

Spring 2015

# Food for Thought

Thousands of  
local children are  
hungry for a better  
tomorrow...  
but today they're  
just hungry.

Please support

**HARVEST**   
for **HUNGER**

Wei,  
Old Brooklyn  
neighborhood



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



## Greater Cleveland Food Bank

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Kristin Warzocha  
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### Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Spring is in full swing, which means our annual [Harvest for Hunger Campaign](#) is well on its way. On behalf of the hungry families and individuals we serve together, I want to thank you for making this year such a success so far!

Year after year, committed hunger fighters like you freely give time and resources to help our neighbors in need. As the number of requests for emergency food assistance continues to grow, you're answering the call through your generosity and compassion. It's truly inspiring to witness what we as a community can accomplish when we work together.

Thanks to you, countless children, parents, seniors and other individuals are receiving comfort in the form of food this spring. And with our ongoing focus on increasing our fresh produce distributions, many more people now have access to nourishing fruits and vegetables.

It's not too late take part in this year's **Harvest for Hunger Campaign**. Will you [make a gift today](#) to help provide healthy meals for our neighbors in need? Our goal is to beat last year's record 17 million meals – and we can't reach it without you!

The stories in this edition of *Food For Thought* are just a few of those made possible by your support during **Harvest for Hunger**. I hope we can continue to count on your help so we can ensure everyone in Northeast Ohio has enough food this spring and all year long.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Erin, Jim and their son, Jonathan,  
Parma, OH



- New data from the recently released 2015 Map the Meal Gap show 327,690 people in our service area are at risk of hunger.
- Of those people, 99,500 are children.
- The Meal Gap in our area has increased from 56 million meals to 58 million meals since the report was released a year ago, supporting the fact that need remains high.

## You're Helping Parents Feed Their Children

Jim and Erin are the proud parents of four beautiful children — Jonathan, 6 months, Chloe, 5, James, 7, and Dominic, 8. Today they brought little Jonathan with them to pick up food for their family at the Parma Hunger Center.

They love their children more than anything in the world, but, despite their best efforts, Jim and Erin sometimes struggle to put food on the table. With only one income and a little bit of help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), there's not always enough to buy all the groceries their family needs after paying their rent and bills.

With the financial challenges they're facing, Jim and Erin are very grateful for the help their family receives from the Hunger Center. About every other month, the family is able to stop by to pick up the nutritious food they can't afford right now. They especially appreciate the baby food for little Jonathan.

There are thousands of hardworking parents in our

community like Jim and Erin, who need just a little help when their budgets are especially tight. Thanks to your support of the [Harvest for Hunger Campaign](#), partner agencies like the Parma Hunger Center are able to keep their shelves well-stocked to meet the needs of our neighbors this spring and all year long.

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**“We really appreciate you  
helping our family.”**

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Because you choose to give, Jim and Erin no longer have to worry about their children going hungry. They're so grateful for your compassion, which provides relief to their family in the form of wholesome meals.

“Thank you,” says Erin. “We really appreciate you helping our family.”

# Thank You for Supporting

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Bernice,  
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# g Harvest for Hunger 2015!



Steven,  
Garfield Heights,  
OH



Lee,  
Central neighborhood

## Market at the Food Bank a Success!

**MARKET AT THE  
FOOD BANK**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT HARVEST FOR HUNGER

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Market at the Food Bank Harvest for Hunger fundraising event on May 3!

Dozens of Northeast Ohio's best restaurants joined us at the Food Bank's Food Distribution Center with samplings of their delicious cuisine and beverages. Thanks to the generosity of event attendees and donors, the Food Bank will be able to distribute more than 800,000 meals in our community. For photos and an event recap, please visit [GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org](http://GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org).

## Wade Oval Walk Against Hunger, 5th Annual Circle Challenge Friday, May 8, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Wade Oval

University Circle hosts the annual Circle Challenge: Wade Oval Walk Against Hunger. Hundreds gather for the two-mile walk around Wade Oval, each donating \$10 to [Harvest for Hunger](#).

**HARVEST  
for HUNGER** 



Andrea Hogben,  
President,  
Northeast Ohio Media Group



Bernie Moreno,  
President,  
Bernie Moreno Companies

# Meet Our Harvest for Hunger 2015 Co-Chairs!

Our 2015 [Harvest for Hunger Campaign](#) is going strong thanks in large part to our dedicated volunteer co-chairs: Bernie Moreno, President, Bernie Moreno Companies and Andrea Hogben, President, Northeast Ohio Media Group (NEOMG).

Both Bernie and Andrea, and the companies they run, are dedicated to the community and to making the **Harvest for Hunger Campaign** a success.

Northeast Ohio Media Group represents *The Plain Dealer*, *Sun News* and *Cleveland.com* and has been involved in the campaign for several years as a media sponsor. This is Andrea's second year serving as campaign co-chair. The staff hosts an employee food and funds drive with events around St. Patrick's Day and March Madness and, this year, even competed in a Wii dance-off! In addition to their internal drive, NEOMG provides promotional support for the **Harvest for Hunger Campaign**, including *Market at the Food Bank*.

"I continue to be amazed by the generosity of the Greater Cleveland community," Andrea says. "Individuals give at the supermarket, at work, online and at fundraising events. Local businesses don't hesitate to step up and offer their support. Every single donation adds up and has a major impact on our community. NEOMG is so proud to be a part of **Harvest for Hunger**."

This is Bernie's first year as a co-chair. He has more than 30 car dealerships in the area and they are all participating in the **Harvest for Hunger Campaign**! Not only are employees

collecting food and financial donations at each of their dealerships, they are also coming out regularly to volunteer at the Food Bank.

"We are committed to being an essential part of the social and economic well-being of our communities," Bernie says. "Through the **Harvest for Hunger Campaign**, we are helping to ensure that everyone in our community has the nutritious food they need to thrive and be successful whether you are a child or a senior."

A huge thank you to Bernie, Andrea and their inspiring employees. Thanks also to Mayor Frank Jackson and County Executive Armond Budish, our honorary co-chairs. There's no way **Harvest for Hunger** could provide more than 17 million meals this year without the help of these leaders and the hundreds of other businesses that are contributing to the success of this year's campaign!

## Join Tomorrow's Harvest

*Tomorrow's Harvest* is a society that recognizes individuals who have included the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in their estate plans through a will, trust, annuity, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. Through these special gifts, our supporters are able to make a significant difference in our community, even beyond their lifetimes. Because, as long as there are hungry people in Northeast Ohio, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank will be here to feed them.

To learn more about how your generosity could make an impact for generations to come, please contact Stacey McKinley, Senior Manager of Strategic Gifts at 216.738.2056 or [smckinley@ClevelandFoodBank.org](mailto:smckinley@ClevelandFoodBank.org).

### OUR MISSION:

Working together to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day.



Annette,  
Slavic Village neighborhood

## Thank You for Helping Struggling Grandparents

Annette spent years raising her three children on her own. As a single mother with only one income, she recalls times when she struggled to buy enough food for everyone.

“I’ve gone without food before so my children can eat,” she says.

Although her children are all grown now, she still worries about her 3-year-old grandson, Gabe\*, who lives with her full-time. Lately, her small grocery budget has been stretched to its limit.

A few months ago, Annette was injured on the job — she tore a tendon in her shoulder, which required surgery and plenty of rest to fully heal. This was a huge blow to her finances, and though she’s back to working full-time, it’ll be a while until she can catch up on all of her bills.

Fortunately, Annette knew she could come to University Settlement Hunger Center, a Greater Cleveland Food Bank partner and [Harvest for Hunger](#) beneficiary. Now, each month, she knows she’ll be able to bring home enough food to keep little Gabe healthy and thriving.

Like Annette, many people in our community are just a few steps away from hunger. But thanks to you and your generous support during the **Harvest for Hunger Campaign**, there’s hope.

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**“We’re blessed to have  
people like you.”**

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Your gifts to the Food Bank mean Annette is able to put nutritious, balanced meals on the table, even at this difficult time. She’s so grateful for your generosity.

“Thank you very much,” she says. “I appreciate you a lot! We’re blessed to have people like you.”

*\*Name has been changed.*

# You're Feeding Families in Need

Valerie, a graphic designer, and her husband, Jeremy, a medical supply delivery driver, are the picture of hardworking, middle-class parents. The couple and their three children, Rosalie, 4, Lincoln, 7, and Makayla, 12, own a house in Garfield Heights where they've lived for nine years.

All was going well for the family until Valerie took a better job. You see, not long after she left the company she'd been with for 11 years, her hours at her new, "better" job were dramatically reduced.

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**"Thank you — it just helps immensely."**

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Although Jeremy works full-time, there are still some months when the family is unable to cover all their expenses, including groceries. To save money, Valerie says they've tried everything from clipping coupons to refinancing their home. But it's still not enough.

Not sure where else to turn, Valerie contacted The Rock Community Church, a Greater Cleveland Food Bank partner agency and [Harvest for Hunger](#) beneficiary. Now, thanks to your support, her family has access to fruits, vegetables and other staples that help stretch their food budget.

"We're trying to save our house and this is one of the ways we can cut costs," says Valerie, through tears.

Valerie,  
Garfield Heights, OH



After each visit to the pantry, Valerie makes sure to prepare meals that will provide plenty of leftovers. She really appreciates the fresh produce, which she knows will keep her children growing strong.

Valerie says she and Jeremy are trying hard not to let their children know about their family's current financial struggles — they don't want them to worry. Being able to provide full, balanced meals goes a long way in helping her children feel secure, and for that, she's very grateful.

"Thank you — it just helps immensely," says Valerie, with sincerity in her voice.



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank



15500 South Waterloo Road  
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Connect with the  
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local coordinator of  
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