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Written and edited by
Bob Long

Harvest Gatherings

Winter 2010

Marsh helps bring more food to families

An Indiana supermarket chain has joined Shared Harvest Foodbank's Retail Pick-up project, providing a major boost to local food pantries.

Eight Marsh stores in Butler, Warren, Miami and Darke Counties are donating frozen meat and deli items along with some bakery products, with pick-ups scheduled twice a week for each store.

The program rescues perishable foods that weren't purchased by the "sell-by" date, following rigorous guidelines to ensure safety.

"Marsh - like many grocers - is forced to throw away a lot of food, because it's the nature of the industry," explained Michelle Skeen, Director of Tax for Marsh. "I kept seeing so much being thrown away, so I began looking into the retail pick-up program."

Skeen said company management is committed to stepping up donations.

"Everyone is aware how many people are unemployed, including a lot of professionals and two-income families, so the need is probably greater than ever," she added.



Shared Harvest's Rick Devine loads meat products donated by the Marsh Store on Erie Highway in Hamilton.

Marsh has put Lisa Wiese in charge of managing the retail pick-up program, and she hopes all 101 stores in Ohio and Indiana will be on board by March 2011.

"Out of our meat departments, we're donating items like beef, pork, chicken, sausage and bacon, as well as ready-

made sandwiches from the deli and lunch meats," Wiese said.

Store managers have been urged to salvage as much of the meat and deli products as they can, including deli potato and macaroni salads and other food trays.

Wiese has been meeting with managers at each store and believes the reception for retail pick-up has been very positive.

"Our employees are happy, because they're the ones who had to throw out food every day," Wiese explained. "It made them sad to have to do that when they knew there were families who truly needed those products." Families in need at local food pantries will be thankful for the extra food as tough times continue.



Rick Devine begins loading the first of several donations from his twice-a-week stops at Marsh stores in our area.

From the Director's Desk

I don't know about you, but I'm getting awfully tired of all the doom and gloom we hear from the news and read in the paper every day. It's as if nothing good is happening. Well, not a day goes by that I don't count my blessings because I get to see first hand all the good people do for each other.

We live in a country – with all its warts and fractures – where communities come together to help each other out. I love that about us – we can be mad as hell at each other – but we come together when a hungry child, a homeless vet or an elderly person needs our help.

Imagine the joy on a child's face when they run ahead of their parent into the local food pantry to grab a fresh apple and take that first juicy bite. How can you not count the blessings that a farmer donated his surplus apples rather than let them rot?

Or to see the tears on an elderly persons face when they get a box of food, knowing they now have enough to eat every night. I count the blessing that our government has a program to provide this box of food every month to hundreds of thousands of seniors who would otherwise quietly go hungry.

I count the blessings that Kira Lisa Warren brought to this community with her commitment to telling the stories of everyday people who battle poverty and disease. She left a legacy and a challenge to us all to continue fighting the good fight right here at home through many projects, including the JournalNews Food Relief Campaign.

When I see the fellowship of disenfranchised folks, coming together to eat a simple meal at a local soup kitchen, I count this blessing not only for the food but for a place where many will be treated with human dignity, perhaps the only place they will experience that kindness.

Who would've thought a bag of bing cherries would be a blessing? But for one woman, getting those cherries from the pantry at a very dark moment in her life brought a smile to her face. They reminded her of better times in her grandmother's kitchen baking cherry pies... and gave her comfort.

What a multitude of blessings we have received through our BackPack program... hundreds of people willing to give their time assembling and delivering these little bags of food to thousands children so they won't go hungry over the weekends during the school year. Each one a hidden angel, never meeting the children they work so hard to help.

And then there's you. We have probably never met, but you have supported our work with your gifts of either food, funds or time, truly a blessing especially in these hard times. You get no fanfare, no awards, no tangible 'return' on your investment in the foodbank. But the return on your investment is visible everyday a child goes to school and can concentrate because they are not hungry; an elderly person can remain at home because there is enough food to help them stay healthy; a parent can eat a meal, rather than skip it, because there is enough to feed everyone in their family. We all have plenty of blessings to count – from those who have enough to give to those who have enough because of your generosity.

So the next time you hear or read another doom and gloom story, don't let it get you down. There is a lot of good going on all around you, just open your eyes and your hearts; you may be amazed at the blessings you will see.

From all of us at Shared Harvest: May your holidays be joyful, filled with family and friends, good food, good stories and laughter.

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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.**



For most of us, life feels festive and secure at the holidays...

...but nothing feels festive or secure when you're standing in a food pantry line for your family's meal tonight.

Thousands of families are counting on us to help put food on the table. And we're counting on people like you to make this season special for a family in need.



When you give, please use the enclosed envelope or visit www.sharedharvest.org

Remember, for each dollar you give, Shared Harvest Foodbank provides eight meals to people in need.

From the front lines ... people who need our help

Shared Harvest Foodbank is involved in several direct service programs, including SNAP Outreach - helping people find out if they qualify for food stamps or other assistance. SNAP Outreach worker Lisa McIntosh shared this story with us from the field:

At Shared Harvest, we have a program called Rapid Response where we go to businesses that are closing. I recently went to a job fair at Quad Graphics in Lebanon to assist nearly 400 employees who are losing their jobs.

It was my goal to raise awareness about the direct and indirect services the Shared Harvest network can offer to a household going through different life changes. From personal experience, I knew the hell many of the employees were about to face, and I wanted to give them hope. Some people at the job fair approached me, while others avoided my table like the plague.

One gentleman approached to ask "what is it that you do?" I explained how I could refer him to a food pantry for immediate food needs, or assist him in applying for food stamps or Medicaid.

He was trying to hide behind his smile to cover the tears swelling in his eyes. While I tried to maintain my smile, I'm sure an empathetic look crossed over me.

I wanted to give the man hope and tell him



Butler Rural Electric Marketing Representative Kara Snyder (left) chats with SNAP Outreach worker Lisa McIntosh. The company asked Shared Harvest to work with consumers who come in to pay bills to see if they qualify for food stamps or other assistance.

everything would be okay. But a wave of despair crept over us both, and you could cut the tension with a knife. All we could do was smile, because nothing either of us could say would make the situation better. We shared a moment of mutual understanding.

It's a tough decision to go to a food pantry. It's tough to admit you need help. But knowing there are people and programs to assist you makes it easier once you are able to ask for help.

BackPack - making a difference for families

If you wonder how valuable Shared Harvest's BackPack program is for children in need, just ask a mom like LaShonda Reyes.

The foodbank kicked off its annual BackPack project in mid-October, providing a weekend supply of ready-to-fix meals, snacks and drinks for pre-school and elementary students identified as being at risk of hunger.

"It gives the kids something to eat for Friday and the weekends, and it's nutritious," said LaShonda Reyes, whose son receives a BackPack through the Head Start Program at the former Grant School in Hamilton. "It comes with food and snacks, the kind of variety kids like."

Children at all 15 Butler County Head Start locations are eligible. The number of Head Start children is expected to grow from 200 to 300 this year.



LaShonda Reyes and her son know the importance of the BackPack Program.

Reyes said officials with Butler County Success ensure privacy for participating children, so that classmates do not know who receives a weekly BackPack.

"It's very discreet, because they just place a bag of food in your child's back pack," Reyes said.

BackPack distribution doesn't begin until mid-October so school officials have time to evaluate children who are most in need of assistance. In the 2009-10 school year, Shared Harvest distributed

59,000 BackPacks. All Butler County districts except New Miami are participating this year along with Lebanon and Kings Local Schools in Warren County.

"Anyone can help," said Shared Harvest Agency Relations Director Chuck Osso. "A \$3 donation adopts one child for one weekend and \$90 will feed a child the entire school year."

Kroger urges you to "check-out" hunger!

As you're passing through the check-out line at your local Kroger store, think about helping a local family that is struggling to make ends meet.

For the fifth consecutive year, Kroger wants customers to "Check-Out Hunger" by making a cash donation at the register. You'll see plaques like the one on the right on each register, with coupons allowing you to make donations of \$1, \$3, \$5 or any denomination you feel is appropriate.

"It's a fact, for our local foodbanks, the need has grown and the support has diminished," said Geoff Covert, president of Kroger's Cincinnati-Dayton region.

"It is so easy to help with our Shared Harvest food drive and cash contributions. It's amazing, but one dollar equals 8 meals for a family! So, we hope the convenience of donating at our stores will ensure a successful drive this holiday season. Kroger has a tremendous partnership with Shared Harvest, and we thank our always generous customers for joining us in our on-going commitment to end hunger in our neighborhoods."

Since 2006, Kroger customers have donated more than \$51,000 in cash to Shared Harvest Foodbank as part of the annual "Check-Out Hunger" campaign.

Kroger launched the annual campaign in early



November and it continues through the Christmas holiday season. Kroger has also provided Shared Harvest with over \$175,000 the past five years from its spring "Bringing Hope to the Table" campaign and hundreds of thousands of pounds of food annually through the Retail Pick-Up Program, which Kroger originated.

“Tell Ten” - spreading the word about hunger in America

While this is a season of celebration for most families, you probably have a relative or friend who doesn't have much to celebrate this year.

An estimated 17 million families across America currently turn to food pantries, soup kitchens or homeless shelters for help while battling unemployment.



Amy, her daughter Lydia and son Edmund have had to turn to a food pantry while Amy's husband is out of work.

You may feel like it's an overwhelming task to assist the many people in need in our community, but there's one simple thing Shared Harvest and other foodbanks hope you will do - spread the word!

Feeding America - our national affiliate - has launched a campaign called “Tell Ten”.

As part of the

campaign, ***you're urged to tell ten people about the problem of domestic hunger in the U.S.*** If you know someone who is hurting, share their story with those 10 people.

Simply go to our website - <http://www.sharedharvest.org/> - and under the Events section, click on the “Tell Ten” link, and you'll see the stories of people like Amy and Otis and their two kids, who rely on a pantry, because Otis lost his teaching job in California and has been searching for work for a year. You can read about Lydia - a widow with four children - who now runs a food pantry she once turned to for help, and many other struggling families. We hope that by spreading the word, more people will join the fight against hunger.



Meet Lydia - a widow raising four children.

Newspaper readers urged to help foodbank

With Shared Harvest Foodbank facing a 17 percent increase in need this year, the Hamilton JournalNews is counting on its readers to set another record for generosity.

The daily newspaper launched its annual JournalNews Food Relief Campaign Sunday, November 14 and will continue to seek donations through Sunday, January 2.

The 2009 campaign raised \$28,387 in contributions and a matching grant of \$25,000 from the Hamilton Community Foundation, bringing the total to \$53,387.

In a letter to the community to open the campaign, Publisher Edwina Blackwell Clark urged everyone to get involved in fighting hunger.

“Hunger has a new face,” she told readers. “A person in need can drive a nice car, wear nice clothes, yet they stand in food pantry lines - embarrassed and angry that it has come to this. Because of the economic recession, hunger has touched so many more families. The need in Butler County for food assistance is growing.”

Edwina and JournalNews Editor Lisa Warren

developed the idea of the fund raising effort for Shared Harvest in 2004.

Lisa lost her battle with cancer on July 23, but Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso said the JournalNews Food Relief is one of Warren's most visible legacies to the community.

“While Lisa is no longer with us, her courage, passion and concern for people who suffer lives on,” Osso said. “Over the past four years, we've seen the need for help double, and we hope people will show the kind of compassion Lisa brought to work each day.”

Every dollar you donate to the JournalNews Food Relief campaign goes to Shared Harvest to provide food to families in need.

Donation envelopes have been provided in two Sunday editions of the newspaper during the campaign, and a third donation envelope will be inserted in the December 19 edition. Contributions can also be made online at Journal-News.com/foodrelief.

In addition, Cox Ohio Publishing has expanded the drive to run ads in its Pulse Journal weekly papers every Thursday of the campaign.

Hamilton JournalNews
FOOD RELIEF

Still time to start your holiday food drive

A number of organizations got an early start for Shared Harvest Foodbank's annual Holiday Aid campaign.

More than a dozen agencies started their campaigns prior to Thanksgiving, including grocery chains like WalMart and Whole Foods. But many more Holiday Aid campaigns are still needed to match the record 90 drives conducted during the 2009 holiday season.

The event is popular with businesses, schools, churches and other civic organizations as they urge friends, co-workers and other consumers to help neighbors in need.

For example, the Monroe School District's Primary and Elementary Schools and

Hamilton's Fairwood Elementary are among those who have participated in Holiday Aid 2010. Epic Technologies, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, and Ohio Casualty/Liberty Mutual were among our first business partners, while Fairfield Girl Scouts #40630, Izzak Walton League of America, Ohio State Grange, S.A.N.E. and Messiah Lutheran Church were among our early civic or church partners.

If your organization would like to conduct a Holiday Aid campaign this month, it's not too late.

Call Shared Harvest's Special Projects Manager Holli Curry at 800-352-3633 or visit our website at www.sharedharvest.org.

Items our pantries need

Peanut Butter

Canned vegetables & fruit

Canned soups

Boxed or canned meals

Macaroni and cheese

Canned sauces & spaghetti

Velveeta cheese

Toiletry items

USDA issues hunger report

According to the recently released report measuring food security, one in six people living in the U.S. are living with hunger (food insecurity). More than 50 million people are food insecure (meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for a nutritious, well-balanced diet) - up from 36 million since the beginning of recession in December of 2007.

6.8 million Americans are living with very low food security, staying very stable between 2008 and 2009, suggesting that food safety net is supporting those most in-need. The food safety net includes a host of federally funded nutrition programs, like SNAP, WIC, Free and Reduced school meals, in addition to charitable food distribution through Feeding America foodbanks like Shared Harvest.

Children who don't have enough to eat are affected the most physically and mentally. This report shows nearly one in four children in the U.S. is living in a food insecure household. That's 17.2 million kids living with food insecurity — up from 16.7 million in 2008 and up from 12.4 million since the beginning of the recession in December 2007— 38% increase in 2 years.

As anyone who works in charitable food distribution can attest, the need for food assistance has exploded since the beginning of the recession in 2007. This report, Household Food Insecurity in the United States, is a sobering snapshot of the pervasiveness of hunger in our nation. **The full report can be found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/>.**

Intermec steps up again



It's hard to find the silver lining when times look as bleak as they have these last few years.

But Shared Harvest Foodbank received some wonderful news from one of its dependable corporate partners just before the holiday season.

Intermec Technologies Corporation employees in Fairfield have renewed their commitment to Shared Harvest Foodbank as a charity of choice through 2011.

The Intermec Foundation has made a fourth quarter contribution of \$10,000 to Shared Harvest, bringing its total support to \$40,000 in 2010. The relationship began in 2008, and Intermec has contributed \$130,000 during that three year time span.

Intermec Technologies - a global supply chain company - has a bar code manufacturing plant in Fairfield employing 100 workers.

Honoring our friends and thanking our food donors

In Memory:

Of: Frank Randall
By: *Delores & Don Ayers*

Of: Jean Klump's 91st birthday
By: *Dennis & Lynne Briggs*

Of: Ann Suman Whitis
By: *Brian Suman & Joy Brown*

Of: Doris & George Burkart
By: *Linda & David Burkart*

Of: Joan McCain
By: *Robert Caldwell*

Of: Paul & Charlotte Cole
By: *Anthony Cole*

Of: Mary Lee Trauthwein
By: *Mark Cox*

Of: Dann Dietrich
By: *Kim Dietrich*

Of: Emily Suter
By: *Paul & Charlotte Grieselhuber*

Of: John Hazlewood
By: *Emma, John & Brian Hazelwood*

Of: Lawrence Brookshire
By: *Constance Locker*

Of: Barb Murphy
By: *Ron Murphy*

Of: Mary Lou Hyatt
By: *Nancy Pfirman & Dean Peters*

Of: Leona F. Pucke
By: *James & Maria Ricchio*

Of: Mr. Beckman & Mr. Brosier
By: *Gerri & Tim Roberts*

In Honor:

Of: Janice Bailou
By: *Richard Bailou*

Of: *Wedding of Shannon Saldana & Brian Rosner*
By: *Daniel Dtieri*

Of: Having a good day
By: *Dominica Reece*

Of: Dona Morningstar Blizzard
By: *Steve & Marsha Sackenheim*

Of: Rosemary Sackenheim's 80th birthday
By: *Steve & Marsha Sackenheim Jeffrey & Stacey Sackenheim*

Of: God being good to me & my family
By: *John Sillett*

Of: *Lee Martindill's kindness & generosity during the holidays*
By: *Mark & Roger Smith Family*

Of: Tom Strodtbeck's birthday
By: *Staff at St. Julie Billiard Church*

Food Donors:

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E & R Eggs
Ellenbee Leggett
Excel Logistics
Filltek, Inc
Freestore Foodbank
Frito-Lay Company
General Mills
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
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Haile Foundation
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HRK Sales
JournalNews Food Relief
Keebler
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Onion Boy Inc.
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Portion Pac Inc
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Rich's Food Products
S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.
Sara Lee Foods
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Target
Tyson Foods
Vendors Supply of Ohio
Victory Wholesale Grocers
WalMart
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Whole Foods Market

Fairfield Rotary
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GAP Stores
GE Infra Energy
Hamilton Schools (Fill That Bus)
HiTek Manufacturing
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Marsh
Mayfield Elementary School
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Midwest Custom Auto Sports
Monsters Golf
Monroe Cub Scout Troop #54
Monroe Schools
Mohawk Papers
NALC Food Drive
Natorp's Garden Center
WorkForceOne: Operation Feed
Ohio Casualty/ Liberty Mutual
Ohio State Grange
PepsiCo
Pole Zero
Richard Allen Academy
S.A.N.E.
Sax 5th Avenue Outlet
Seapine Software
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Snap Fitness
Showcase Springdale 18
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West Chester Medical Center
West Electric Services
Whole Foods



Food Drives:

AK Steel
Akers Packaging
American Heritage Girls
Atrium YMCA
Australian Sands Tanning Resort
Beach Water Park
Beth Israel Synagogue
biggs
Boy Scouts Troop #947
Broeman Family
Brookwood School
Butler Tech
Camelot East Apartments
Catnip n Carrots
Chaco Credit Union
Cincinnati Christian School
Cincinnati TV Together
Clark Western Building Systems
Community Blood Center
CSL Plasma
Daysprings Montessori
Debbie Spencer Family
DNA Diagnostics
Epic Technologies
Fairfield Girl Scout Troop #40630
Fairfield Middle School



Agency Partners conference

Shared Harvest Foodbank's partners in hunger relief had a chance to share stories and offer support to each other during the 2nd annual Agency Conference at Miami University's Voice of America Campus in West Chester.

The event gave staff of food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters a chance to attend workshops on online services or agency services and look at issues that will impact hunger relief in the current recession.



Foodbank Staff

Gloria Bateman	SNAP Outreach
Brandon Butz	BackPack Program
Steve Cox	CSFP Director
Rick Devine	Driver
Holli Curry	Special Projects Manager
Kathy Dart	SNAP Outreach
Tracy Estes	Warehouse Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Bob Long	Communication Specialist
Jack Mairn	Donor Development
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

Altrusa needs help with Spelling Bee

Just how good are you at spelling? There's one way to find out and have fun for a good cause.

The Altrusa Club of Hamilton hosts its second annual Adult Spelling Bee Friday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Hamilton.

Proceeds from the event go to Butler County literacy projects, and Shared Harvest's BackPack program, which received \$1,100 from the first Spelling Bee this past spring.

Altrusa currently is recruiting teams of three adults to participate, and two of the team members should be from the same business, club or organization. The cost to enter

the Adult Spelling Bee is \$250 per team, and lunch is included for team members. The teams need to be in place by 11 a.m.

Individuals or organizations can also help the event by purchasing sponsorships starting at \$25 up to \$1,000. You can also help sponsor the event by promoting it or donating items such as prizes for the winning team or door prizes.

The first Adult Spelling Bee drew eight teams and Kiwanis Club of Oxford took the top prize.

Contact Altrusa's Bobbi Hesselgrave at (513) 759-5520 or bobbihess@aol.com to find out more information about the 2011 Adult Spelling Bee.

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