



Spring 2014

Food — for — Thought

Hunger is
closer than
you think.
But so is the
solution.

Christopher,
East Cleveland, OH

Please support

HARVEST 
for **HUNGER**



Greater Cleveland Food Bank

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Anne Campbell Goodman

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

After an exceptionally frigid winter, spring is finally arriving in Northeast Ohio. The arrival of spring signals the wrap-up of the [Harvest for Hunger](#) campaign!

This campaign really brings out the best in our community – it's one of my favorite times of year. Schools hold contests and events to raise food and funds, thousands of shoppers tear off coupons at the grocery stores and enthusiastic employees come up with creative ways to raise money at their workplace to fight hunger.

Those who have joined the **Harvest for Hunger** campaign understand that hunger is a serious problem in Northeast Ohio. They know there are people who struggle to eat three meals a day – and they want to help. This is a truly compassionate community, and I've been amazed at, and inspired by, your generosity.

We continue to need your help. Just \$1 provides four healthy meals for a hungry child, parent or senior citizen.

In an effort to bolster the health of our community, a portion of funds raised through **Harvest for Hunger** this year will go to ensuring individuals and families throughout the six counties we serve have access to fresh produce. Healthy food is vital to a healthy life – when you support the well-being of our neighbors, you're helping to make Northeast Ohio an even better place to call home.

I hope you'll read about the success you've made possible in this newsletter, and help us meet our goal of providing 17 million meals for hungry people through the **Harvest for Hunger** campaign – we still need your help.

My most sincere thanks,

Anne Campbell Goodman
President & CEO

- The Food Bank currently operates 46 programs in Lake County, including two summer feeding sites.
- In FY2013, the Food Bank distributed 2,512,866 pounds of food in Lake County – that’s enough for 2,094,055 meals!

Aaron,
Madison, OH



Thank You for Helping Local Families

Anna has two sons, Aaron, 2 and Isaac*, 7. She’d do anything to ensure their success and happiness – but Anna’s a single mother, and providing for all her sons’ needs on one income has proven to be a real challenge. It’s been especially difficult since her hours were cut at the senior living community where she works as a nurse.

“I only have the most basic necessities right now,” Anna says. She doesn’t receive SNAP benefits, so her smaller paychecks mean she has less to spend on groceries.

The beginning of the month is especially hard for Anna because that’s when rent is due, and it takes up most of her paycheck. She’s usually not able to go to the grocery store at all until her next paycheck.

Fortunately, friends like you prevent Anna and her young children from going hungry when their budget is tight. Because you give, there’s food for families like Anna’s at the Madison Food Center, a [Greater Cleveland Food Bank](#) partner and **Harvest for Hunger** beneficiary in Lake County.

The pantry’s shelves are full of healthy food Anna can take home to prepare meals she and her sons share together.

“You’re keeping my children fed.”

“I don’t know what I would do if you didn’t give,” Anna says. She goes on to explain how this resource will be especially important during the summer, when she’ll have to make up for the breakfasts and lunches Isaac, who’s on the free meal program at school, isn’t receiving in the cafeteria.

Anna was excited to be able to share her gratitude for friends like you, who make sure she can provide for her family.

“I appreciate you a lot,” she says. “You’re keeping my children fed!”

*Names have been changed to protect identity.

Thank You for Supporting Harvest for Hunger 2014!

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Harvest for Hunger 2014
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Upcoming Events



Market at the Food Bank

Sunday, May 4, 5 p.m.
Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Food Distribution Center

Tickets to Market 2014 are still available! Market at the Food Bank is a very special event celebrating the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's annual Harvest for Hunger campaign. The event will feature delicious cuisine and beverages from dozens of Northeast Ohio's best restaurants, exciting entertainment, wonderful auction items, and the all-important opportunity to help alleviate hunger in our community. To purchase tickets, visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Market2014.

Wade Oval Walk Against Hunger, 4th Annual Circle Challenge

Friday, May 9, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Wade Oval

University Circle hosts the annual Circle Challenge: Wade Oval Walk Against Hunger. Hundreds gather for the two-mile walk around Wade Oval, each donating \$10 to Harvest for Hunger.

SME Strike Out Hunger Bowling Event

Sunday, May 18, 4 – 7 p.m.
Freeway Lanes, Solon

Sales & Marketing Executives (SME) of Cleveland are hosting a bowling tournament to benefit the Harvest for Hunger campaign. Registration includes three games, pizza, refreshments and bowling shoe rental. Teams of four can register at GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/SME.





YP Pantry members repack fresh produce at the Food Bank's warehouse for distribution to our network of partner agencies.

YP Pantry Members Help Fight Hunger!

The YP Pantry is a group of socially conscious young people dedicated to fighting hunger in our Northeast Ohio community. Because the group accepts an annual commitment of 24 volunteer hours in lieu of dues, membership is more accessible to altruistic 21 to 40-year-olds. The Pantry's monthly events cycle between a repacking session at the Food Bank, a volunteer day at a member agency and a social fundraiser.

YP Pantry members recently helped out by packing up **Harvest for Hunger** supplies that were sent to local supermarkets and participating companies. They packed hundreds of buttons, posters and coupons in just one evening, which saved our staff hours of time.

Thank you, YP Pantry, for your gracious support of our efforts to fight hunger. We have more than 150 members and would love to continue to see this group grow! For more information, or to join the YP Pantry, check out their Facebook page at [Facebook.com/YPpantryClevelandFoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/YPpantryClevelandFoodbank), call 216.738.2139 or email YPPantry@ClevelandFoodBank.org.

BrewHaHa

Join the YP Pantry for BrewHaHa! The event, which will take place at the Food Bank on Thursday, July 10, will highlight the talents of local comedians and give Clevelanders the opportunity to sample craft beers from down the street and across the region. All proceeds will benefit the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's mission to provide food to families and individuals in need. Join local young professionals for some laughs and lagers for a great cause! Tickets go on sale May 5! Get your six-pack of tickets at GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org.

OUR MISSION:

Working together to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day.

Harvest for Hunger 2013 Recognition Ceremony Winners

Every year, companies who participate in **Harvest for Hunger** are invited to submit their organization to be honored at our annual *Recognition Ceremony*. This year's ceremony will be held in early June. The following were recognized last year.

The 2013 **Bag of Hope Award** was presented to the **City of Cleveland**. The City has led a **Harvest for Hunger** campaign for 20 years and brought in more than \$107,000 and 5,000 pounds of food for the 2013 campaign, generating nearly 430,000 meals! Coordinator Loretta Joyce led more than 20 coordinators and raised funds through employee payroll deduction, raffles, bake sales and other creative events.

The 2013 **Edmond V. Worley Award** was presented to **Chubb Group of Insurance Companies**. With just 32 employees, Chubb Group raised more than \$7,000 and collected 270 pounds of food, which generated more than 30,000 meals. Their 11th annual **Harvest for Hunger** Billiards Tournament at the Dave & Buster's in Westlake raised \$3,000 and involved 32 teams competing in a bracketed tournament and raffle.

The **Rory Borgio Award** went to the **students of Rocky River City School District**. For the past five years, they have challenged their peers in Bay Village through *Hoops for Hunger*. Students sold sponsorship packages, raffle tickets and t-shirts in support of the **Harvest for Hunger** campaign. The 2013 *Hoops for Hunger* competition raised nearly \$42,000,



Don Templeman and Jessica Jung of Chubb Group of Insurance Companies accept the Ed Worley award.

and Rocky River City School District was the clear winner this year, contributing more than \$36,000! Since its inception, the students of Rocky River have raised more than \$77,000 in support of local hunger-relief efforts.

In 2013, the **Youth in Philanthropy Award** was presented to **Rebeka Loescher**. Rebeka's parents both work for Giant Eagle Westlake and Rocky River. Inspired by her mom's work during *Check Out Hunger*, Rebeka asked guests attending her 5th birthday party to bring canned food instead of presents. She collected 75 items, which were donated to a local food pantry to help feed her neighbors. Rebeka shows an inspiring amount of compassion for her age.

Staff from the City of Cleveland gather around their Bag of Hope award.



Your Support Brings Relief to Single Mothers

“Sometimes I need help feeding my son,” Michelle says, looking down at 8-year-old Jayden. After months of unemployment, now is one of those times.

Michelle used to take as many shifts as she could at her waitressing job to provide for Jayden. Unfortunately, she hasn't been able to work at all since she suffered a serious heart attack in January. She now has a stint in her heart and takes blood thinners daily.

“This means more to me than anyone could ever express.”

This year has been tremendously hard on Michelle, but she says she's fortunate to have some really good friends who are helping her through this difficult time — including friends like you, who give to help stock the shelves at Catholic Charities, a [Greater Cleveland Food Bank](#) partner in Mansfield, Ohio.

Michelle visits the food pantry — which is also a beneficiary of the **Harvest for Hunger** campaign — to pick up healthy groceries, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to get her through the month. Jayden is an adventurous eater and loves peaches, tuna and even red cabbage.

The food Michelle receives keeps little Jayden growing strong. He's really into baseball and he loves to read — he can't wait for this summer and hopes to spend long days at the park. His mom is greatly relieved to know she'll be able to fuel his energy with plenty of nutritious food.

Michelle,
Mansfield, OH



Michelle admits it's not easy to ask for help, but she's so grateful for friends like you, who are there when she needs a hand up.

“Thank you,” she says. “This means more to me than anyone could ever express.”

- In FY2013, the Food Bank provided more than 170,000 meals to children in need during the summer months.
- The Food Bank also distributed 12,417,419 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables last fiscal year.



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank



15500 South Waterloo Road
Cleveland, OH 44110
GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org
216.738.2265

Connect with the
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