partner agencies."

State government agencies and the Kroger Company worked with Shared Harvest to ease the pain for many low-income families. Kroger delivered

ten pallets of non-perishable food worth an estimated \$10,000. The emergency shipment included staples such as peanut butter, beef ravioli, mini ravioli, rice, macaroni, noodles, green beans, corn and cereal.

"Kroger knew that our partner agencies would be seeing increased demand requests for help because of the power outages," Osso adds. "The items Kroger donated are the kinds of things people need the most during difficult times."

To offset the loss of essential perishable foods to local families, foodbank staff worked with the Butler County Department of Job and Family Services to restore additional benefits to food stamp cards for eligible clients to replace food lost.



Shared Harvest's Operations Manager Gerald Tucker unloads Kroger's \$10,000 donation of non-perishable food to aid victims of the wind storm and power outages.



Marsh aids foodbank

Another local grocery chain has pitched in to help Shared Harvest Foodbank deal with a shortage of donations.

Twice a year, Marsh grocery stores ask customers to contribute to the "Food for All" campaign, with donations going to various food banks in Ohio and Indiana.

Shared Harvest received a check for \$1,125 from Marsh Manager Claude Angel of the Pleasant Avenue store in Fairfield as part of the most recent fund-raising effort by the Indiana-based grocer.



The manager of the Lindenwald Marsh store, Claude Angel, presents a check to Tina Osso from the grocer's "Food for All" campaign.

Plan your Holiday Aid drive now!

Shared Harvest encourages businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations to begin planning now for a Holiday Aid Food or Fund drive between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

When you choose a date...
Call Tina Osso at Shared Harvest
at (513) 874-0114.

Helpful tips:

- Decide when to conduct the drive. A 1-2 week campaign is a good idea.
- Ask us to deliver barrels or boxes for your drive.
- Have a committee hand out flyers or put up posters promoting the event.
- Friendly competition between classes or departments can make your drive a success.

CHACO makes foodbank charity of choice

CHACO Credit Union officials weren't sure what to expect when they held the first "Community Shred Day" in the parking lot of their Park Avenue office in Hamilton.

What they heard over and over from enthusiastic customers at the August 16 event was to plan to have another document-shredding day sometime soon!

The event, hosted by CHACO and Dalton Wealth Management, was just one of several projects CHACO has undertaken to support Shared Harvest Foodbank as its charity of choice in 2008.

For a \$5 donation to Shared Harvest, participants could bring boxes of sensitive documents like bank statements, receipts and other personal files and have them safely destroyed by Royal Documents, a professional shredding company.

Shred Day resulted in more than \$500 in donations to Shared Harvest and at least one-and-a-half tons of

documents being shredded.

That event is just one of several ways CHACO and its 31,000 members are supporting the foodbank. CHACO hosted a "Teeing off Against Hunger" golf outing on Friday, September 19 at Indian Ridge Golf Course.



CHACO Credit Union worked with Royal Documents to provide a "Community Shred Day" with proceeds going to Shared Harvest.

CHACO has encouraged members to make donations to the foodbank at its seven service centers in Hamilton, Fairfield, Fairfield Township, West Chester, Oxford and Forest Park. A silent auction and raffle also were held.

"Shared Harvest's purpose closely matches our cooperative's mission of 'people helping people'," says Jim Schultheiss, CHACO's CEO. "On many occasions, our organizations have come together to help individual families and to provide real

value for mankind. We enjoy the relationship we have built over the years and are proud of the difference we have made in our community."

Intermec provides food and financial aid

Employees of the Fairfield office of a global technology company had a bit of a surprise for Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso this summer.

Intermec Technologies officials called to say they were coming to the foodbank to drop off food from an employee food drive, along with a check. When Intermec Senior Vice President Mike Willis handed her the check, Tina was amazed when she saw it was for \$20,000!

"I've been simply overwhelmed by the generosity of the employees at Intermec in supporting Shared Harvest this year," she says.

"In the first quarter, we received a \$10,000 check from the Intermec Foundation. When you consider each dollar donated helps to provide eight meals, you can see what a huge impact Intermec's donations will make."

Intermec is a global company serving customers in more than 60 countries with thousands of employees around the world.

"We understand the importance for us to be

actively involved in our local communities with our time and resources," says Willis, Intermec's Senior Vice President of Global Sales and Service.

"We're honored to be a partner with Shared Harvest in Butler County and its other primary service areas in Warren, Miami, Preble and Darke Counties."

Intermec develops, manufactures and integrates technologies that track and manage assets in the supply chain for many companies.



Intermec Senior Vice President Mike Willis (left) presents a check to Tina Osso. Also pictured is Intermec's Regional Human Resource Manager Steve Stamper.

Senior food project faces uncertain future

Skyrocketing fuel and food prices have created an air of uncertainty for a popular federal program that provides a monthly box of wholesome food to senior citizens in Butler, Warren and Preble Counties.

Shared Harvest has been coordinating the local distribution of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program since 2003, but the cost to provide food to seniors in need has increased dramatically the past two years. The average monthly CSFP food package jumped almost eight dollars from \$13.43 to \$21.19 between Fiscal Year 2007 and 2009.

In the last three fiscal years, the Bush administration has proposed doing away with CSFP and transitioning eligible seniors to food stamps. But the National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association estimates seniors would only get about \$10 a month for food if that change takes place.

Local seniors say the monthly box of food they receive from CSFP is vital. Pat lives in Hamilton and has been part of the program for two years. "I can mix the foods I receive with other things I have at home, and that can mean at least five additional meals I wouldn't have otherwise," she says.

"I like it when they include recipes in the box of food, because it gives you guidelines on how to make meals that can last," says Josie, who lives in Hamilton and has been receiving CSFP for about five years.

Robert Armstrong is one of many people who picks up food for his 76-year old mother in



*Martha Rose, Americorps*VISTA, and volunteers help load federal food commodities for senior citizens at the Hamilton Plaza Shopping Center.*

Middletown. "My mom has so many medical expenses that she really relies on and looks forward to this food every month," he explains. "I help her out too, but she really counts on CSFP."

Celeste Davis of Middletown also picks up food for her 87-year old mother and several other seniors. "With the rising cost of gas and so many other things, their budgets are stretched so thin," Davis says. "The macaroni and block of cheese she receives can provide several meals."

America's Second Harvest has a new name!

Shared Harvest Foodbank's national partner has changed its name.

America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network - conducted two years of research and discovered only two of ten people questioned understood the agency's role in national hunger relief efforts.

So America's Second Harvest is now known as **Feeding America**[™]. The agency had been working with food banks nationwide for three decades, but the national brand name simply was not well known.

As the economy weakens, more Americans face the challenge of providing food for their families. With the

name change, **Feeding America**[™] hopes to better engage the public in the fight against hunger.



While the study showed that the agency's mission is strong and motivating, the previous name America's Second Harvest failed to clearly and quickly explain its mission and did not readily encourage people to join the hunger movement.

"Hopefully, the name change to **Feeding America**[™] will

help people understand the problem of hunger exists nationwide, not just in areas served by food banks like Shared Harvest, where much of the attention is often focused," says Shared Harvest's Tina Osso.

Honoring our friends and thanking our food donors

In Memory:

Of: My mother, Margaret Goldsmith
By: *Pauline Clark*

Of: Melvin Hogeback
By: *Tom Hogeback*

Of: Marjorie Johnstone
By: *M.J. Hill*

Of: John May
By: *Diane, Tia & Mac Yater*

Of: Everett Ray
By: *Nancy Augspurger, Steven & Melanie Miller*

Of: William Westrick
By: *David Bach*

In Honor:

Of: Sharon Bailey - The world's best mother
By: *Matt Bailey*

Of: Frank Goodlander's birthday
By: *Brian & Cindy Goodlander*

Of: Bill & Marge Larson
By: *Michael & Sara Hayes*

Of: Retired Federal Employees-N.A.R.F.E.
By: *Russell Sick*

Of: Tom Strodbeck - on the anniversary of his ordination as Deacon
By: *Dan & Ann Fitzgerald*

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Target
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Tyson Foods
White Castle
Whole Foods Market

Food Drives:

Biggs - Union Centre
Biggs - Cincinnati Mills
Danberry Cinema's Cincinnati Mills
LifeSpan
US Bank Development Network
Transfreight LLC
Well Point



Support your local United Way campaign

Local United Way campaigns are in full swing this month, as an army of volunteers asks local businesses and employees to support vital social services.

United Way funding makes up roughly 10 percent of Shared Harvest's annual budget, so the success of local campaigns has a major impact on our programs.

The Butler County United Way campaign hopes to raise \$2.6 million in the Hamilton-Fairfield-West Chester area to support 28 local agencies, including the foodbank.

Shared Harvest also receives support from the Middletown division of the Greater Cincinnati United

Way. Middletown has set a goal of \$1.2 million this fall. Oxford United Way's goal is \$930,000 while Warren County United Way has its sights set on a \$2,175,000 goal to support 29 social service agencies.

These four campaigns provide varying levels of support to the fight against hunger, so we urge you to support the local United Way campaign at your workplace.

You can also take advantage of United Way's designated giving option, to give where you live or support a particular organization.

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Nibbles and bits

Foodbank Staff

Gloria Bateman	Food Stamp Outreach
Steve Cox	CSFP Director
Kathy Dart	Food Production
Tracy Estes	Warehouse Manager
Brendan Faux	Americorp*VISTA
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Bob Long	Communication Specialist
Jack Mairn	Donor Development
Chuck Osso	Agency Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Martha Rose	Americorp*VISTA
Darrell Sandlin	Business Director
Sam Taylor	Kroger Project Manager
Gary Thomas	Warehouseman
Gerald Tucker	Operations Manager
Mike Williams	Driver

Local media food drives:

Many thanks to our friends at WPFB and The Rebel in Middletown for their attempts to get listeners to support the battle against hunger.

Paint and Dent Works in Fairfield is conducting an ongoing food drive to help Shared Harvest. WPFB also joined with Cox Ohio Publishing for a summertime Cans Film Festival at several Danbary Cinemas. The canned goods that were donated benefitted both Shared Harvest and The Foodbank in Dayton.

NBC/NFL Awareness Drive

The NFL and NBC hope to make football fans more aware of the problem of hunger in

America during the network's Sunday Night Football broadcasts this fall.

Shared Harvest's national partner, **Feeding America™** has a new partnership with the NFL, NBC and Taste of the NFL to bring domestic hunger to the forefront of American conversation.

During each Sunday night NFL game, play by play announcer Al Michaels and color analyst John Madden will mention **Feeding America™** and encourage viewers to support their local food bank.

Madden will be joined by country music star Faith Hill in "The More You Know" public service announcements that will air during the games and at other times as well.

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