

harvest gatherings

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.

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More evidence of childhood hunger

A new national study of hunger contains information that may shock you.

One of four Ohio households with children didn't have enough money to provide food for their children at least once in the past 12 months. That information comes from "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity", a study conducted by Feeding America and funded by the ConAgra Foods Foundation.

An analysis by the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks examines food hardship rates - the inability to afford enough food - for households with and without children. Ohio ranked 20th in the nation with 26.3% of households with children reporting food insecurity and 16.6% of homes without children also reporting similar issues.

"This new data reaffirms what we're seeing every day - that far too many people continue to struggle with hunger in these uncertain economic times," said Lisa Hamler-Figutt, executive director of the state association.

"This data also demonstrates that this is not the time to weaken our safety net. Congress must ensure that all deficit negotiations protect nutrition programs and other parts of the safety net that help low-income people."

The report also breaks down hunger data by Ohio's 18 congressional districts. In 16 of 18 districts, at least one in four households with kids answered yes to the question: "Were there times over the past year when you

did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?"

In House Speaker John Boehner's 8th Congressional District, 24.5 percent of households with children reported having problems providing meals for their children at some point in the past year. Households without children had a food insecurity rate of 15% in Butler County and other parts of Boehner's 8th district.

All told, Map the Meal Gap found 98,000 individuals in the 8th district faced food insecurity.

"At a time when more and more

parents are trying to stretch thin resources to make ends meet, children are definitely feeling the impact," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

"We must defend our most

vulnerable populations, especially children and seniors, to ensure they have the nutritious food they need to stay healthy."

As U.S. Senator Rob Portman of Cincinnati and other members of the "super-committee" begin work on a deficit reduction plan to cut another \$1.5 trillion in spending, the Ohio Association says those deliberations are critical.

Individuals and OASHF's 3,000 member charities are urged to contact Portman and others, asking them to protect programs such as SNAP (food stamps), school meals, the Emergency Food Assistance Programs, food programs for seniors (CSFP) and WIC from further cuts. Many of those programs already have seen major cuts.



www.sharedharvest.org
800-352-3663



Notes from our director

We are in the middle of the perfect storm. We are faced on all fronts by huge disasters, some we can resolve, some we just have to ride out.

I feel like the foodbank and our partner charities are one of many life boats bailing as fast as we can while trying to rescue as many as possible. All the while, as the life boats are reaching capacity and resources are getting thinner by the day we can only row, keeping the distant shore of stability in our sites.

Here are the elements I see as contributors to this perfect storm:

A dysfunctional congress more concerned about making the other party look bad than they are with understanding and compassionately resolving the joblessness of millions of Americans. I really don't care about which policy is right or wrong in this debate. What I care about is that in Ohio, one in four children live in poverty and face hunger as a way of life. All the words in the world will not fill those empty bellies. Action will. Yet what I see are a bunch of words and posturing that result in continuing reductions in funding for the very programs designed to address hunger, which have a track record of working for God's sake.

Speaking of words, there has been a dramatic shift in the words we use to describe the very real problems real people face. Hunger is called 'food security'. If someone asks you if you are food secure, do you know what they are asking? Now, if they ask you if you are hungry, you know what they mean.

Being fired from your job is now called being 'dislocated' while companies 'right size'. What the hell is that? Chronic unemployment is now called 'labor surplus', easier to say, harder to understand. I can tell you

the folks who are about to lose their unemployment insurance don't feel like they are 'surplus'. They feel like they are forgotten. When the words describing severe problems are easy to say, they don't seem as urgent to resolve.

We are experiencing record breaking environmental events, droughts, floods, heat, fire, the mysterious loss of honey bees... all affecting agriculture. Compounded with wildly swinging fuel costs used to power everything involved in growing and transporting food, we are facing mounting grocery bills, just for the bare necessities. Meaning more of those living on the economic edge are not going to be able to acquire food they need to survive in the traditional manner because they can't afford it. And more and more of us are living on that economic edge.

Yet, in all of this, there are still those who care enough to ensure that it is "women and children first" in those lifeboats. People like you, who probably have less and less to give, but still dig deep because you understand that as bad as it may get for you and your family, there are those much worse off. In this newsletter, you will read about some of the thousands of people who help us keep rowing our boat, focused on that distant shore. In my 30 plus years in this work, we have been through perfect storms before, and we will ride through this one, too. But we couldn't do it without you. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you... you keep us bailing and rescuing.



Tina Osso
Executive Director

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COMING EVENTS OCTOBER

Schedule your Holiday food or fund drive.

Nothing campaign
United Way Campaign.

NOVEMBER

Holiday Aid food drives

Check-Out Hunger
(sponsored by Kroger)

Hamilton JournalNews
Food Relief
(sponsored by CoxMedia)

DECEMBER

Holiday Aid food drives

Check-Out Hunger
(sponsored by Kroger)

Hamilton JournalNews
Food Relief
(sponsored by CoxMedia)

Do Something! ... About NOTHING!

You still have an opportunity to help Shared Harvest Foodbank make something out of nothing.

Shared Harvest is part of an innovative project called the Nothing Campaign, a statewide effort to fight hunger in Ohio. It aims to inform people that nothing is what some families have to eat.

"The last three years have witnessed a growing number of families standing in lines at our food pantries as a result of the great recession, the loss of jobs or working jobs that don't pay a living wage," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

Shared Harvest had more than 250 cans of "Nothing" for people to purchase at a cost of \$3. Individuals have been urged to fill them with donations

from family, friends, neighbors, work colleagues or church groups and return them to the foodbank.

In addition, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks has encouraged people to make online donations to the foodbank in their area by going to the website www.nothing.org/ohio. Shared Harvest will receive the portion of online donations that come from its primary service area - Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami Counties.

A third way to donate is by texting **FOODBANK** to 85944 from a mobile phone. The award winning Nothing campaign started in Rhode Island in 2010, and Ohio is among three states offering the campaign this year.



From the front lines... people who turn to our pantries

Shared Harvest's SNAP Outreach Program helps people learn if they qualify and apply for food stamps or other supports. In each newsletter, we tell you a story from one of our SNAP Outreach workers. Our thanks to Lisa McNamara for this story.

I recently helped a woman who had suffered through a job loss. Alicia had two children and had a shared parenting agreement with her ex-husband, which meant she did not have child support to help her through tough times.

While she was unemployed, Alicia was only able to pay her rent, utilities, household bills and buy food for her family. Her car payment was only \$150 a month, but she was unable to make payments for several months, so her car was repossessed.

Finally, Alicia came to me at a local food pantry to see if she qualified for food stamps. When I informed her she was eligible for \$200 per month in food assistance, she sat at my desk and cried.

"I was too proud to ask for any help," she explained. "I was buying groceries for my kids, not realizing I could

receive food stamps. It's too bad I didn't sign up for them three months ago."

I'm sharing this story with you because there was nothing more that I could do for Alicia. ***But if you know someone who might qualify for food stamps, please encourage them to apply sooner, rather than later. Call Shared Harvest Foodbank at 800-352-3663 to speak to one of our three SNAP Outreach workers to learn how we can help someone you know.***

In this case, had Alicia received benefits sooner, her vehicle would not have been repossessed since she could have made her car payments while receiving help with food for her kids.

Things are better for Alicia now, but she didn't have to go through that, and that's true of many other people. It doesn't hurt to ask, and it just might help.

Local businesses, groups play vital role in foodbanking

“We try to build leadership skills and instill a sense of community in our students. Participating in our Shared Harvest Food Drive helps to do just that.”

Shirley Braden

D. Russell Lee Career Technology Center

As Congress continues to consider drastic cuts in spending, Shared Harvest and other foodbanks nationwide are bracing for major hits to food assistance programs for children, families and seniors.

With that in mind, it's good to know one thing hasn't changed - Shared Harvest can still rely on some very generous local partners who help us continue our mission of feeding hungry people.

There are many companies that often are mentioned in our newsletter for the major role they play in food donations. We want to acquaint you with others who have been regular supporters.

Corporate Partners

One family-owned and operated business that frequently provides donations to the foodbank is Dittman-Adams Company on Rialto Road in West Chester. It offers a wide array of grocery products.

“We strive to connect with our community and are glad we can partner with Shared Harvest,” said Donna Dalessandro, Assistant Category Manager for Dittman-

Adams. “We look forward to a long relationship with the foodbank and are happy to help families in need.”

Cincinnati-based food distributor Ellenbee Leggett also has been a regular contributor for many years.

Retail Pick-Up Partners

In 2005, The Kroger Company pioneered a project that has rescued perishable food items - particularly meat products - that have been a tremendous bonus for local food pantries.

The Retail-Pick Up Program now includes Kroger, Marsh, Walmart, Target and Whole Foods stores.

“We strive to make a difference by supporting various community programs such as Retail Pick-up and the Grab -n- Give program,” said Leah Matthews of Whole Foods. “We believe that supporting those who are in need is a way to give back to the community, all the while supplying healthy food options that are vital to well being.”

Holiday Aid

Food drives always have been a staple of the foodbanking

industry, and the upcoming holiday season always results in dozens of community groups, churches, schools and businesses offering to hold food or fund drives.

Fairfield Middle School students, teachers and staff have donated 30,000 pounds of food over the past three Holiday Aid drives. Organizers Katie Murphy and Anne Dollenmeyer think it's a great learning tool. “We want to instill a passion for giving among our students. It helps the students to realize poverty is something that is a part of their community, but that if they work together, they can help put an end to it.

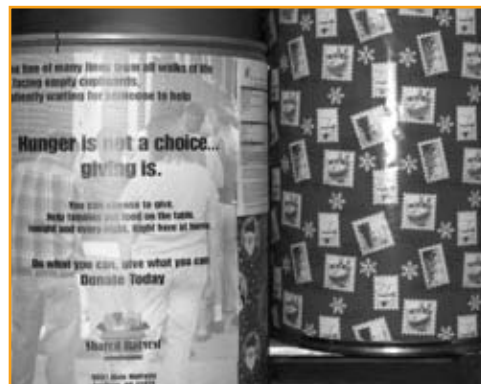
Butler Tech math instructor and SkillsUSA Chapter Advisor Shirley Braden has been conducting holiday food drives for over 20 years.

“We try to build leadership skills and instill a sense of community in our students,” Braden said. “Participating in our Shared Harvest Food Drive helps to do just that. It gives our students a chance to step up as a leader and give back to the community that they are a part of.”



LEFT: Local food drives like this one by First Financial Bank help to supplement food donations from businesses and other sources.

RIGHT: You'll probably see lots of barrels like these as community groups, schools, churches and businesses conduct Holiday Aid food drives for Shared Harvest.



Make plans NOW to help Shared Harvest with Holiday Aid!

September is the perfect time to plan a Holiday Aid food or fund drive for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Shared Harvest can provide flyers as well as posters for our food barrels to draw attention to your campaign.

To learn more, visit:

www.sharedharvest.org and go to the pull down menu marked “Give Help” ... then click on *conduct a food drive*.

We can e-mail you a list of food and toiletry items that are requested the most.

Once you’ve picked the dates for your drive, **call our Special Projects Coordinator Holli Curry (513) 874-0114 or 1-800-352-3663 or e-mail her at: holli@sharedharvest.org**

Thank You!

Hall of Fame farmer a friend to Shared Harvest

Lester Lynd didn’t know what foodbanks did when he first agreed to deliver fresh apples from Lynd Fruit Farm east of Columbus to Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield.

Today, he’s one of the true champions of the Ohio Agriculture Clearance Program, a state-supported project to ensure people in need receive wholesome fruit and vegetables.

For his efforts, Lynd recently was inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame. Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso was among those who nominated him for the honors.

“It’s a day I’ll never forget,” Lynd said about the day he personally delivered about 800 bushels of apples in a truck to Shared Harvest. “I wanted to thank the woman who ordered them, and Tina (Osso) made sure she was called to the dock when I arrived so she could thank me too. She showed me how the foodbank operates, and we formed a natural bond that hasn’t changed.”

Lester became a huge advocate of farmers providing crops to foodbanks, a program

in which farmers are paid for the cost of harvesting, packing and shipping in return for free produce that can be distributed to local food pantries.

“Grocery stores are very particular about the appearance of fruit,” the Pataskala farmer explained. “Many apples can be branded as not red enough or not desirable due to blemishes, but they’re still perfectly good to eat.”

Lynd says people who run local food pantries are anxious to tell him how much their clients appreciate the fresh produce he and other farmers deliver.

“It’s satisfying for us to know our apples are going to people who really have a need for healthy produce in their diet,” he added.

In nominating Lester to Ohio’s Agriculture Hall of Fame, Tina Osso said he had touched the heart of many state legislators with his testimony in support of the state-assisted project.

“For a big, burly farmer to emotionally talk about children eating his apples who may have never tasted a fresh apple before will touch anyone’s heart,” she said.



LEFT: Ohio farmer Lester Lynd recently was inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame.

RIGHT: Shared Harvest’s Tina Osso was one of the individuals who recommended Lester Lynd for the Agriculture HOF based on his long-standing support of foodbanks.



Kroger “Brings Hope” in difficult times

Cincinnati-based Kroger Company offered hope this summer for struggling families served by Shared Harvest Foodbank’s partner agencies.

For the sixth consecutive year, Kroger conducted its “Bringing Hope to the Table” campaign in the month of June, resulting in a donation of nearly \$37,000 to Shared Harvest. The project has provided nearly \$207,000 in contributions to the foodbank since it began in 2004.

“Kroger stores across the country continue to focus on hunger relief for the communities where we live and operate,” said Sukanya Madliner, President of Kroger’s Cincinnati/Dayton Marketing Division. “And our commitment has not wavered in the face of this on-going battle. It is our responsibility, collectively as a corporation, community and individuals to ensure that none of our neighbors go to bed hungry tonight.”

“Bringing Hope” represents a partnership between Kroger and its vendors in which consumers can



purchase participating items marked with pink shelf tags. Local foodbanks then receive support through these purchases.

Kroger also supports Shared Harvest’s Retail Pick-up program and offers the “Check-Out Hunger” campaign for consumers to donate to the foodbank during the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season.

First Financial - food & fund drive

Employees at First Financial Bank’s Pictoria Drive office in Springdale wanted to do something to help struggling families locally.

The office has a Jeans Day Friday in which employees donate money to dress casual while also supporting a charity.

During the last week of July, they decided to conduct a food and fund raising drive to assist Shared Harvest Foodbank.

“We managed to fill more than three barrels of food, and we’re still trying to collect more,”

said First Financial Bank’s Dave Yeager. The collection totalled 1,416 pounds of food.

In addition, employees contributed \$1,000 for the foodbank. “They were really



Shared Harvest’s Tina Osso accepts a check from David Yeager as part of First Financial Bank’s food and fund drive.

impressed when I explained to them that for each dollar donated, Shared Harvest can provide \$8 worth of food to people in need,” Yeager said. “That means the donation is more like

\$8,000.”

Yeager hopes First Financial employees can also get involved volunteering their time to pack food at the foodbank this fall.

Jungle Jim’s/Sysco Drive

Customers of Jungle Jim’s International Market in Fairfield had a chance to help Shared Harvest as part of a one day food drive Saturday, August 13.

The international grocer partnered with Sysco Corporation for a project called “Neighbors CAN DRIVE Out Hunger”. Customers could donate food items purchased at Jungle Jim’s that day, and the event resulted in half a ton of food collected.

The food drive was a project of Sysco Gives Back, an organization of Sysco employees dedicated to community service, with a goal of ensuring all of its volunteer efforts are local and donations stay in local communities.

“This effort by Sysco and Jungle Jim’s was important since summer donations help parents provide extra meals to children when thin budgets are stretched trying to prepare kids for school,” said Shared Harvest’s Executive Director Tina Osso.

Campaign brings much-needed support for Backpack

Many of Shared Harvest's generous donors responded to a plea for help with the popular Backpack program for elementary school children.

Letters were sent to 1,500 regular foodbank contributors, asking them to donate \$3 to feed a Backpack child for one week, \$13 to feed them for one month or \$93 for an entire school year.

Donors responded with over \$12,000 in contributions to Backpack, which provides a weekly bag of weekend food for at-risk elementary students.

BackPack for the 2011-12 school year will be launched in October and continue the rest of the year. An average of 2,100 students received BackPacks last school year in Butler and Warren Counties.

In addition, Murray Multimedia Resources, LLC has produced 15, 30 and 60- second public service announcements for local TV to help people learn more about Backpack. The PSA's can also be seen at Shared Harvest's YouTube site:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/sharedharvest83>.

Honorariums by donors... Thanks to our food donors

In Memory:

Of: Loved ones
By: *Dee Ayers*

Of: Alfred Garcia
By: *Steve & Sharon Bailey*

Of: Joseph M. Garber
By: *Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation Board of Trustees*

Of: Joe Garber
By: *Brenda Mauer*

Of: Mona Miller
By: *Dorothy Gard*

Of: My father, Grover Mullins
By: *Debbie Mastandrea*

Of: Cecil New Jr.
By: *Debbie Mastandrea*

Of: Toku Noda & Mildred Ippolito
By: *Isao & Barbara Noda*

Of: Jerry Krusyewski
By: *Darlene Onyett*

Of: John Griesmer
By: *Kevin & Kathleen Pater*

Of: Bill Copeland for a life of service
By: *Jim & Sue Paulus*

Of: Jimmie R. Poe
By: *Loretta Poe*

Of: Gladys Root
By: *Mr. & Mrs. James Ricchio*

Of: Tim Robben's birthday June 27
By: *Jim Sandy*

Of: Mary (Cox) Kolibob
By: *Mr. & Mrs. Darris Sparks*

In Honor:

Of: Gerry & Steve Frechtling's 40th Anniversary
By: *Barbara Blair*

Of: Bob Long of Shared Harvest for 16 years helping the Letter Carriers food drive in Middletown
By: *Robert Caldwell*

Of: Walter F. Mayer
By: *Anthony Cole*

Of: God, for those in need
By: *Faye Curran*

Of: Jimmy Lawson
By: *Lute Davis*

Of: My children, step-children, grand and great grandchildren
By: *Donna Denning*

Of: Dick Griss
By: *Alan Gold*

Of: My mom
By: *Anna Graf*

Of: James Greenwood for our anniversary
By: *Bonnie Greenwood*

Of: Daniel & Stephanie Rische's wedding
By: *Sherwin & Catherine Kane*

Of: Norma Priest & Lorraine Maheu
By: *Daniel Maheu*

Of: Virginia Margeson
By: *Mr. & Mrs. Margeson*

Of: Our grandchildren
By: *Darlene Onyett*

Of: Lexi Porter
By: *Sara Porter*

Of: Caroline "Skip" Groeber & 43 years of service
By: *Ridgeway Elementary Staff*

Of: Dennis Rogers for love
By: *Pam Rogers*

Of: Jake Laughlin
By: *Kim Sagers*

Of: C. Wayne Stewart for memories
By: *Becky Stewart*

Of: Jameson Ross Turner's 1st birthday
By: *Michael Stroup*

Of: Marian Pierson
By: *Audrey Stryker*

Of: Chester & Max for friendship & love
By: *Mike Thomas*

Of: Doris Becknell's birthday
By: *Barbara Young*

Of: Homer & Ann Becknell for Father's Day and birthday
By: *Barbara Young*



Food Donors:

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Dittman-Adams
Ellenbee Leggett
Filltek, Inc
FreeStore/FoodBank
Frito-Lay Company
Heinz
HRK Sales
Interstate Warehousing
Kellogg's
Kimberly Clark-Genco
Kraft Biscuit/Nabisco
Krispie Kreme Doughnuts
Meijer Distribution Center
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Michaels & Associates
Minute Maid Foods
Nestle USA
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

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GE Infra Energy
Hamilton City School District
"Fill that Bus!"
Monster's
National Association of Letter Carriers
"Stamp Out Hunger"
Run, Jump & Play/Swing & Things
Sysco Foods
The Association
The Kroger Company



Foodbank Staff

Gloria Bateman	SNAP Outreach
Brandon Butz	BackPack Associate
Steve Cox	CSFP Director
Rick Devine	Driver
Holli Curry	Special Projects Manager
Kathy Dart	SNAP Outreach
Tracy Estes	Warehouse Manager
Bridget Jones	HarvestCorps
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Bob Long	Communication Specialist
Jack Mairn	Food Procurement Specialist
Lisa McNamara	SNAP Outreach
Chuck Osso	Agency Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Darrell Sandlin	Business Director
Mary Stamper	Warehouse
Sam Taylor	Kroger Project Manager
Gary Thomas	Warehouse
Gerald Tucker	Operations Manager
Mike Williams	Driver

Hunger Action Month in September

With America in the fourth year of a major recession, chances are good that someone in your family or a close friend has suffered economic hardship. That someone may even be you.

With studies showing 1 of every 6 Americans struggling to put food on the table, sharing your stories with other people is a powerful way to get local, state and national lawmakers to help those who are most vulnerable.

September is Hunger Action Month in America, and Shared Harvest Foodbank and its national affiliate - Feeding America - encourage you to get involved.

For 2011, the Hunger Action theme is **Watch, Share, Act**. By simply visiting the website www.hungeractionmonth.org,

you can **watch** public service announcements by actors Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Taye Diggs and Ana Ortiz that shows hunger is closer than you think.

You're encouraged to **share** these videos with your friends via social media like Twitter, Facebook or your personal blog.

Most importantly, you can take **action** by using the Feeding America interactive media on the Hunger Action Month website to discover the hunger statistics for your area... and **act LOCALLY!**

Contact Shared Harvest Foodbank's Special Projects Manager Holli Curry at (513) 874-0114 or 800-352-3663 to learn how you and your friends can volunteer to help make a difference in the battle to eradicate hunger.

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