



WE FEED CLE TOGETHER

QUARTERLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021



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Welcome to Our First Issue!

To all of our volunteers,

I am excited to announce the debut of our new Volunteer Newsletter. Communicating with our volunteers is of utmost importance, as your efforts allow us to keep our doors open and successfully do more each day! Feeding our community has always been a team effort, and we're excited to be able to better communicate with each of you on how to stay involved and support our mission. Thank you!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Kristin Warzocha
President and CEO



Volunteer Program Update: Spring 2021

A note from Matt Jackson, GCFB Volunteer Experience Manager

Spring has officially sprung! It truly feels like the beginning of a new chapter, and we have been excited to engage more and more volunteers in our mission in spite of the challenges that we've faced as a community. We couldn't be more grateful for the role that each of you has played in supporting our mission. Thanks for all that you do for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank!

We are especially excited for this new format for sharing information with our volunteers. In this issue and future editions of our quarterly newsletter, you will find Greater Cleveland Food Bank updates, volunteer highlights, and information on additional ways to get involved.

This newsletter is one of many ways that we are responding to the feedback that you have provided over the course of the past year. One of the major themes that emerged from your feedback was room for improvement in our communication. We hope that this new format helps everyone gain a better understanding of what is going on here at the Food Bank. We are also excited to share that we have revamped our Virtual Volunteer Orientation. The new version is available to view on our website and is shared with all volunteers prior to their shift. We plan to regularly review all of our materials to make sure that they are up-to-date and contain clear messaging for our volunteers.

Last but not least, Volunteer Appreciation Month just came to a close, and we couldn't let it pass without one last THANK YOU for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more about the impact of your contributions in the months and years to come.



GCFB Volunteer, John L.



Seven years at the Food Bank has led me on that shining path of many friendships.” ~ John L



The music really allowed me to groove as I packed boxes.” - Dainyell C



Our Cleveland Clinic group loved participating in our volunteer shift. It was great to work on the shelf-stable kits where we could see the direct impact to the community. The layout and experience was very efficient and we enjoyed working with the other volunteers.” ~ Nicole F



KIMBERLY LOVANO
GREATER CLEVELAND FOODBANK



TIFFANY SCRUGGS
GREATER CLEVELAND FOODBANK

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Advocacy Update: State Budget Request

This spring, our state elected officials are working hard to develop the 2022-2023 Ohio General Operating Budget. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks – which supports 12 food banks statewide – is requesting \$45 million per year over the biennium (\$90 million total) to fund emergency hunger relief efforts and help Ohioans meet their basic needs throughout the COVID-19 recovery. This is a significant increase, compared to prior funding, and it would provide \$40 million per year for the operation of the Ohio Food and Agricultural Clearance Programs, \$4 million per year to purchase, transport, store, and distribute essential non-food items, as well as \$1 million per year to support capacity building for local food pantry and anti-hunger organizations. Additionally, we are requesting \$12 million in one-time, pass-through federal funding to support the purchase and distribution of emergency foods, as well as shelf-stable items and essential non-food items, such as personal care, and household paper goods throughout 2021. The budget bill is currently working its way through the legislative process in the Ohio Senate. The Governor must sign the bill by June 30th in order for it to take effect at the start of the state fiscal year on July 1, 2021.

Another piece of state legislation, the Ohio Senate Bill 17 (SB 17), focuses on eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and unemployment insurance. SB 17 proposes harmful changes to eligibility requirements for low-income Ohioans who rely on SNAP benefits. SB 17 would require photos on EBT cards for SNAP recipients, eliminate SNAP eligibility for households with assets of more than \$2,250 (or \$3,500 for households with a senior or disabled individual), and require SNAP recipients to report small household income changes monthly. Research from 2019 estimated that the asset limit would result in 108,000 Ohioans losing SNAP benefits. Recently, members of our leadership team (pictured above) testified at the statehouse and provided insight on this bill's negative impact on the food security of Ohioans.

For more information about our state budget request, or if you have questions about SB 17, contact Kimmy LoVano (klovano@clevelandfoodbank.org) or Noel Rivera (nrivera@clevelandfoodbank.org).



AmeriCorps NCCC Partnership

The Ohio Association of Food Banks has formed a partnership with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program. In this partnership, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank has hosted groups of engaged service members. What an amazing opportunity!



The AmeriCorps teams consist of members from across the country that have made a commitment to service. Since September 2020, the Food Bank has hosted two AmeriCorps teams, and we're on our third. They have been a big support to our mission, and we gratefully appreciate their service.



Volunteer Group Highlight: Borromeo Seminary

Borromeo Seminarians started volunteering at the Food Bank in September 2020, and have completed more than 400 volunteer hours. Borromeo Seminary, a seminary college in the Diocese of Cleveland, is a community in which men discern the call to and are formed for diocesan priesthood or religious life through the integration of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation.

“The goal of pastoral service is to acquaint the Borromeo seminarians with a world in need of justice, peace and reconciliation, and to challenge them to respond in a spirit of Christian charity and service. Serving at the Food Bank during this epic pandemic has helped half of our student body to encounter this reality and respond accordingly. Their shared reflections on the impact of this service gives evidence of how a simple routine can connect one with thousands of people in need of life's most basic necessities.”

~ Brother Mick Joyce, Coordinator for Borromeo and Food Bank Partnership



Distribution Highlight

A note from Vince Cushman, Produce Partnerships Manager

From January through March 2021, we distributed a total of 1,709,248 pounds of fresh produce, shelf-stable items, dairy items, various proteins and assorted breads. We served 29,081 families and 97,576 individuals over a total of 12 weekly distributions at the Muni Lot.

We had some of the craziest weather Northeast Ohio could throw our way, everything from a typical 30 degree winter day, a nice 50+ degree day that felt like spring and then the coldest and harshest conditions we have ever faced for a distribution with 40 degrees, consistent rain and strong winds. The only constant that we have had from week to week is the phenomenal work of our volunteers.

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.



Staff Highlight: Amos Warner

Amos Warner works in our kitchen as our Cold Menu Production Lead and has been working for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for 7 years.

“We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without our volunteers — they are the backbone of our work.”

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS JAN – MAR 2021

VOLUNTEERS
1,700+

KITCHEN
1,000+
hours

REPACK
10,000+
hours

SKILLS-BASED
350+
hours

DISTRIBUTIONS
3,400+
hours



The Greater Cleveland Food Bank Is Expanding!

We are excited that the Food Bank is expanding and building a brand new food distribution center about 5 minutes from our current location on South Waterloo Road. The new site, located on Coit Road in Cleveland, will allow us to distribute even more healthy food to our partners. Photos on this page are from our April 14th Groundbreaking event.

We plan to keep our South Waterloo location and renovate it to be a new client service center, including a Healthy Choice Food Pantry and access to wrap-around services. There will be more information to come over the next several months. In the meantime, check out GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/expansion.





Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

FOOD BANK
CLOSURE
CALENDAR

 = Closed

2021

04 APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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05 MAY

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06 JUNE

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07 JULY

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08 AUGUST

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09 SEPTEMBER

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10 OCTOBER

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11 NOVEMBER

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12 DECEMBER

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