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QUARTERLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2022



KeyBank Volunteers at a Muni Lot Distribution

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Welcome, Summer!

*A note from Matt Jackson,
GCFB Volunteer Experience Manager*

A lot has changed since the last edition of our volunteer newsletter: Construction continues at our Coit Road facility, our Euclid Food Pantry opened its doors to the community, and we have welcomed a new member to our Volunteer Experience Team. Peek inside to learn more about it all!

Thanks to each of you for your continued support – we can’t wait to enter a new era of the Food Bank with you!

Sincerely,
Matt



What You Say

“Everyone is a joy to work with. Volunteering is fun and friendly: that’s why I keep coming back!”

~ Greg F

“I volunteered at the Euclid Pantry. They are off to a great start! Clean and organized with a friendly and helpful staff. I was glad to be involved with this project.” ~ Anonymous

“I was so impressed by the organizational forethought and preparation that must go into each volunteer activity. What an enormous task you face, each and every day, in order to accomplish the mission. I am so grateful for the opportunity to reflect upon just how thankful I should be for good health and adequate daily sustenance.” ~ Stephen G.

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS: OCTOBER 1, 2021 – MAY 31, 2022

VOLUNTEERS	EUCLID PANTRY	REFRIGERATED DONATIONS	KITCHEN	REPACK	SKILLS-BASED	DISTRIBUTIONS
58,000+ hours 6,300+ volunteers	3,000+ hours	2,500+ hours	9,500+ hours	24,500+ hours	2,500+ hours	10,500+ hours



Agency Pick-Up entrance as of July 15, 2022

We're Moving – Soon!

Exciting news: Starting in mid-September, we are planning to move to our new Coit Road Partner Distribution Hub and be operational the first week in October. We will also begin shifting volunteers to the new building the first week in October.

The Partner Distribution Hub will have a welcoming volunteer check-in area, plenty of space in our repack area for a variety of projects as well as a new and expanded Kitchen that will be four times the size of our current space.

This is truly an exciting time for our organization and we can't wait to share it with you. While progress continues to put the finishing touches on the building, we are looking forward to welcoming you to the Partner Distribution Hub.

Our new building will take us one step closer to our goal of helping provide food for all. We couldn't do it without your support and partnership!



Our 100th Muni Lot Distribution Celebration



The State Highway Patrol is recognized for their support of GCFB distribution efforts.

On March 15th, we celebrated our 100th distribution at the City of Cleveland Muni Lot! What started out as an immediate need to serve our community at the beginning of the pandemic – out of our parking lot – turned into 2 years of distributing food at the Muni Lot.

We began this journey with the City of Cleveland’s offer to use the Muni Lot for our distributions to accommodate the large number of families in need of help. With the assistance of Cleveland Police and Cleveland Traffic Control, we set up a safe, contact-free and efficient drive-thru distribution. The National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve, CPD and Ohio State Patrol served as our volunteer base when we were unable to host volunteers. The National Guard and Military Reserve

helped deliver distribution items and set up the loading area (including loading the clients’ cars), CPD and Traffic Control set up the intake area and cones to direct our clients, and Ohio State Patrol performed intake. Food Bank staff filled in any open spots.

Our 6-9 month commitment to help our community through the worst of the pandemic morphed into two years of weekly distributions at the Muni Lot that many families depend on to this day.

So many partners, donors and corporate sponsors have helped us along the way to ensure we had the resources needed to continue serving our community at such a high level. That support has been nothing short of extraordinary.

The biggest component to our continued success has been our dedicated volunteer base, especially our core group of regulars that show up regardless of the weather conditions. Since the mission ended for the National Guard in July 2021, we have relied on 75-100 volunteers each and every week to fill all of the roles involved with our distributions.

MUNI LOT 100 DISTRIBUTIONS FACTS

FAMILIES nearly 200,000 served	INDIVIDUALS nearly 400,000 served	MOST SERVED: IN ONE DISTRIBUTION 5,000 families the week before Thanksgiving 2020	ATTENDANCE: WEEKLY AVERAGE 2,080 families
21 VOLUNTEERS assisted at 20+ distributions	7 VOLUNTEERS assisted at 40+ distributions	8 VOLUNTEERS that assisted at 70+ distributions	DEDICATED STAFF Several regularly attend distributions



Special Volunteer Collaboration with MedWish

Victoria Bauer has been a Repack volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank since August 2020. In addition, Victoria volunteers at MedWish International, an organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid to people in need..

While volunteering at the Food Bank, Victoria noticed the large number of boxes that we recycle. Through volunteering with MedWish, she was aware of the organization's need for boxes and developed a plan to repurpose the discarded GCFB boxes by transporting them to MedWish. After each volunteer shift at the Food Bank, Victoria loads her car with as many boxes that can fit and delivers them to MedWish to use.

"MedWish International's mission is more critical now than ever. The supplies we distribute support organizations that continue to battle against COVID-19, aid those impacted by humanitarian crises like the one in Ukraine, fill critical health needs of those in the local community, and sustain and grow the capacity of healthcare facilities in impoverished places around the world.

Every volunteer, donor, stakeholder, and supporter can make a difference with MedWish. Our work is not possible without our incredible community and we are always looking for more individuals to join our growing MedWish family" - Britta Latz, Executive Director, MEDwish International

Thank you to Victoria for creating this collaboration, and to everyone at MEDwish International for all your amazing work, domestically and Internationally.



Emcee Ahmaad Crump pictured with Sir CC at the Harvest for Hunger 2022 Kickoff



Winner of the Grocery Cart Shopping Challenge, Isabel Lawrence, Channel 3 reporter, pictured with Sir CC at the Harvest for Hunger kickoff.



Orlando Baking Company staff participated in Market at the Food Bank



Kristin Warzocha, Greater Cleveland Food Bank President & CEO, pictured with Harvest for Hunger Co-Chairs Vanessa Whiting and Bill Lacey.

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Overview

Harvest for Hunger is one of the largest annual, community-wide food and funds drives in the nation covering 21 counties, including the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

The campaign consists of workplace giving, corporate opportunities, cause-marketing and Check Out Hunger, school engagement, and volunteer opportunities. The 2022 Harvest for Hunger campaign ran from March 3rd to June 9th.

Check Out Hunger, a cashier-led fundraising effort in grocery stores across the region, gives customers the option to make donations at the register. Participating stores include Buehler's, Dave's Markets, Fisher Foods, Giant Eagle, GetGo, Heinen's Grocery Store, and Lucky's Market. Thanks to all who volunteered or supported the drive!



Volunteers in Repack



Welcome, Christine!

We are thrilled to welcome Christine Cotter to the GCFB team as our new Volunteer Experience Assistant!

Christine most recently worked at the NRP Group and Destination Cleveland. She is also a Muni Lot Distribution veteran, having volunteered at 16 of our distributions back in the fall of 2020.

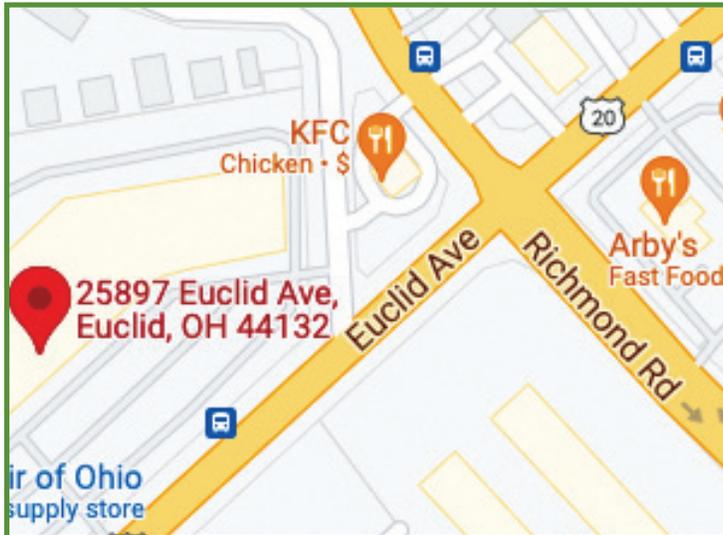
Christine sits at the reception desk in our lobby. Be sure to stop by and say "hello"!

Greater Cleveland Food Bank Help Center

Client Help Specialists in our Help Center are available to offer over-the-phone or in-person benefit enrollment and support, while eliminating barriers and providing confidentiality. The community can also utilize the Help Center to access information about emergency feeding programs and vital resources. If you are in need of assistance, please call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Help Center at 216.738.2067.



Euclid Food Pantry



The Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Euclid Food Pantry, located at 25897 Euclid Avenue, directly next to Simon's Supermarket in Euclid, Ohio, is now open.

The pantry is open days, evenings, and weekends with varying hours.

We are excited to partner with the community to increase availability of nutritious food to residents and individuals from any community.

HOURS OF OPERATION

August 2022

Monday	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Thursday	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Saturday:	
August 20	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Pantry hours are subject to change each month, based on need and the hours our partners are available.

**25897 Euclid Avenue
Unit # 4 • Euclid, Ohio
Next to Simon's Supermarket**

Volunteers Needed!

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is recruiting volunteers to assist clients, perform data entry, restock shelves, and other duties as needed at our new Euclid Food Pantry!. Interested? Please contact Matt Jackson, Volunteer Experience Manager, at 216.738.2069 or mjackson@clevelandfoodbank.org.