



Even 35 years working in banking didn't prepare **Doug Bannerman** for his six months as Interim Executive Director of the Food Bank. In 1999, about a year after joining the Food Bank's board, and just a few months after retiring, Doug found himself taking on the project of a lifetime.

When Ed Worley, the Food Bank's longtime, founding Executive Director, passed away unexpectedly, John Nestor, the Food Bank's Board Chair, sat down with Doug over breakfast and said, "I need someone to run the Food Bank, would you do it?"

"I said, 'why me?'" explained Doug, "and he said 'you are the only board member who has the time.' And with that vote of support, how could I say no? It was very challenging. I was a novice at managing a nonprofit."

Doug's tenure only lasted about six months. In that time, he did a wonderful job of ensuring there was no lapse in service as the Food Bank grappled with the loss of Ed. Then, Anne Goodman stepped into the role of President & CEO and Doug stepped back into his regular work on the Food Bank's Board and as a member of the finance committee. He remained on the Board for 9 years, serving as Board Chair from 2004 to 2007. He also remained on the finance committee for 17 years.



Now, fully retired, Doug was delighted to visit the Food Bank's facility to see it in action, as he was heavily involved in the fundraising and building of the Food Bank's warehouse and offices in Cleveland.

Doug remembers when he first got involved with the Food Bank, "all the people that were involved at the time were enormously passionate about the mission, but the facilities were limiting the volume of food," he explained.

Then, the Board and Food Bank leadership decided it was time to expand our footprint and started working towards the Food Bank's new space.

"Anne's vision was clear and she was right," Doug says with a smile, "the community can and did do a lot more than we thought."

Doug fondly remembers receiving the first \$1 million towards the Food Bank's capital campaign for the new building from the Cleveland Foundation. He felt that this extraordinary gift was like hearing the support of the entire Cleveland community, "and then we raised ten million bucks," he said with a smile.



But, "it wasn't just about the building. It was about doing more by having a new building," he explained.



There was a special level of excitement Doug remembers from his time on the Board, "We were going through such a dramatic change. Not only buildings but staffing, location, logistics, food storage," he remembers.

"It wasn't just this food bank, it was the business. And it was moving fast. That was a fun environment to be involved in. We used to have some real discussions in the Boardroom and some of them were tough. The change was dramatic and I loved that environment. It was fun to be on a dynamic board where you're challenging yourselves."

And the Board that Doug served on was truly exemplary. From grappling with Ed's passing to launching the Food Bank into the 21st century and a new building, there were many



successes along the way. Doug remembers, "This board never had the opportunity to have the satisfaction of accomplishment. We had to do lots of things to bring the Food Bank up to speed," he says with a playful grin. While there might not have been time for celebration then, we're so grateful to Doug for his work and celebrate his service - now!

Doug Bannerman's passion for the Food Bank's mission is evident from his service, but also from his

words, "Food is basic to human interchange," he explained, "food is something that humans do and they share it with one another." He's right - it's evident in his own story; John Nestor asked Doug to step in as Interim Executive Director over a meal.

Now that his time formally leading the Food Bank on the Board has passed, Doug remembers it fondly, "The business is so much fun. You're dealing with people who want to help and people who need some help. It doesn't get any better than that."

