

FACES OF HUNGER

## Cancer survivor, 91, counts on area food bank

Shared Harvest supplies over 50 pantries in region.

By Richard O Jones  
Shared Harvest Foodbank

Like many of his generation, Alfred believed in the promise of Social Security, but now the harsh reality of living long life has settled in.

He didn't want to become a vegetarian, but it got to where he couldn't afford meat anymore on his meager monthly check without any other savings to supplement.

A two-time cancer survivor, currently keeping an eye on untreatable prostate cancer, the 91-year-old still lives on his own in an apartment, still drives, and is hoping to

be able to keep his car for at least two more years.

Once a month or so, when supplies run low, he drives himself to his neighborhood food pantry, one more than 50 food pantries in southwest Ohio supplied by Shared Harvest Foodbank.

He's from Ohio originally, but lived mostly in Illinois, where he raised a family and worked as a machinist, traveling the globe to set up industrial tools for his company's customers. There are a lot of stories there, to be sure. He's been to South America, Australia, the Middle East, and all over Europe. In fact, he was stranded in Cypress when his company went bankrupt and had to find his way back home, finally landing in Chicago with 70 cents in his pocket.



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He found a new job in Florida, and when that company went bankrupt, too, he came back to Ohio to finish out his career, then went back to Florida, where he and his wife Betty lived in a dou-

ble-wide mobile home in warm retirement.

When Betty died of a heart attack in 2009, Alfred came back to Ohio to be close to his daughter, who had stayed here, found a nice one-bed-

### HOW TO DONATE

**ONLINE:** [www.journal-news.com/foodrelief](http://www.journal-news.com/foodrelief)  
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I always put pride in myself. But, like I say, it seems like the living expenses keep going up and up and up, and so I finally gave in and gave into it and went."

It was several months before he went back, and he said he still only goes about once a month or so. They give him the food he needs and then some.

"The expensive grocery bill keeps going higher and higher," he said.

Even though Betty "actually didn't like me messing around in the kitchen, I learned a few things," Alfred said, and he's able to fend for himself, now that he's got a steady supply of food.

"I can't make any extravagant meals or anything," Alfred said, "but I get around."

room apartment he could afford, but struggled to get the food he needed.

Then someone told him about the local pantry and somewhat reluctantly, he went.

"I felt it was kind of embarrassing," he said. "I never thought I'd have to do that."