

Spring 2023

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

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.

A Letter From Our Executive Director...

My grandmother was a person of great influence in my life. Her example taught me to appreciate giving more than receiving and to face trials with dignity. She was an elegant woman with a Georgian accent who resembled Marilyn Monroe. In her youth, she was raised by adoptive parents and became a professional ballroom dancer. She married and moved to West Virginia but soon after fled to Ohio with two small children to escape domestic violence. She found refuge and anonymity in the heart of downtown Cincinnati where she took shelter at the Anna Louise Inn. She became a supervisor of custodial services at Western Southern and raised her two boys in the inner city. She took in my older brother when he had behavioral issues and made it a point to visit me on the weekends. She rode the Metro bus to the northern suburbs of Cincinnati where my parents picked her up from the bus station. We took long walks as she told me stories of her youth. Just a few short months after my oldest son was born, she discovered that she had cervical cancer and perished before his first birthday. I think of her often and am grateful for the pieces of herself that she imparted to me. And I am grateful that I took time to listen.

I have had the tremendous pleasure of meeting many of the seniors who are enrolled in our Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). My favorite experiences are getting to listen to their stories. The joy and the sorrow they convey as they reflect on their lives reminds me of the walks I had with my grandmother.

Their loneliness is profound in their reflections of being forgotten, and feelings of inadequacy. I am in awe of their resourcefulness in the ways they stretch the content of their monthly food box over several weeks. I chuckle as they share their creative recipes, especially the ones using the block of cheese from their monthly box. If I had a quarter for every homemade mac and cheese recipe...

These are people who have lived through some intense moments in history. They are the keepers of our past and guides for our future, the original influencers. Yet, I find myself fearing for them, often.



When our government battles over the debt ceiling, and programs like SNAP, CSFP and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are continuously on the chopping block, I fear that we have lost sight of what truly matters. The average senior who is enrolled to receive a monthly box of food through Shared Harvest receives approximately \$900 per month in Social Security benefits.

Many Seniors are paying high rent costs for single dwellings, some upwards of \$700 per month or more, leaving very little for utilities, fuel, medications, and other necessities. Food is often the first expense to be cut. They suffer in silence. They put others before themselves. They are forgotten.

We cannot let this continue. Please help us mitigate this disservice.

34.7%
of the families we serve



**have at least one
member over 60**

Your support enables us to provide monthly supplies of food to low-income seniors. We need help packing the food boxes and distributing them through our drive through pick up lines or delivering door to door for those who are homebound. Your financial support helps to fuel and maintain our trucks, purchase packing supplies, and hire qualified, compassionate team members to administer the programs we offer.

To our many senior donors and volunteers, I honor you and am privileged to be worthy of your support.

Thank you for letting us stand on your shoulders and build upon your legacy.

Terry L. Perdue
TERRY PERDUE



Quarterly Update

Food Donations

2.9 Million Pounds



Volunteer Hours

1206 Hours



Food Distributed

2.3 Million Pounds



Thank You to Our Members, Donors, and Volunteers!

Top Food Donors by Pounds

Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Department of Job and
Family Services (USDA)
Aldi
Amazon
Blue Buffalo
Costco
Kroger
Meijer
Mondelez
Snyder Lance
Target
Tyson
Walmart
Zenith Logistics

Top Volunteer Hours

Mary B.
Rose Marie D.
Jim G.
Tim R.
Sandra M.
Shelley H.
Megan H.
Virgil S.
Ed D.
Dan H.
Beth H.

2023 Farm Bill Update



Since the last reauthorization of the farm bill, the nation has faced a perfect storm of conditions that have made it harder to put food on the table, including a once-in-a-generation pandemic and skyrocketing prices for food and other necessities.

While the federal government has stepped in to provide extra help for households navigating imposed barriers to affording enough to eat, several national, pandemic-related food support programs have expired. Food banks like Shared Harvest are stepping in to help our neighbors fill in the gaps, but food banks aren't immune to the soaring costs impacting the nation.

Across the Feeding America network, higher operations costs, sustained increased demand for food, decreased donations and supply chain disruptions are making it harder than usual for food banks to help our neighbors keep their kitchen tables full. As Congress continues the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization process, there's a lot at stake for the tens of millions of people experiencing food insecurity in the U.S. and the charitable food sector that is straining to support those seeking food assistance.

The farm bill is expansive legislation that sets many nutrition and agriculture programs. The farm bill reauthorization process, which typically occurs every five years, provides an opportunity to improve and strengthen federal nutrition programs that work with food banks nationwide to support individuals and families facing hunger.

As grocery prices remain high, supply chain disruptions persist and food banks feel the weight of escalated demand, our lawmakers on Capitol Hill must come together to pass a strong, bipartisan 2023 Farm Bill that helps our neighbors experiencing food insecurity put nutritious food on the table. Now is the time to provide more support for individuals facing hunger, not less.

2023 Farm Bill Update

Strengthen TEFAP Funding

TEFAP is a means-tested federal program that provides food at no cost to individuals in need through organizations such as food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters. As demand for food remains high at food banks, a reliable and continuous stream of TEFAP foods is essential.

Strengthen SNAP Benefits

SNAP benefits should be set at an adequate level (i.e., based on the Low-Cost Food Plan) so families can purchase healthy foods. Strengthening SNAP benefits would also help seniors, people with disabilities, people working low-wage jobs, and others who are most likely to qualify for the minimum benefit. Finally, Congress should strengthen SNAP's well-designed structure that allows a gradual phase-out from benefits to income, and reduce the "benefits cliff."

For more information, please visit:

<https://feedingamericaaction.org/learn/legislation-watch/farm-bill/>



State of Senior Hunger

"The food I get helps me keep my other food costs affordable, so that way my fixed income can actually 'fix' me that month."

-Senior Neighbor

- 1 in 14 seniors age 60 and older, or 7.1% of the senior population, were food insecure in 2021
- 1 in 11 adults age 50 to 59, or 9.4% of the older adult population, were food insecure in 2021
- Food insecurity among both seniors and older adults remains higher than prior to the Great Recession
- Every state is home to seniors and older adults who experience food insecurity
- More than 7 million seniors may be food insecure by 2050
- Communities of color experience disproportionate levels of food insecurity, up to four times as high
- For aging adults, food insecurity is linked to health, nutrition, disability and chronic health conditions
- Multigenerational households experience elevated rates of food insecurity

More more information visit:

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/state-senior-hunger>

FOOD SHORTAGES VS FOOD WASTE

Each year, 119 billion pounds of food is wasted in the United States. That equates to 130 billion meals and more than \$408 billion in food thrown away each year. Shockingly, nearly 40% of all food in America is wasted.

Due to supply chain issues, labor shortages, and failed crops, the USDA has had to cancel hundreds of truckloads that should have been delivered in 2023. Shared Harvest lost more than one million pounds of food to cancellations last year.

In 2022, the Feeding America network rescued more than 3.6 BILLION pounds of food from being tossed into landfills around the country. As a result, three billion pounds of food went to our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Concurrently, foodbanks across the nation are facing food shortages and working nonstop to ensure our distribution centers are filled with staple items for those we serve.

When USDA loads are cancelled, we not only miss out on the food, but the administration dollars that come with the food that we work into our budgets. We sometimes miss out on staple foods as we do not order them from other sources because we want to maintain a robust and diverse inventory and avoid duplication. There is a lot of volatility across the network at this time.

Please visit our website to see how you can help: www.sharedharvest.org



"When USDA loads are cancelled, we not only miss out on the food, but the administration dollars that come with the food that we work into our budgets."



COMING

SOON

Shared Harvest hosts hundreds of volunteers each year, but we would love to continue to grow that number to thousands! Our brand-new 13,732 square-foot Hunger Awareness Center will be opening this summer.

We plan to use this new facility to house our offices and all volunteer activities, while also providing a space to learn about food insecurity and the effects that it has on our neighbors.

We are so grateful to those that made this expansion possible and we look forward to hosting you in the Hunger Awareness Center soon!

For more information about becoming a Shared Harvest volunteer, please visit our website:

www.sharedharvest.org

SINCE 1983



**Shared
Harvest
Foodbank
celebrates
forty years of
service!**



FOODBANK

5901 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, Ohio 45014-4207
www.sharedharvest.org
513-881-9024

Non-Profit Org.
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Paid
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 770

THANK YOU!

Our work is not possible without supporters like you, please consider a donation today!

\$1 = 8 Meals

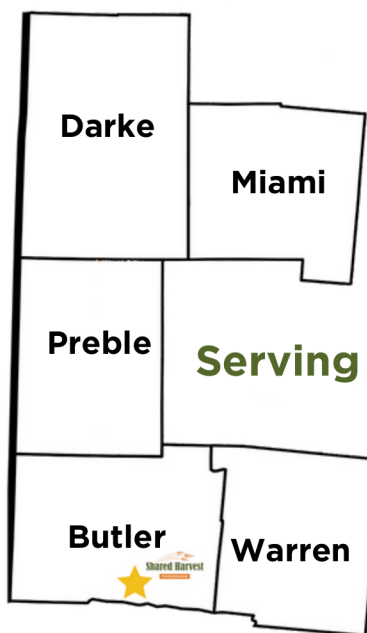


Food Items most needed:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Soups & Stews
- Canned Beans
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Boxed Meals like Mac & Cheese

Donations can be dropped at our Fairfield location during office hours.

M-F 7:00am-3:30pm



CELEBRATING

40 years!

Serving SW Ohio since 1983!

www.sharedharvest.org

Spring 2023

