



**Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank**

## **MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

### **Legislators Pitch In and Help Distribute Fresh Produce at the Food Bank Thursday, December 21, 4 p.m.**

**WHAT:**

Legislators will show their holiday spirit by helping distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to clients at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Thursday, December 21 at 4 p.m. This special mass produce distribution happens rain or shine, once a month at the Food Bank. Last month, more than 1,500 people attended the distribution at the Food Bank.

The need for food continues to increase this holiday season. As we prepare for the holidays, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank continues to see an increase in service to those in need. In November alone, the Food Bank distributed enough for more than 4 million meals and it is on track to do the same for December. This is also an important time for fundraising – the Food Bank’s goal is to raise \$3.6 million this holiday season and so far, we are at x% of our goal. We need your help.

Overall poverty rates are still significantly higher than pre-recession levels. The number of Ohioans living in households with incomes low enough to make them eligible for help from foodbanks has increased by more than 288,000 people since the end of the Great Recession and in Cuyahoga County the number of eligible people increased by 23,000. Data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) show that from 2012-2016, about 33 percent of all individuals in Ohio, or more than 3.75 million people, lived in households with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$40,000 a year for a family of three. That’s up from about 31 percent, or 3.46 million people, from 2005-2009.

Scheduled to volunteer as of today are State Senators Matt Dolan, John Eklund , Larry Obhof and Sandra Williams; State Representatives Marlene Anielski, Stephanie Howse and Kent Smith; Cleveland City Councilman Kerry McCormack, County Councilman Dale Miller, Mayors Richard Bain (Pepper Pike) and Ed Kraus) Solon as well as staff people from the offices of other key legislators.

About 18% of the food the Food Bank distributes comes from the federal government and another 25% from the State of Ohio.

**WHEN:**

**Thursday, December 21**

- **Volunteering at the produce distribution (Photo Op) 4 pm - 4:30 pm**
- **Clients lining up for the produce starting at 3 p.m.**
- **Other photo ops are available throughout the day with volunteers and staff working in our warehouse**

**WHERE:**

**Greater Cleveland Food Bank**  
15500 South Waterloo Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44110

**CONTACT:**

Karen Pozna, 216-738-2132; cell 216-214-9436