

FALL 2013

FOOD

for Thought

The vital link between
food and hunger.

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING NORTHEAST
OHIO CHILDREN
SUCCEED!**

Jariana
Near West Side neighborhood



**Cleveland
Foodbank**

The vital link between food & hunger.

A Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



ANNE CAMPBELL GOODMAN

President and CEO

Dear Friends of the Foodbank,

As the summer begins to wind down, I breathe a sigh of relief for low-income children in our community who will soon have access to the school meal programs they depend on. This summer, we provided nutritious meals to 3,000 children a day at 47 locations — more than ever before. But these programs only serve a fraction of the children who are eligible.

The current and future effects of childhood hunger are truly devastating. There are increased illness rates and school absences. Children's brains and bodies won't develop without nutritious food, so our future workforce is jeopardized. We will all spend more on problems that could have been prevented with three square meals a day.

With your help, the [Foodbank](#) makes serving children and supporting their parents a priority. It is more than a charitable effort: it is an investment in our future.

With the coming of the new school year, our *BackPacks for Kids* program starts up again. Through this program, children are able to bring food home for the weekend when they don't have access to free and reduced-price school meals. It's an expensive program, but we are able to make it work because of you.

We also offer *Kids Cafe* meals at 40 sites in our six-county service area. Through *Kids Cafe*, children receive both a meal and nutrition education. Some kids can't even name basic vegetables because their parents can't afford to buy them. We introduce fresh produce and show children how to prepare it every day. Educating clients of all ages about healthy eating habits is a priority for us.

Children receive about 35% of the meals that we distribute every day. As our fiscal year closes at the end of September, we will have provided about 14 million meals to food-insecure children in our area — with your help. What an enormous accomplishment.

Our whole community suffers when there are hungry people in our midst. But, there is a strong, generous, committed group of volunteers and donors who partner with the Foodbank and our member programs in an effort to make sure everyone has three meals a day, seven days a week, all year round.

You are among them. For that I am grateful on behalf of the tens of thousands of children that we serve.

My most sincere thanks,

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THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Francisco, 9, is in the fourth grade and receives a scholarship to attend Urban Community School on Cleveland's west side. He lives with his mother and spends time with his grandparents, who live across the street. Math and reading are Francisco's favorite classes, and he's not hesitant to tell you he wants to be President of the United States when he grows up.

You wouldn't know it from his gregarious spirit and unfading smile, but Francisco doesn't always have enough to eat. His mother often has trouble stretching her paycheck to cover all their needs, and his grandparents are on a small fixed income.

Your generosity makes a difference for kids like Francisco every day. Each Friday, he's able to take home a backpack full of nutritious, kid-friendly meals through *BackPacks for Kids*, a [Cleveland Foodbank](#) program at his school and 38 others across our service area.

Children from 100 families at Francisco's elementary school receive backpacks of food each week, and the faculty and staff say they see a marked improvement in the attitudes and performance of those who participate in the program. Julie Babcock is a Kindergarten teacher at the school, and she says the weekly backpacks give students confidence because they can rely on them when life outside of school feels unstable.

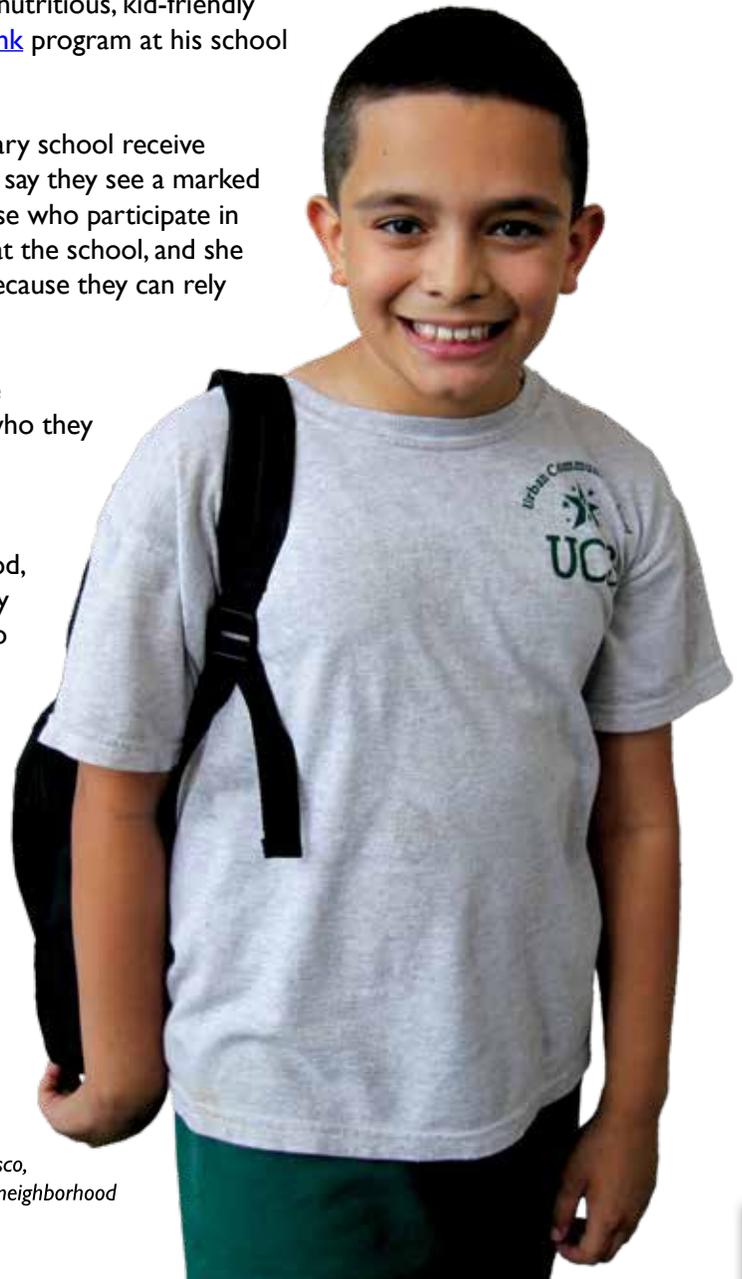
"The kids know they can count on this food," she says. "They feel loved — there's someone out there who they don't know who cares about them."

Francisco understands that his mom and grandparents don't always have money to buy him food, and he feels proud that he can contribute to his family by bringing home the backpack each weekend. He's so thankful that you choose to give.

"Thank you for the food!" he says. "It's nice for you to give the food. It helps my mom a lot."

Francisco is on the road to achieving his dreams because of your compassion. Thank you for sharing what you have with students in need!

“THANK YOU FOR
THE FOOD!”



Francisco,
Near West Side neighborhood

CLEVELAND FOODBANK HELP CENTER

The Help Center at the [Cleveland Foodbank](#) is now open. Client Help Specialists are taking calls from Northeast Ohioans who are struggling to pay for food. We can help! If you know someone in need please have them call 216.738.2067 or toll free 1.855.738.2067.

So far this year, Help Center Specialists have received 12,538 calls from local residents in need of assistance! Callers can find a food pantry or free produce distribution in their area as well as apply for benefits (including Food Stamps and Medicaid) over the phone.



Thank You for Providing Needed Meals and Groceries!

Pamela,
Maple Heights, OH

Micahel,
Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood

SAVE THE DATE – TASTE OF THE BROWNS

15th Annual Celebrity Dinner
September 9th
6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at FirstEnergy Stadium

Join the Cleveland Foodbank and the Cleveland Browns as they tackle hunger in Northeast Ohio at the 15th annual *Taste of the Browns*. Held at FirstEnergy Stadium with more than 1,000 guests, this event celebrates our city's love of its sports team and our unique and acclaimed culinary talents, all while providing hundreds of thousands of meals to hungry Northeast Ohioans. To purchase tickets go to clevelandfoodbank.org!



Gabrielle,
Ohio City neighborhood

Christian,
Lee-Miles
neighborhood

HELP SUSTAIN THE FOODBANK'S WORK BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF TOMORROW'S HARVEST

By including the Foodbank in your estate plans, you will have a lasting impact on our hunger-relief efforts, ensuring that nutritious food is available for hungry men, women and children of Greater Cleveland into the future. You will also become a member of *Tomorrow's Harvest*, our recognition society, which honors and thanks those who have let us know of their decision to include the Foodbank in their estate plans.

If you would like more information about becoming a member of *Tomorrow's Harvest*, or if you already decided to leave a gift to the Foodbank in your will, please contact Tara Turner at 216.738.2137 or tturner@clevelandfoodbank.org. With a little planning today, you can leave a legacy that will help provide food for families in need for years to come.



Niki,
Hough neighborhood

THANK YOU, DAVE!



Volunteer David Brinker

At the end of April, Dave Brinker retired after 32 years as an engineer at NASA's Glenn Research Center. About the same time, the Cleveland Foodbank began participating in a nationwide hunger study sponsored by Feeding America. Dave had been a financial supporter of the [Foodbank's](#) hunger-fighting initiatives for several years, and helping out with the study seemed like a good way to fill his newfound free time.

Dave has visited 15 Foodbank partner agencies as a lead volunteer with the hunger study, and he plans to stop by at least six more over the next month. During each visit he meets with families and individuals seeking food assistance and conducts 60-question surveys to gather information about their lives.

The objective of the study is to understand what hunger looks like on a

local level through hearing about why members of our community need help with food. The study will also help the Foodbank educate the public, advocate for support and make whatever changes are needed to provide our community with the services needed most. Our local work is part of a national study, which will provide critical data for our elected officials and other leaders.

Dave says his experience meeting with Foodbank clients and partner agency staff has been really eye-opening and has helped him prioritize his own life. During his training Dave says he was shocked to learn that one out of nine people in our six-county service area relies on a food pantry or other hunger-relief resource to access consistent nutrition.

"If you don't have food, you don't have anything," Dave says. "It's a fundamental need, and the Foodbank is fulfilling it for a lot of people."

Dave was first introduced to the Foodbank through his daughters, Grace and Megan. Grace volunteered at the warehouse with her company and told her parents about the Foodbank's mission and programs, which prompted Dave and his late wife to start sending checks in support.

Megan is a social worker in Cleveland and has often connected her clients with Foodbank partner agencies and programs. She also helped her dad understand the issue of hunger and the important work the Cleveland Foodbank is doing to bring relief. We're so glad Grace and Megan brought their dad to our doorstep!

Thanks to Dave and all our hardworking volunteers for your dedication to the fight against hunger in Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Foodbank is so fortunate to have the volunteer support of caring families and individuals. We couldn't fulfill our mission without you!

Volunteers are crucial to the operation of the Foodbank. Without volunteers, it wouldn't be possible to collect, sort and repack all the food that comes through our warehouse every day. If you or your group are interested in volunteer opportunities with the Foodbank, please register on our website or contact Alan Fratus at 216.738.2053 or afratus@clevelandfoodbank.org.

YOU HELP FAMILIES OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES EVERY DAY

Saleen and his wife had never worried about having enough food to put on the table for their children Ian, Laura, Jacob and Chelsea.* But a few years ago, Saleen was injured on the job while doing metal work.

Adjusting to a fixed income after working all his life has been a tough transition for Saleen. He keeps to his budget and can normally make his monthly Social Security check stretch to cover all his family's needs. But there are times when the income he receives just isn't enough.

Last fall, Saleen's furnace and water heater both went out, and the extra expense meant his family couldn't afford to buy food at the end of the month. It was a difficult reality for them to face, but thanks to friends like you, Saleen, his wife and their children had access to nutritious food during that hard time.

Saleen found out about the St. Catherine Food Pantry, a [Foodbank](#) partner agency on Cleveland's southeast side. It was such a comfort for him to be able to pick up nutritious, shelf-stable groceries and fresh produce to share with his family.

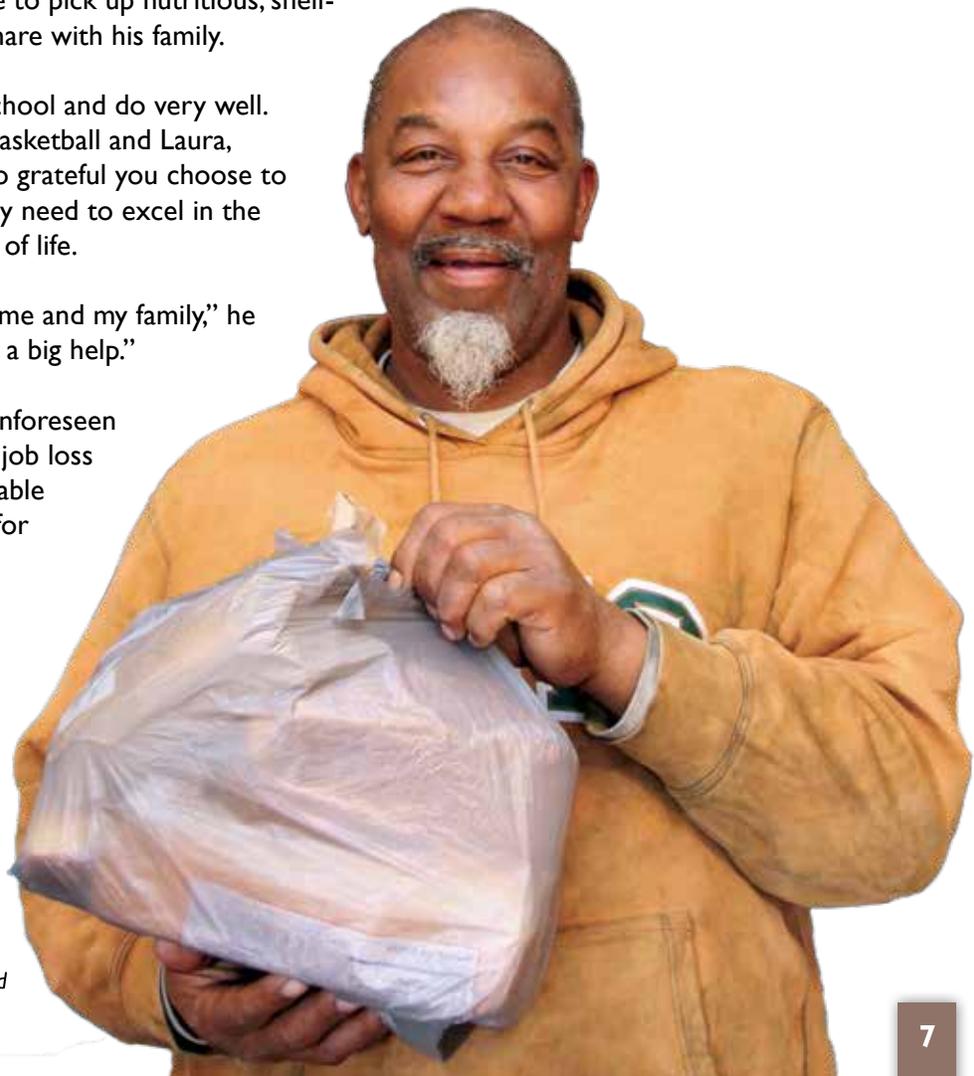
All Saleen's children work hard in school and do very well. They're stellar athletes too – Ian plays basketball and Laura, Jacob and Chelsea run track. Saleen is so grateful you choose to give so that his kids have the energy they need to excel in the classroom, on the court, and in all areas of life.

"I appreciate everything you do for me and my family," he says to donors like you. "[The pantry] is a big help."

Many local residents struggle with unforeseen circumstances like injuries, illnesses and job loss every day. And with your help, they are able to get back on solid footing. Thank you for supporting Northeast Ohio families!

* Children's names have been changed.

“I APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING YOU
DO FOR ME AND
MY FAMILY.”



Saleen
Slavic Village Neighborhood

YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING STUDENTS THRIVE

“The situation with food can be sad in Cleveland — we’re not sure how students are eating at home,” says Beverly Brown, program director of the Rainey Institute in Cleveland’s Hough neighborhood.

The Rainey Institute is one of the [Foodbank’s Kids Cafe](#) sites and provides an evening meal to about 100 boys and girls throughout the school year as part of its after-school program.

Rainey’s mission is to teach life skills through education and participation in the arts. In addition to a full, balanced meal and homework help, the after-school program includes instruction in music, dance, drama, sewing, visual arts and an intensive orchestra program called El Sistema.

Students who participate in the Rainey Institute’s arts enrichment programs also have opportunities to perform throughout the Cleveland area, which improves their confidence and develops character. They’re prepared to be “on stage” at all times, which drives them to succeed at school and in life.

The after-school program lasts from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., and it’s important that the kids have access to nutritious food during that time so they have energy and are better able to focus on their homework and craft.

Beverly says parents are especially grateful for the *Kids Cafe* food that’s provided. She knows many of the children who attend afterschool wouldn’t otherwise get a meal in the evening. She’s so grateful for your generosity, which helps give her students the fuel they need to focus.

“Thank you,” Beverly says. “The evening meal is not just a convenience for most families; it’s necessary. And it’s very much appreciated.”

Your gifts mean children who might otherwise go to bed hungry have a healthy, balanced meal to eat. Thank you for helping children thrive!

“THE EVENING MEAL IS NOT JUST A CONVENIENCE FOR MOST FAMILIES; IT’S NECESSARY. AND IT’S VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.”

Candace
Hough neighborhood



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www.clevelandfoodbank.org
216.738.2265

You can follow the
Cleveland Foodbank on
Facebook and Twitter



local coordinator of
**HARVEST
for HUNGER**