

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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Written and edited
by Bob Long

Senior Program faces cuts in budget battle

As Congress and the Ohio Legislature conduct bitter battles over how to curb government spending, foodbanks like Shared Harvest are bracing for the impact on those who can least afford potential cuts.

By the time you read this, the Ohio General Assembly will have adopted a 2-year budget that includes funding cuts for the state's foodbanks.

Of deeper concern to Shared Harvest is a proposal from the U.S. House Agricultural Appropriations Committee to reduce the number of senior citizens in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) by 22%.

That would mean 418 of the 1,900 CSFP participants in Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami Counties could be dropped from the program, which provides a monthly box of nutritious food and cheese for seniors whose average income is about \$600 a month.

That same congressional committee has proposed a 20% reduction in the amount of emergency food assistance available to states.

For Ohio, that would mean a loss of more than 11-million pounds of U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities. In addition, Ohio foodbanks would lose over \$400,000 that is used to transport food, at a time when diesel fuel costs have soared 76 percent in the last two years (from \$2.27 in May 2009 to \$3.99 in May 2011).

A third proposal would reduce funding for SNAP - Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program - which could harm the ability of the program to meet any increase in need. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) currently assists 1.8 million people (or 16% of all Ohioans).

The exact nature of federal cuts may not be known for months as the house and Senate continue the budget debate.

While Shared Harvest and other foodbanks rely heavily on private-sector support from United Way, businesses, individuals, foundations and others, government funding cuts will cause major problems.



Deborah Shaffer is among the 1,900 seniors that receive a monthly box of food from CSFP.

The Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, expects the federal budget battle will cause Ohio lawmakers to revisit the state budget later this year to deal with whatever federal cuts are

made to state programs.

In addition, Ohio Governor John Kasich has told hunger advocates that finding more money for emergency food and mental health services are top priorities.

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt recently gave Kasich a stack of 260 paper plates from the Ohio Paper Plate Project in which Ohioans explained why they've had to turn to emergency food pantries.

One of the plates summed up a story we too often hear today:

"Lost my business and my family. Became a part-time dad. Selling everything I own just to pay bills. I know there are (people) worse off than me, but why should there be?"

Notes from our director

Popsicles as miracles... who would've ever connected those two things?

Many times over the years I have talked about the little miracles that come our way in the work that we do. The key is to recognize them and delight in them for the strength they give us all to keep on keeping on, to coin an old phrase from my youth. Especially now as we watch many of the programs designed to help people make ends meet suffer through deep cuts both on the federal and state levels. One such little miracle concerns Erma and her husband.

They are like most middle-income Americans. They raised a couple of kids and had some good times and some difficult times. Just when they were starting to ask that key question: "When do you think we should retire?" Erma was diagnosed with breast cancer. She went from thinking about retirement to thinking about whether or not she could make it through her chemo treatments each week.

When Lisa McIntosh, our SNAP outreach worker saw her, Erma was wearing a bandana around her head. She opened up to Lisa and told her the situation she and her husband were dealing with. "I can't afford a wig; I can't afford the prosthesis. The medical bills are costing a fortune and our retirement nest egg is almost gone. I can't even buy groceries." On top of these problems, Erma was having trouble keeping her food down because nothing was settling on her stomach except for ice chips. The food pantry director overheard part of the conversation and asked her if she would be interested in some fruit juice popsicles that just came

into the pantry.

Erma started crying. She was touched by the care and concern she was receiving from total strangers. The popsicles were just what she needed. She said that she just couldn't have afforded to buy anything like that. The pantry director gave Erma three boxes of frozen juice bars with 12 bars in each box. In the store this sells for \$3.69 per box... too much for Erma to spend on herself... less than \$12.

Do you see the miracle here? Those popsicles had just come into the pantry, and in walks Erma to get food for her husband, never dreaming the pantry could give her something that she could actually eat. Talk about being in the right place at the right time. This was surely such a small thing to the donor of those popsicles but such a big thing to Erma. When you do this work as long as I have, you realize that these kinds of things just don't happen accidentally.

Many of the people who turn to our network for food, like Erma and her husband, never thought they would have to depend on charity to put food on the table. What a blessing it is that there are so many caring people who have enough to share with those who need our help. And that is the real miracle.

We give more than food, always have and always will... with your help.



Tina Osso
Executive Director

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COMING EVENTS

July

BackPack Campaign:
Every weekend, some kids go without things other kids have. Food should not be one of them.

Nothing can end hunger in Ohio. Stay tuned.

September

Hunger Action Month
For information, visit www.sharedharvest.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

“Stamp Out Hunger” surpasses 1-million pound mark!

Butler County residents have now contributed more than one million pounds of food to the “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive since it was initiated locally in 1995.

Over 52,000 pounds of food was collected by members of Branches 426 and 43 of the National Association of Letter Carriers as well as rural carriers during the May 14 event.

While giving declined from the record 78,000 pounds collected in

2010, Shared Harvest Foodbank Executive Director Tina Osso feels that’s understandable in the current economic climate.

“I think many families have reached a point where they simply can’t give as much as they once did with gasoline and food prices taking a large chunk of their disposable income,” she said.

Shared Harvest is now in the process of sorting and processing the donations for distribution to local food pantries.

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Hamilton | 20,002 |
| Middletown | 15,845 |
| Fairfield | 7,545 |
| Monroe | 3,477 |
| Oxford | 2,085 |
| Trenton | 1,854 |
| West Chester | 1,236 |
| TOTAL | 52,094 |
| | |
| Since 1995 | 1,020,097 |



Volunteer David Ghysels carries tubs of food collected in Middletown.



The youngest helper! 5-year old Kennedy, the daughter of letter carrier Travis Kimberlin.



Tanya Leet (left) assists Middletown NALC coordinator Tiffany Back.

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

Shared Harvest’s SNAP Outreach Program helps people learn if they qualify for food stamps or other assistance. In each newsletter, we tell you a story from one of our SNAP Outreach workers. Our thanks to Gloria Bateman for this story.

I recently had a chance to assist two young men with very different life stories.

Marvin came from New Orleans to Lebanon looking for work after Hurricane Katrina destroyed his home, his job and his sense of security. Friends in Lebanon told him construction jobs were available, but unfortunately, he found there wasn’t enough work to make ends meet.

Some neighbors told him about the Lebanon Food Pantry to help him through the rough times. I helped Marvin apply for SNAP benefits, gave him a box of non food supplies and also sent him to Workforce One to see if they could help him find a new job.

The other young man, Bob, just got out of prison. He made a bad mistake two years ago and wound up serving time. His case worker suggested he come to the food pantry to apply for food stamps, so I helped him fill out the application, then sent him to Workforce One so they could tell him what types of jobs he could get based on his status.

I haven’t had many single men come to a pantry other than for food. I felt good that in one night I helped two young men get food and apply for SNAP while also sending them to a place that could help them find work.

Childhood Hunger: a growing problem in Ohio & America

A Gallup survey has found 27% of households with children were at risk of food insecurity... which means there was at least one time in the past year when they did not have enough money to buy food.

Today's teachers have to do more than help children learn reading, writing and arithmetic.

Increasingly, teachers are on the front lines in identifying children at risk of hunger, a problem that affects their health, development, and ultimately their performance in school.

Nora Nees, Director of Child and Senior Nutrition for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, says study after study shows we can't afford to ignore the growing occurrence of childhood hunger.

"We hear from teachers across the state that when kids show up for school on Monday mornings and they haven't had enough to eat, they have difficulty learning," Nees said.

"It's about more than food. It's also about feeling safe and secure."

Childhood hunger is a significant problem in Ohio. **Forty-four percent of all Ohio children live in families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced price school meals.**

One of the people on the front lines in Butler County is Jill Hede, a liaison with the Butler County Success Program in the Lakota School District. She works with teachers, school nurses, administrators and parents in identifying elementary children who need to participate in Shared Harvest Foodbank's BackPack Program, providing a weekend supply of nutritious food and snacks.

"There are a lot of times when kids go to the school nurse saying their tummy hurts," Hede explained. "After asking a few questions, the nurse may find the child only had soup for supper last night or that they didn't have breakfast today, so the ache they feel is hunger. It's hard for children to concentrate on school work when they're hungry."

Nora Nees believes we can no longer afford to dump money into education without looking at the basic needs that will impact the child's ability to learn and grow.

"We've seen many studies that

show behavior outcomes for children change," Nees said. "There are huge disparities in learning between kids who are hungry and those who are not."

Thirteen studies on child health and development outcomes associated with hunger found the following conditions often exist:

- Poorer health of children.
- More stomach aches, frequent headaches or colds.
- Higher hospitalization rates of young children.
- Lower physical function for kids ages 3 to 8.
- More anxiety and depression.
- Lower math and reading gains from kindergarten to third grade.

The BackPack Program continues to meet the needs of local children on weekends, when school meals are not available.



Lots of hands are involved in the BackPack Program... hands that prepare bags of food for kids, hands of children picking up their bags at school... and hands of children unloading them at home. *These photos courtesy of Murray Multimedia Resources, LLC*

The Cost of Hunger

A study by the Harvard School of Public Health looked at the cost of hunger on a child's ability to learn and an adult's work productivity. It reached the following conclusions:

What does hunger really cost us? An annual loss of at least \$90 billion in productivity nationally.

Hunger costs the state of Ohio \$3.9 billion annually in lost productivity.

That's like an annual tax of \$300 each of us pays to let our neighbors go hungry.

Also consider the following:

Nearly half of all American children will receive SNAP benefits sometime before their 18th birthday.

Half of all live births in the U.S. today are by mothers participating in W.I.C. which provides food and formula to pregnant women and children.

Karen Kasich visits Middletown BackPack site

Ohio's First Lady has a real interest in childhood hunger, so she came to Butler County May 12 to get a firsthand look at Shared Harvest Foodbank's BackPack program.

Karen Kasich visited the Butler County Educational Service Center's Middletown Early Learning Center to chat with parents and teachers.

It was her first visit to a BackPack site after giving the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks a check for \$95,000 to support the program, which provides weekend snacks or meals for at-risk elementary students.

Kasich quickly made the connection between hunger and its impact on a child's ability to learn. "No one should be hungry, especially children," she said. "Without you, there'd be a lot more hungry kids, and they can't learn, and they can't feel secure."

Shared Harvest received \$20,000 from the funds the First Lady donated to ten BackPack programs statewide from money left over after Governor John Kasich's inauguration.

"We appreciate the support you've offered to us," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso. "We've set your donation aside for the start of the next school year, because we expect to serve more children in the fall."

Shared Harvest launched the BackPack Program with about 400 children in 2007, and it has grown each year, with an average of more than 2,100 children receiving food each week this past school year.

Mrs. Kasich took time to chat with Middletown parents like Jeff Pringle, Nina Malcom and Erika Pelayo. All three have young children who participate in BackPack at the Middletown Early Learning Center or at Wildwood Elementary.

Liaisons with Butler County Success work with teachers, nurses and administrators to identify children who need help.

"We knew hunger was an issue for children, but we didn't know how much until we began talking to parents," said Cari Wynne, Butler County Success Supervisor.



Above left: Ohio First Lady Karen Kasich talks with Erika Pelayo, her 4-year old son Leonel and Nina Malcom. Center: The First Lady meets with officials of the Butler County Educational Service Center and Shared Harvest Foodbank. Right: Gary Cates of the Ohio Board of Regents chats with Mrs. Kasich and Jeff Pringle, parent of a BackPack child.

Kroger Retail Pick-up reaches milestone

An innovative program launched by the Kroger Company in 2005 reached a milestone this spring.

Shared Harvest Foodbank has now made more than 5,000 visits to Kroger stores as part of the Retail Pick-up Project, which rescues perishable foods for local food pantries.

The foodbank's Kroger Project Manager, Sam Taylor, takes Shared Harvest's refrigerated truck to 18 Kroger stores each week. He collects donated food twice a week at 14 stores and makes once-a-week stops at four others.

Since Kroger launched the project in 2005, Whole Foods, Target, WalMart and Marsh have also joined forces with Shared Harvest.

Kroger and the other grocers follow rigorous guidelines in rescuing perishable foods that consumers did not purchase by the "sell-by" date. These products are then frozen until Shared Harvest or local pantries pick them up.

"Many people don't realize that before Kroger launched this program, grocery stores regularly had to throw thousands of pounds of food in the landfill," said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

"Retail Pick-up has allowed us to offer quality cuts of meat and deli items to help feed local families who visit our network of food pantries in Butler, Warren, Preble, Miami and Darke Counties."



Above: Lowell Smith (left) of the West Hamilton Kroger regularly assists Shared Harvest's Sam Taylor with the Retail Pick-up Project.

Below: Sam weighs food collected from a Kroger pick-up.



Pound for Pound Challenge

A national campaign to fight hunger while helping people get back in shape produced good results for Shared Harvest.

The "Pound for Pound" challenge resulted in 335 people taking the pledge to lose weight to help the foodbank.



Participants lost a combined 8,700 pounds, resulting in a donation of nearly \$1,000 to Shared Harvest.

NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, General Mills and Subway encouraged people to "Lose nationally, Feed locally."

Lots of eggs for people in need

Ohio's Egg producers have done their part to help local food pantries that face unprecedented need for assistance.

In celebration of National Egg Month in May, the Ohio Poultry Association donated eggs to foodbanks throughout Ohio.

Shared Harvest received 900 dozen eggs from Cal-Maine Foods in Darke County.

"At a time when the economic landscape is difficult in Ohio, we know more people are coming to pantries for help," said Todd Walters, local General Manager for Cal-Maine. "We're happy to

make this donation, because eggs are nutritious and offer high protein for people in need."

The Buckeye State ranks second in the U.S. in egg production, and this is the fourth consecutive spring that Ohio's egg producers have stepped up

to help local foodbanks.

The donation is part of a 10-year commitment by egg producers to help the Ohio Association of Second

Harvest Foodbanks. The eggs are being distributed by Shared Harvest to partner pantries in Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami Counties.



NOTHING CAN END HUNGER IN OHIO.

Nothing.org

Be Prepared for Nothing!

Learn details in July at sharedharvest.org



Honorariums by donors... Thanks to our food donors

In Memory:

Of: Edward & Amy Skjoldager
By: *Dee & Don Ayers*

Of: John Griesmer
By: *Dr. James Baden, Dr. and Mollie Davis, Sally Fiehrer.GBR Group, LLC, John Holbrock, Charles & Stacey Kuhn, Anne McAdams, and John Stanzak*

Of: Frances Becker
By: *Bob & Sue Cepluch, Bill & Jackie Groth*

Of: My darling George Conrad
By: *Doris Conrad*

Of: Tim Myers, father of the "Bride to be"
By: *Nelly Bly Cogan*

Of: Paul B. Cole
By: *Anthony Cole*

Of: Mark Edwin Otto
By: *Mark Cox*

Of: Larry Wittman
By: *Mary Gonnella; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Trusock, Chuck Osso*

Of: Marion Zettler
By: *Kevin & Kathleen Pater*

Of: Robert E. Sanford
By: *Peggy L. Sanford*

Of: Mary Benanchietti
By: *Donald & Rosemary Uliano*

In Honor:

Of: The Grace of God
By: *Anonymous*

Of: Bob Krzys
By: *Anonymous*

Of: Doug Ross of Oxford for his help
By: *Anonymous*

Of: Roger Butterfield's help through the years
By: *Jean Butterfield*

Of: Joan McCain
By: *Robert Caldwell*

Of: Mabel Carson, my mother
By: *R. Carlson*

Of: Tim Burgess, Mike Daviaux, Ben Ewen, Ron Seiter, Mike Denning, Deon Denning, Dewey Denning & Wally Denning to honor them for Father's Day
By: *Barbara Denning*

Of: Paul DeCou on his birthday
By: *Susan Ewing*

Of: Monica Fening
By: *Brent Fening*

Of: Jack Gold on his birthday
By: *Dick, Mary & Jazz Griss*

Of: Jean McCabe's 85th birthday
By: *Rob & Betty Meiner*

Of: Barb Blair - a great teacher & friend
By: *Mike, Tari & Spencer Pate*

Of: Martin Reece
By: *Domenica Reece*

Of: Sharon Monroe
By: *Dianalee Rode*

Of: John Osso
By: *Peter Seifert*

Of: My children - Jonathan & Amy
By: *John Sillett*

Of: Monjoni Osso
By: *Carlo Traverso*



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The Association



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 McIntosh | SNAP Outreach |
| Chuck Osso | Agency Relations Director |
| Tina Osso | Executive Director |
| Krupa Parikh | Americorps*VISTA |
| Darrell Sandlin | Business Director |
| Mary Stamper | Warehouse |
| Sam Taylor | Kroger Project Manager |
| Gary Thomas | Warehouse |
| Gerald Tucker | Operations Manager |
| Mike Williams | Driver |

Kids run to assist foodbank

A local non-profit agency is doing its part to help children live a healthy lifestyle while also assisting people who are hungry.

Shared Harvest Foodbank recently received a \$2,000 donation from Mile By Mile, an organization created to raise funds for other charities through fitness programs for kids.

Starting in January, over 30 children from the Middletown area began running an “incremental” marathon - one mile at a time. The kids completed this marathon April 30 in conjunction with the Cincinnati Flying Pig Kids’ Marathon Final Mile.

The participants ran a total of nearly 26 miles each. About 18 other children and 10 adults also trained for other events

affiliated with the Flying Pig. As they trained for and ran their various races, the children and adults collected pledges from the community.

In a letter to Shared Harvest, Mile By Mile President Cathy Evans said: “Although I’m sure you receive many gifts throughout the year, we feel this one is special - the kids (and adults!) poured their sweat and hard work into it. Hopefully, they’ll have more to share next year. Thank you for the good work you do!”

If your club, organization or business has an idea for a unique fund raising campaign such as this one, contact Shared Harvest Special Projects Manager Holli Curry at (513) 874-0114.

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