



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank



“Have you ever driven a truck?” This simple question launched **Tim Floyd** into a 20+ year career helping to provide food to people in need in Northeast Ohio.

In fall of 1997, Tim was working at a local KFC. Dee, a driver for Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio, an organization that picked up unused food from local retailers, stopped in for her regular pick up and asked him if he had ever driven a truck. While he didn’t have his CDL, he’d driven a U-Haul before. “She just came and asked me one day if I wanted to drive a truck. I told her, ‘Yeah!’” Tim remembers.

Since October of 1997, Tim has driven the streets of Northeast Ohio picking up and dropping off food to help feed hundreds of thousands of people. In 2001, when Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio merged with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Tim became a Food Bank employee – and he hasn’t looked back.

“I do love my job,” Tim said, “It’s cool working here. You don’t really have any stressful days. I like to get up in the morning because I like what I do. Every day is different.”

Working for Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio was very different than Tim’s job today. “We only had eight or nine people on staff,” he explained. Back then, Food Rescue’s small staff rescued from local



Dee from Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio.



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retailers, like KFC and hotels, and brought the food to partner programs that would sort and distribute it.



Tim at Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio in the 1990s.

When the Food Rescue merged with the Food Bank, Tim was then part of a staff of about 30 people. “I remember when we merged, there were only like 27 of us,” he says, laughing. Now, the Food Bank has a staff of more than 140 people. “The first holiday party we had, we hosted it in the warehouse at one table!”

Not much changed about Tim’s work when Food Rescue merged with the Food Bank. He was still driving a truck and making a difference - but the scale and opportunity increased.

“As the Food Bank has grown, there’s a lot more work,” he explained. They never really slow down!

During the recession, our work picked up,” he remembers. And it hasn’t stopped. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is still serving more people than before the recession. “The recession was deep,” Tim explained, “You saw a lot of people standing in lines that you’ve never seen before. There’s more need - more people.”

Beyond more work, Tim found more opportunity at the Food Bank. “One of the best moments was the Food Bank offering me the chance to get my CDL,” he said, smiling. “That’s something I’ll always have no matter what.” Tim has had his Commercial Drivers License for almost two decades.

Out on the road, now in a larger truck, Tim greets Food Bank partners as he always has, with a smile. Some shake hands, others reach out for hugs. “I know the people at a lot of my stops,” he said. “It’s cool because I’m always laughing and smiling. I get along with everybody.”

“He comes in here every time with a great big smile!” exclaimed one pantry coordinator. Beyond delivering nutritious food, Tim’s deliveries come with a little something extra - caring. Because Tim loves his work and the people he meets, he’s welcomed at each stop with open arms.

Beyond loving his job, Tim found love through his work at the Food Bank. “My wife works for CMHA,” Tim explained, “I delivered and would see her. We would always talk for a little bit and



Tim receives a welcome hug from a pantry staff member.



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one day, I asked her for her number.” Melissa, Tim’s wife, said yes, and the rest was history. Tim and Melissa have been married for almost a decade. He still works at the Food Bank and she still works for CMHA.

But, that’s not the end of Tim’s personal connections to his work at the Food Bank. For more than two decades, Tim has picked up from the produce terminal in Cleveland for the Food Bank. But even before the Food Bank existed, Tim visited the terminal. “My grandfather used



to take me down to the Food Terminal when I was younger,” Tim said, “And it’s funny, because here I am actually going to the terminal. The Food Bank goes to the terminal every day.” Approximately two-thirds of the food distributed by the Food Bank is perishable, including fresh produce, like the food picked up by Tim and his fellow drivers from the terminal.

Tim unloads produce for a produce distribution in Ohio City.

In the almost two decades Tim has worked at the Food Bank, he’s seen lots of change – change at the Food Bank and change in the need. “There’s more need. There are people I grew up with and went to school with that are in lines to get food now. Everyone falls on hard times. No one should be hungry in this city,” he explained.

And Tim is doing his part as a staff member of the Food Bank to help eradicate hunger. “I get in my truck and I get out. I like driving. This is my office. Just sit back and relax, you don’t have to worry about anything in this truck.”

Since 1997, Tim has been working tirelessly to fight hunger in his hometown, but he’s done so much more than just that. Every delivery comes with a smile and a dose of positivity, and the Greater Cleveland community is better for it.

