



**Ann Shotwell** is 90 years old, and she's not afraid to admit it. She's devoted her life to others, having helped feed people in need in the Cleveland area since the 1960s.

"I've actually been doing this before the Food Bank started," she said, with a grin, "That was in the sixties." Back then, more than a decade before the Food Bank started, the government would bring a truckload of cheese and butter to give to families in need.

"We would go and hand it out until it was all gone," she remembers, "Then, the city started giving out food bags." She helped with that, too. "Then, when the Food Bank started, it was exciting," she says, "I've been with them ever since."

Miss Shotwell, as she's lovingly known as around the Food Bank, can't imagine devoting her life to anything else. "It's all I've ever done," she explained, "There's not one day I would trade for anything else." Feeding people is truly her life's work – and she's never been paid for her work. "I don't believe I'd enjoy it if I were paid," she explained.

While she has held jobs with the Mayor's office, worked as a clerk in a court, and is now retired from professional work, Miss Shotwell has made her community service work around her work.



In addition to her work feeding the community, Miss Shotwell has served on numerous boards and committees in both Cleveland and at the State Capitol in Columbus. She has two full books filled with pictures, press clippings, and letters of commendation for her incredible work.



In the 1950s, Miss Shotwell remembers reading a story of a family in need in her neighborhood, “I picked up The Plain Dealer one day and my daughter’s classmate’s father had said they had run into hard times and they didn’t have any food,” she said, “I ran out of the house and I collected food from everyone on the street and went to their house. I doubt there’s been a week since that I haven’t worked. I’ve never turned anyone down. I’ve fed them from my table.”





Miss Shotwell has seven children. Her youngest son, who is almost sixty, brings his mother to the Food Bank to pick up food for her partner agency that helps to feed seniors in need. “It’s not easy,” she says, still with a grin, “I don’t know why, but I have to give.”



We’re so glad she does. Miss Shotwell has touched so many lives in her time working with the Food Bank. In 2013, she was awarded the Ed Worley award recognizing her for her strong leadership, advocacy, and passion within the community in the fight against hunger.

Her passion even spans just the people she’s fed. She is a Food Bank icon. In addition to feeding people in need, Ann used to donate food to cook a meal for Food Bank staff before Thanksgiving.

And Miss Shotwell is grateful for the Food Bank, too. “If I run into a jam - I’ve gotten whatever I needed,” she explained. Whenever she needed help, the Food Bank was able to step in and support Miss Shotwell and the people she feeds. “I’ve never had the opportunity to find out they wouldn’t help,” she says.

Ann Shotwell is an incredible force to be reckoned with. She’s never met a person in need she couldn’t find a way to feed. She’s never backed down from a challenge - including raising seven children, nurturing a 54 year marriage, serving on countless boards, working, and of course - partnering with the Food Bank to provide meals to people in need.

“I’m doing what I chose to do. To help is all I know. I’m a doer, and I enjoy it,” she says.

