

HARVEST FOR HUNGER

34th ANNUAL HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN

More than 33 million meals announced at today's Recognition Ceremony!

CLEVELAND, June 12, 2025 – Harvest for Hunger Co-Chairs Dr. Tomislav Mihaljevic, Cleveland Clinic, and Nic Barlage, Cleveland Cavaliers, thanked donors for their contributions to this year's **Harvest for Hunger** community-wide food and funds drive at the recognition event today. Kristin Warzocha, Food Bank President & CEO, and Mayor Justin Bibb also spoke at the event to thank supporters.

The campaign met an ambitious goal, collecting over \$11 million and thousands of pounds of food to provide 33,202,323 nutritious meals for local hunger relief organizations. Harvest for Hunger is one of the largest annual, community-wide food and funds drives in the nation with all of the money benefitting four food banks serving 21-counties. This is a culmination of the efforts of four participating food banks include the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

More than 200 companies, organizations, schools, nonprofits and governmental entities in Northeast Ohio participated by running food and fund drives this year, raising more than **\$2.1 million**.

In addition, *Check Out Hunger*, a cashier-led fundraising effort in grocery stores across the region during the six-week campaign raised over **\$2 million**. Buehler's, Dave's Markets, Giant Eagle, GetGo, Heinen's Grocery Store and Lucky's Market collected donations from customers at their cash registers for the Harvest for Hunger campaign.

"Our community has stepped up in extraordinary ways this year and I am beyond grateful. Of the 424,000 neighbors we served last year, 25% of those received food assistance for the first time from the Food Bank or one of our partners," said Warzocha. "We expect the need to remain high over the next several months especially as children are out of school for summer vacation. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we can continue to provide nutritious food to our hungry neighbors."

Special awards were presented to organizations and schools that went above and beyond the call of duty during this year's campaign:

The Bag of Hope Award, which is given to organizations that have 200 or more employees, was presented to **Cuyahoga Community College**. This year, Cuyahoga Community College expanded their Harvest for Hunger initiative and resourced their annual Community Giving Campaign to raise additional funds. Their efforts helped to raise \$15,000 this year.

The Edmond V. Worley Award, named after the first executive director of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, is given to organizations with less than 200 employees and was presented to **Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis**. They got very creative this year and ran several themed campaigns during the month of March to raise funds for Harvest for Hunger.

The Rory Borgio Award is presented to a remarkable school that is working to improve its community. This year's award was given to the **Bedford Heights High School Mentoring Program**. The mentoring program created several different challenges to engage students across various grade levels and mentor groups to compete in challenges that benefit the Food Bank.

The Student Leadership Award is given to a remarkable young individual who is working to help improve their community. This year's recipient is **Molly Fank** from Case Western Reserve University Law School. Molly wanted the entire law school to feel included in the food drive, so she made sure to reach out to every single student organization and faculty member both in person or online to encourage everyone to be involved. Molly made posters for a social media campaign and also formatted emails that others could share and send to encourage as much participation in the law school as possible.

The **Coordinator of the Year Award** was given to three individuals from Cleveland-Cliffs. **Zach Cebula, Greg Prymicz, & Ania Ediger**. They organize several food and fund drives across the entire Cleveland-Cliffs locations which proved their education for company initiatives and how motivated they are to promote their efforts throughout. Across the entire Cliffs footprint, employees generously donated more than 415,000 pounds of food. To complement the food that was collected by their employees, The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation made a monetary donation to a food bank or pantry in each community. In the past five years, The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation has donated more than \$3,250,000 to complement efforts in more than 60 communities where the company operates.

Supermarket sponsors included Giant Eagle, Get Go, Heinen's, Dave's Markets, Lucky's Market, Buehler's and Fishers Foods.

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Harvest for Hunger is an annual food and funds drive that raises resources for hunger relief organizations in 21 Northeast Ohio counties. It is a combined effort of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio. The drive began in 1992 and is coordinated locally by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. For more information, please visit www.HarvestforHunger.org.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio having distributed more than 52 million pounds in FY2024 to just over 424,000 hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties. Our mission is working together to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. We do this through both food distribution and SNAP outreach efforts. The Food Bank continues to provide nutritious food to those in need while working to end hunger tomorrow through connecting clients to resources. For more information go to www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org.