



NewsFeed

DECEMBER 2011

Thank You!

Every day, Mid-Ohio Foodbank and our more than 500 partner agencies distribute food to people in need. Families, seniors, children, the working poor, the down-on-their-luck, and the hard hit – they all are able to have a nutritious, filling meal. None of this would be possible without you.

This holiday season, we are thankful. There is food on tables that would go bare without the help of volunteers. There are warm meals at soup kitchens, shelters, and after school programs because of donations of food from the biggest corporation's warehouse and the smallest classroom's food drive. Because of folks who send in a financial donation, people can eat.

Advocates who speak out about the need keep us all aware of those hurting the most.

We all play a part. Thank you so much for your support. 📍

Agency Focus: Arlington Park Elementary School Pantry

The main food source for thousands of kids in our own backyard is school breakfasts and lunches. Children go to bed hungry in our community every night. Hungry children are not concerned about reading, writing, or arithmetic – they are preoccupied with being hungry.

A partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS) was a natural tie. CIS is a community-based, drop-out prevention organization helping kids stay in school and graduate. They've been active in Arlington Park Elementary for eight years, and know that many families there face tough odds. The Foodbank worked with CIS and the school to set up our first ever school pantry.

The pantry serves students and their families who are at or below 200% of the poverty level and are enrolled for free- or reduced-price lunches. They distribute food once a month, giving about 40 pounds of food

to kids and their families to help them stretch their resources. According to John Magary, school resource coordinator for CIS, "Parents will frequently call me to



Juaney E. Hawkins-Payne, a fifth grader at Arlington Park Elementary, helps give out food to families at the school pantry while waiting for his family to come by and receive help as well.

share their heartfelt gratitude and tell me how much this means to their families." During their one-day distribution in October, the pantry helped 305 people, including 177 children. These are children who can now learn and play as children should. 📍

Face Time

Brian & Robert Thomas
Thomas Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep

There are many struggling families in Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe & Noble Counties. Unemployment is high and times are tough. The Foodbank works with partner agencies year-round to make sure people can put food on their tables, and over the holidays we try to do even more. This month, the Foodbank plans on distributing an additional 200,000 pounds of groceries to these counties. The problem was how to do it in the most efficient manner.



The Thomas brothers of Thomas Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep donated space to store the much-needed food and a place to organize the pick-ups for the local agencies. “We’re happy to offer the space and put it to use for such a great cause,” said Brian Thomas. “I’m excited to see the distribution in action,” added brother Robert. “200,000 pounds in two days. Wow.” Thomas Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep will be moving their dealership (currently nearby in St. Clairsville) into the facility after the holidays. 📍

Holiday Meals For All

Celebratory meals are frequently the highlight for the holidays. But, having a table filled with traditional foods is often a tremendous challenge for people who are already struggling to simply put any food on the table.

That is why the Foodbank makes special efforts each year to make the holiday season a bit brighter for hungry people by providing additional food for those who would otherwise go without.

This year, with the help of nearly \$300,000 from AEP Ohio, we have committed to providing food for 62,000 families throughout our 20-county service area: nearly 250,000 people in central and eastern Ohio will be able to count on a nourishing holiday meal.

The Foodbank will provide turkey or chicken, bagged potatoes, gravy mix, bread, canned vegetables, yams, cranberry sauce, milk, fresh produce, canned fruit, and brownie mix to our network of partner agencies for distribution to local clients. Foods collected by the community through food drives will also be distributed. Each family served will take home approximately 20 pounds of food.

Distributions begin this week in our rural counties, and will continue through December 15. 📍

Food Donor Focus: The Andersons, Inc.



To help more families in need, Mid-Ohio Foodbank reaches out to the food industry to recruit more food donations. A recent visit to The Andersons resulted in a new partnership that helps bring food for those who need it most.

Gail Thompson, manager for the Sawmill store, said The Andersons and its employees are dedicated to giving back to the community. They are heavily involved in the United Way and support local pantries with food donations. “We are pleased to be able to count Mid-Ohio Foodbank among all the worthwhile charities we support in the community,” said Gail. “We are glad to know the Foodbank truck that visits us every Friday is helping folks in need.” 📍

Share the Caring



The holiday season is a special time to spread cheer to friends, family, and coworkers. Instead of stressing out over mail order catalogs or crowded shops, you can send them a Mid-Ohio Foodbank holiday ornament card. These cards let your loved ones know that you've provided meals for Ohio families in need in their honor.


We suggest a \$15 donation per card – which, because of our ability to stretch a dollar, will provide \$120 worth of groceries for children, seniors, and families. We can mail you the cards to give out or, if you provide a list of names and addresses, our team will mail them for you. To order your ornaments, call 614.274.7770 or email development@midohiofoodbank.org. 

Giving Out More Produce to Families in Need

This July through October's harvest season, Mid-Ohio Foodbank distributed more than 6 million pounds of fresh produce – a new record! The Foodbank's produce push included weekly deliveries to food pantries in all 20 counties served by the Foodbank and more than 150 special Produce Markets hosted by partner sites.

Most of the produce the Foodbank distributes comes from Ohio farmers, as part of the state's agricultural clearance program, along with other sources like area retailers, distributors, manufacturers, and the national Feeding America food bank network.

The Foodbank's partner agencies responded to a request in the spring to help give out more produce. Agency workers took training courses and recruited volunteers to help with Produce Markets, which operate like a farmers' market except that all the produce is given out for free to low-income families. Other agencies who received deliveries from the Foodbank's produce trucks served as hubs, with nearby agencies picking up there instead of at the Foodbank. This saved valuable time and resources for hard-working volunteers and Foodbank staff.

As the growing season ends, Mid-Ohio Foodbank remains committed to ensuring that families facing hard times don't have to do without nutritious fruits and vegetables – even over the winter months. 



In addition to all of its other produce sources, the Foodbank also received several tons of fresh fruits and vegetables from community gardens across our service area. The Foodbank's own on-site garden produced more than 2,500 pounds of produce in its second year, thanks to the support of many dedicated master gardeners and volunteers.



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Return Service Requested

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JOIN US


December

The Hills Market, a locally owned specialty grocer on Columbus' north side, will hold their annual *Buy Ohio, Feed Ohio* event. Through the end of December, Hills Market will donate 10% of the sale of specially marked Ohio-made products to Mid-Ohio Foodbank. To learn more, visit www.thehillsmarket.com.

January

(614) Magazine's Restaurant Week takes place January 16-21st. Participating restaurants will offer great deals on meals, and the Foodbank will receive \$5,000. Visit <http://restaurantweekcolumbus.com/> for more details.

February

Sign up your organization or business to participate in Operation Feed, the Foodbank's annual springtime food and funds drive. Participating in Operation Feed is a wonderful team-building opportunity while engaging your organization in providing food to those who are hungry. If you sign up now, you won't miss any of the fun activities and idea-sharing. Call 614.274.7770 or email operationfeed@midohiofoodbank.org for information. 



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