

# Reaching More than Her Family of Four

Tangenia - GCFB Produce Distribution

Tangenia is a working mom, she is a home health aide and she does babysitting on the side. Her husband is a factory worker. Their kids are age three and four.

With Thanksgiving coming up, Tangenia turned to the Food Bank for help stocking up for the holiday. "I come for the holiday, for family, for a couple of my family members — in laws. We need the extra help," she said.

"Normally we have about 15-20 people for the holiday at my mother-in-law's house. We just get together and put together everything we have. Everybody pitches in," she said.

Sometimes Tangenia and her husband have had to make tough choices — paying for utilities or medicine, or buying food. "That's why I have a second job, so I have everything together," she said.

The fresh fruits and vegetables Tangenia, and other neighbors like her, receive from the Food Bank and our program partners helps make ends meet and eases the burden of tough choices. She wants all the Food Bank's donors to know how grateful she is. "Thank you for everything that you do!"

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# **Food For Thought**

Kristin Warzocha, President & CEO



During the early days of the pandemic, I remember a mother pulling up to one of our drive-through distribution sites with all three of her kids in the car.

She had tears in her eyes. The pandemic had halted local business travel and shut down schools. This proud, hardworking, hospitality industry employee was laid off, and her side jobs as a rideshare driver and dog walker also came to a halt when the lockdown began. Now, she needed help to feed her children while they attended school virtually from home.

She was embarrassed. Always being able to provide for her family was an enormous source of personal pride for her.

So, I reassured her. This is why we are here. This is why the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and our community partners exist. Our dedicated team and amazing partner agencies are here to help.

This mother was deeply grateful for the assistance. Her story reminds us that whether it's a pandemic, job loss, or accident, life can

turn on a dime — suddenly catching any one of us off guard.

This Thanksgiving, I'm so honored to share your compassion with other neighbors in need. Through your generosity — and the tireless work of our partner agencies — we are proud to announce that we have six semi-truckloads of turkeys ready for distribution to local families!

The holidays are such a special time. Everyone deserves to hold an appropriate Thanksgiving celebration, especially after enduring the past few challenging years.

When people hit a difficult time, like so many of us will throughout our lives, it's comforting to know you have someone to turn to. Thank you for being that someone for so many.

With gratitude,

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Kristin Warzocha President & CEO

## **Breaking Down Barriers**

Your gifts are a bridge for this family in need.



Bibi left Nepal for Cleveland in search of a better life. Her American dream included visions of new jobs, opportunities, and relationships.

But a language barrier stood in her way.

While Bibi does her best to improve her English every day, employment for someone speaking predominantly Nepali is scarce. With limited English writing skills, applying for public assistance became impossible.

Instead, Bibi, and her four children, solely relied on her husband's salary to get by. But making ends meet and being able to afford enough groceries is a struggle.

Partners Produce Help and Hope When Bibi arrived at Asian Services in Action, one of the Food Bank's 1,000+ program partners, she was so thankful for the fresh food. It alleviated so much stress. You could see it in her newfound smile.

While she was there, our partner also recommended someone to assist Bibi in applying for benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) to help her meet the needs of her family.

Bibi Thanks Neighbors Like You Arriving in a new country with nothing, not knowing anyone, is not easy. But today, Bibi feels the selfless love shared by her new city and her new neighbors.

She asked to share the following sentiment with friends like you: "Neighbor, you have helped me in a real-time of crisis. Thank you."

### Simple Yet Savvy Ways to Give This Holiday

Support from compassionate friends like you is the only way to continue fighting hunger and the ripple effects of the pandemic during these challenging times. Below are a few simple ways you can help feed more children, seniors, and families this holiday season. You can:



- If you're 70 1/2 years old+, you can give any amount (up to \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity without having to pay income taxes on it. If you're 72+, this can count towards your required minimum distribution.
- Make a cash gift by check or online at GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org.
- Donate appreciated stock or bonds.
- Recommend a grant from your Donor Advised Fund.

\*This is not tax advice. Please consult your advisor for your particular scenario.

To learn more about whether these giving opportunities could be right for you, please contact: Kristen Glazer, Senior Manager of Donor Relations kglazer@clevelandfoodbank.org or 216.738.2056. Thank you!

### **Proud Partner**

A pandemic through the eyes of our esteemed program partner.

"Our goal is to offer people self-respect," said Jonathan Gray, founder of one of our partner agencies, Trials for Hope. "The items we provide for people to take care of themselves maintain this basic respect."

Partnering with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Trials for Hope helps local people who've fallen between the cracks and struggle to obtain basic necessities.

Your gifts help this agency operate programs like farmer's markets at senior facilities, homeless camps for the unsheltered, and distribution sites that provide food, toiletries, and other daily items.

"We make over 400 toiletry bags a month and have 17 homebound individuals we serve twice a month," Jonathan shared.

#### **COVID-19 Crisis**

The pandemic has dramatically increased the number of people looking to Trials for Hope for help.

Jonathan explains, "We've also had people who have lost family. There's fear





We have more people that we are serving because more people fit the criteria for needing help with food. We are spending three times as much for food. But we have to do what we have to do to take care of these people," said Jonathan.

everywhere, and that's been so heartbreaking. But the only way to match fear is with love."

He continues, "I might not be able to change what's going on around you, but I've got you next week with food."

He shares, "We all need to know that somebody's got our back. It's about walking together in a common theme of unity, where no one has to walk alone."



donated



4 meals

Think of the impact your gift can make in the lives of your neighbors!

Though we've continued to face unprecedented challenges, you stepped up time and again to lend a hand throughout this time of crisis. None of our work would be possible without YOU! Thank you.









#### Greater Cleveland Food Bank

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