

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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1 in 5 Ohioans face food hardship

"We are all nine meals away from chaos." The Director of Ohio's Department of Agriculture, Jim Zehringer said that powerful quote was one he heard at a recent USDA Conference.

As the quote suggests, there is new evidence to show more Ohioans are struggling to put food on the table.

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) has released its 2010 report on Food Hardship in America, showing nearly one in five Ohioans are at-risk of hunger. The findings are similar to results reported in a separate study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last November.

The study ranks Ohio 23rd in

collected by the Gallup-Healthway's Well-Being Index, which defines food hardship as a situation where an individual did not have enough money to buy food for themselves or their family at least once in the past year.

"Our entire emergency food assistance network throughout Ohio faces increased demand each and every month," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks.

"Hunger affects the health, well-being, educational and productivity achievements for every generation of Ohioans."

While our area is slightly better



Snap Outreach worker Gloria Bateman assists a client seeking supplemental government assistance.



Senior citizens and families in Franklin line up outside Franklin Area Community Services on a cold January day.



www.sharedharvest.org
800-352-3663



the nation in food hardship with 19.8 percent of Ohioans being at risk of hunger. The Greater Cincinnati area, including Butler and Warren Counties, is slightly below the statewide average at 17.7 percent.

"These reports confirm what we've seen at our network food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters, which is more people seeking help, including some families that were always considered to be middle class," said Shared Harvest Foodbank Executive Director Tina Osso.

The report is based on information

off than the Columbus, Cleveland and Akron-Canton metropolitan areas, the situation is much worse in Greater Dayton. The FRAC study said 22 percent of Dayton area residents faced food hardship in 2010. The hardest hit area in Ohio was the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman area at nearly 25 percent.

The statistics in the FRAC study have been shared with Ohio Governor John Kasich as his administration deals with an \$8 billion shortfall.

Notes from our director

Why is it that most politicians bring out the worst in us? As I watch the battles in Washington over the budget and reeling in the deficit, and the battles brewing at the statehouse in Columbus, I see a great divide and a lot of meanness in the vitriol that passes as debate. This just exacerbates the situation, but it does feed the 24 hour news cycle and keeps us citizens yipping at each other's heels... and appeals to the darker side of us, building mistrust and anger which feeds the meanness passing as debate. Just goes to show you that we as a country can meet the low expectations our elected officials apparently have of us.

I think we can also rise to the occasion if it is expected of us. I, for one, think we are better than some of our politicians give us credit for. I see it every day in the generosity of people, businesses, schools and churches that support the Foodbank with their time, talent and treasure.

We are in the midst of three wars, battling the Great Recession, yet we are not being asked by our elected representatives to sacrifice anything. We are told that spending is out of control, the deficit will crush us and the only option is to cut, cut, cut and blame the other party for the problem. And where are the majority of those cuts? To programs that help the least among us... and all told those programs comprise at most 5% of the total federal budget. It seems to be more about who wins the budget and deficit battles rather than justly sharing the pain of the collateral damage.

I think back to WWII and the greatest generation. What would have happened then if citizens were not asked to sacrifice anything to support our country at war while recovering from the Great Depression? We pulled together, gave up many of our comforts,

accepted rationing, bought war bonds and worked our way back to prosperity. And we did this, in no small part, because our government expected us to and we expected no less of ourselves.

It is time to raise the expectations we have of ourselves. The truth is that taxes are the price we pay to live in a civilized society. We want clean air to breathe and safe water to drink. We want a safe food supply. We want gas and electricity, we want roads, we want safe buildings and public spaces. We want good schools for our children, and good health care. We want someone to come when we call in crisis, whether it is a fire, a crime or a natural disaster. We want a well equipped military, and we want our troops to be well trained, well paid and safe.

And I don't believe we want people who have the least to suffer the most as we wrangle with the budget and deficit problems. That requires taxes, regulations and government. And it requires each of us who can, to sacrifice. Some sacrifices should be greater than others because some have much more, some are less because they have the least to give. It's called paying it forward.

Paying it forward describes the concept of asking that a good turn be repaid by having it done to others instead. And in my mind at least, that's what taxes are... a collective good turn that helps others, while giving the tax payer the opportunity and benefit of living in this great country. A country that cares for its citizens and will rise to the challenge if asked. Now, we just need someone with the courage to ask us.



Tina Osso
Executive Director

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Thank you Genex!

We'd like to thank our friends at GENEX of Cincinnati for proving little projects make a difference.

GENEX made a \$190 donation to Shared Harvest. Employees were allowed to pay 50 cents a day to wear jeans and donate the money to the foodbank.

To find out how you can run a campaign for us, contact Shared Harvest's Special Events Coordinator Holli Curry at 1-800-352-3663 or holli@sharedharvest.org.

Letter Carriers need your help



Since 1996, letter carriers in Butler County have gone the extra mile to assist hungry families.

In 2011, you can help them reach the **million pound** milestone with your support of the annual National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, Saturday May 14.

In the first 15 years of the campaign, local NALC branches 426 and 43 have collected

928,295 pounds of food in Butler County. "Stamp Out Hunger" will eclipse the million-pound mark if the drive matches last year's record total of 77,917 pounds donated to Shared Harvest Foodbank.

Look for a reminder card in your mailbox in the week leading up to the May 14 event. Many Butler County churches will remind their congregations about the drive, and 25,000 flyers will be handed out to elementary children in many public and parochial schools in Butler County.

Lose weight - fight hunger

If you've been telling yourself it's time to take off a few pounds, you can accomplish that goal while also assisting Shared Harvest Foodbank.

We're participating in the nationwide "Pound for Pound" Challenge, partnering with NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, Subway and General Mills, encouraging people to "Lose Nationally, Feed Locally".



It's easy. Go to www.pfpchallenge.com/oh. For every pound you pledge to lose, Pound for Pound donates 11 cents to Feeding America - enough to secure one pound of groceries for Shared Harvest.

We've already received pledges for a half a ton of food, so sign up today! The more pledges we get, the more we can help others.

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

Shared Harvest Foodbank's SNAP Outreach Program helps people find out if they qualify for food stamps or other assistance. In each newsletter, we share a story brought back to us by one of our SNAP Outreach workers. Kathy Dart tells us about an old friend who reached out for help.

Of all the applications I take on my job with Shared Harvest Foodbank, the ones that get to me most are the ones I take for people I knew back in my school days.

For some reason, somewhere in the deep parts of my mind, I always believe that everyone I ever knew made a good life for themselves. But while visiting a local pantry to take applications for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), I was shocked once again when a guy I went to school with sat down with me to see if he qualified for food stamps.

He and his wife are both disabled, and he hasn't been able to get any disability benefits yet because he is still fighting with Social Security and their doctors as to

the degree of his problems. I realize that I'm only getting his side of the story, but that doesn't matter because the end result is the same - he needs food.

He is having to use food pantries to feed himself and his wife and the food stamps he'll receive will be another way for him to do that. Although he was glad to see me again and wanted to hear all about my brothers and the other people we used to know, he was even more pleased to know that we could help him until he can get his income straightened out.

That's what we're here for after all.

Shared Harvest hosts a Community Conversation

With Ohio facing a budget deficit of \$8 billion, Shared Harvest Foodbank helped the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks kickoff a series of 16 Community Conversations around the state. The forums allowed people to express concerns to lawmakers about cuts in programs for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

Perhaps first-term State Representative Peter Beck of Mason summed it up best:

"It is unbelievable that our children cannot get enough to eat. One of those children could be the one to cure cancer. Children need to have the chance to be great."

Rep. Beck listened intently to people who shared their concerns about potential cuts in programs that provide a safety net for people in need while attending Shared Harvest Foodbank's Community Conversation. The four members of Butler County's legislative delegation were not in attendance.

Beck asked the 30 people at Ohio's first Community Conversation to help lawmakers find creative ways to ensure adequate food keeps flowing to the people who desperately need assistance.

The event at Shared Harvest was the first of sixteen forums

around Ohio that drew 35 legislators as well as 700 community members, including clients who rely on the state's network of food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

The Director of Child and Senior Nutrition for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks believes the forums have been extraordinarily successful. Nora Nees said a number of people who need emergency food assistance spoke at some of the meetings.

"You can hear a pin drop in the room when someone is talking about why they need emergency food, and what it means to them," Nees explained.

"We've had people from all walks of life who've had to use our programs and were then able to get a job and move on."

Nees said the forums have impacted state legislators as they grapple with a budget deficit of at

least \$8 billion.

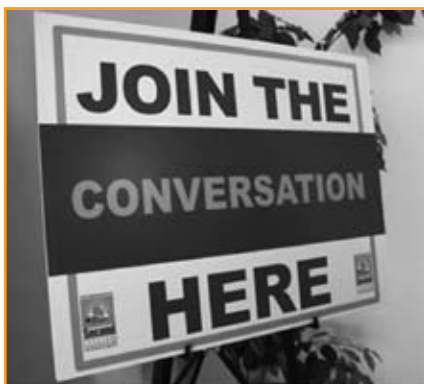
The Governor's Budget

Governor John Kasich's proposed two-year state budget definitely will result in cuts to some social service programs, but a coalition of health and human service groups has expressed relief that the proposed cuts do not appear to fall heaviest on the state's poor and vulnerable.

But Nees voiced concerns that separate cuts in the federal budget could put major federal nutrition programs at risk.

"We need to make sure Ohio's congressional delegation is hearing our concerns too, because cuts to these nutrition programs impacts the people waiting in our food lines."

Nees says foodbanks must continue to hold forums to keep community energized and focused.



67th Dist. Representative Peter Beck of Mason talks to people at the Community Forum in Fairfield.



Oho farmer Lester Lynd speaks at the forum. He has generously provided produce to foodbanks.



Thirty people turned out for Shared Harvest's Community Conversation on Ohio's budget crisis.

Osso testifies in Columbus

Shared Harvest Foodbank Executive Director Tina Osso focused on childhood hunger while testifying before an Ohio House subcommittee concerning the proposed state budget.

Osso told lawmakers that Ohio's foodbanks have responded to the growing childhood hunger problem through the privately funded Backpack Program, which ensures needy elementary children have food to take home on weekends so they can return to school on Mondays ready to learn.

Osso noted participation in Shared Harvest's Backpack program has grown from 482 children in 2007 to an average 2,121 in the 2009-10 school year. Between 2008 and 2011, Osso said participation in the free and reduced school breakfast and lunch program jumped 38 percent in the school districts Shared Harvest targets for Backpack.

Officials of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks worry that Backpack programs might have to be eliminated if state funding cuts force foodbanks to redirect funding to meet the needs of children and families standing in food pantry lines across the state.



Ohio's First Lady supports Backpack

Shared Harvest Foodbank's signature program to address childhood hunger received a boost from Ohio First Lady Karen Wallbillig Kasich.

She presented the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks with a check for \$95,000 to support the weekend Backpack program for at-risk elementary school children around Ohio.

Shared Harvest is among foodbanks that shared in the donation, receiving \$12,036.

"We're fortunate to have a network of foodbanks in our state that works tirelessly to ensure all Ohioans, especially our children, are provided with basic necessities," the First

Lady said.

"It's my hope this donation will reach far beyond its immediate impact and bring awareness to the tremendous promise the Backpack program holds for Ohio families in need."

The check presentation took place at the Statehouse Atrium where the OASHF had a photo exhibit to educate state legislators and new administration officials on the problem of hunger in the Buckeye state.

The exhibit included pictures of local foodbanks distributing food through a variety of programs such as Backpack and the Paper Plate Project, which tells personal stories of hungry Ohioans.



OASHF Executive Director Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Shared Harvest's Chuck Osso, Ohio First Lady Karen Kasich, Mid Ohio Foodbank's Jen Bowden and Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley's Michael Iberis and Steven Horger appear together at a check presentation for the Backpack Program.

Howww welll kan U spell?

Imagine standing in front of a room full of adults who are anxiously waiting for you to misspell a word so a woman dressed as a bee can pop three balloons, signaling that your team has blown it!

Fortunately, Altrusa International of Hamilton's 2nd Annual "Literacy Buzz" was all in good fun, and for a good cause - supporting Shared Harvest Foodbank's BackPack program and five other literacy projects in Butler County.

Eleven teams of adults participated in the event, and for attorney Jim Michael of the law firm Millikin and Fitton in Hamilton, it was sweet redemption. Jim says his team was the first one to bow out of the

2010 competition, so they burned the midnight oil to ensure that wouldn't happen again. It didn't!

Millikin and Fitton's team of Heather Lewis, Jim and Sarah Michael walked away with the trophy for winning the "Literacy Buzz", while YWCA of Hamilton came in second.

Shared Harvest Foodbank's first-time entry (led by David Brooks, Tina Osso and her brother Chuck) didn't embarrass themselves too much, finishing in third place.

The event was held March 4 at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Hamilton, and Altrusa hopes to make this a continuing event.

Watch for next year's buzz!



Above: The Millikin Fitton Law firm team of Heather Lewis, Jim and Sarah Michael won the 2011 adult spelling bee. Below - Shared Harvest's Tina Osso, David Brooks and Chuck Osso, who finished third.



Hamilton kids "Fill That Bus" again!

The campaign was shorter this time, but children, teachers and administrators in the Hamilton City School District still achieved success with the second annual "Fill That Bus" campaign.

In a two week period from January 31 to February 11, students were urged to get family, friends and community groups to donate food to Shared Harvest Foodbank.

Canned and boxed goods were collected at each school building and delivered by bus to the Hamilton Freshman School on Valentine's Day. By the time the transfer of hundreds of boxes from buses to Shared Harvest trucks was complete, more than 23,000 pounds of food had been collected.

"If you think realistically, any

of us could be in a situation of needing help at some point in time, and you would want to know that someone would be there to help you," said Zellene Miller, career development director at Hamilton High School.

Miller felt the campaign was easier this time, because the community had been educated about the problem of hunger in the community during the initial six-week campaign in 2010.

Hamilton Mayor Pat Moeller came to the high school asking for boxes because he wanted the city to be involved.

"We had a lot of people coming to us this time to ask how they could help," Miller explained. "Because we did it in 2010, the willingness was there, and people were looking forward to the opportunity to help again."



Honorariums by our donors

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By: Tom & Marilyn Dugger

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Of: The Benters & Goods as parents

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By: Paul & Charlotte Grieselhuber

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By: Carolyn Hacker

Of: Evan & Henry Halberg, Lucy Meyers

By: Mr. & Mrs. Halberg - grandparents

Of: Our Children & Grandchildren

By: Neil & Karen Hand

Of: Connie Haruch - a great helper

By: John Haruch

Of: Sherry Irwin's help for the needy

By: Mary Irwin

Of: Mark Cohen

By: John & Bonny Jones

Of: Adam Jones, Kelly Jones, Don

Kell, Roger Clark, Barb Fabelo, Joyce Chesnut, Sue Faulkner, Lara

Rogers Benton & Kevin Kurpeski

By: Jerome Kearns

Of: Lawrence (Pat) Schneider

By: Lisa & Larry Knapp family

Of: Stewart Menke's birthday

By: June Landis

Of: Our children & grandchildren

By: Mr. & Mrs. William Larson

Of: Gwen Johnson's generosity

By: Lynne & Jesse Lipcon

Of: Hynfield family's great example

By: Russell Maxfield

Of: Ms. Walther

By: Millikin & Fitton Law Firm

Of: Evelyn Meiner

By: Rob & Betty Meiner

Of: Roberta Patterson

By: Lejeana Miller

Of: Donna Burnett's volunteers for Shared Harvest mailings

By: June Pierce

Of: Jesus Christ who died for us

By: Priscilla Reynolds

Of: Tammy Culpin

By: Jim Sandy

Of: Gordon Schmidt

By: Carol Schmidt

Of: Greg & Jo Walker

By: Phyllis Schwartz

Of: God for a wonderful year

By: Jon Sillett

Of: Pfirman family

By: Mr. & Mrs. Darris Sparks

Of: C. Wayne Stewart - a helper

By: Becky Stewart

Of: Shared Harvest's hard work

By: Robert Stewart



Of: Vickie Massie - the best mother

By: Julie Swartz

Of: Bill Thomas

By: Steve & Rachel Thomas family

Of: Kari Trefilek

By: Robert, Susie & Bobby Trefilek

Of: Steve & Phyllis Schwartz

By: Greg & Jo Walker

Of: Deborah Kaseman

By: Tammie Watson

Of: Mary Maye's birthday

By: Bob & Patty Wheeler

Of: Andrew & Caleb Wilder

By: Raiden Wilder

Of: Jeff Bridge's leadership for

underprivileged children

By: Jack Williams Jr.

Of: Bogg/Williams Family

By: Matt Williams Family

Of: Michael Nicely

By: Carolyn Willoughby

Of: Dr. & Mrs. Samuel DeLeuw

By: Joan Witt

Of: Pastor Barbara & Dennis Daffler

By: Faye Yeakle

Of: Mr. & Mrs. Becknell

By: Barb Young

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 |

Shared Harvest receives award

Shared Harvest Foodbank has received the “Friend of Extension” award for collaborating with the Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Office in Butler County.

Extension Educator for Family and Consumer Science, Dan Remley, said the award recognized the efforts of the foodbank, along with other partners, in developing the Rainbow of Colors Choice food pantry model.



Tina Osso accepts the Friend of Extension award from Dan Remley of OSU Butler County.

Remley said the extension office provides nutrition education at pantries that allow clients to make healthy choices of food items for their families.

“Shared Harvest has also supported the Family Nutrition Program, which provides nutrition education to food stamp eligible individuals and families, showing them how to stretch their food dollars and how to eat healthy,” Remley said.

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