

SUMMER 2012

FOOD

for Thought

The vital link between
food and hunger.

YOU'RE HELPING
FIGHT SUMMER
HUNGER IN
**NORTHEAST
OHIO!**



Yinglu
Cleveland Heights, OH



Cleveland
Foodbank

The vital link between food & hunger.

A Member of
FEEDING
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ANNE CAMPBELL GOODMAN
President and CEO

Dear Friend,

With 70-degree days and daffodils already springing up this past March, many Northeast Ohioans were in a summer mindset early this year.

The summer-like weather had me thinking early about what I was going to do with my 10 and 13-year-old children while I'm at work and they're out of school. But I realize my worry pales in comparison to parents who not only wonder where their kids will spend their time, but "What will they eat?"

With free and reduced-price lunch programs going on hiatus, the needs of hungry children are about to spike. Last summer, the [Cleveland Foodbank](#) provided 128,000 meals to children through the summer feeding program, and this year we're hoping to serve 146,000 – an increase of 14 percent!

Our major challenge in meeting the need this summer is access. That's why we're expanding the number of feeding sites – so we can reach kids in their own neighborhoods. Poverty affects even families living in the suburbs, and we're working hard to meet their needs. For example, our site at the library in Cleveland Heights, a central location in a suburb full of kids, ensures that 50-80 more children each summer day are able to utilize our summer feeding program.

We're also increasing the amount of produce on kids' tables. Did you know one-third of Ohio children will be obese by the time they reach third grade? So many kids don't even know that food comes from the ground and not just a package at the store – some can't even describe what a carrot looks like. Providing fresh produce and teaching people how to use it and grow it will truly bolster the effort to keep kids healthy.

By taking care of our community's children, we're taking care of our future – and we're providing them hope that may not be provided elsewhere. I often talk about how much of a difference each of us can make by simply taking action. We have the power to make sure all of our neighbors have three meals a day, seven days a week. That's a tremendous goal, but I believe it's real and it's possible – as long as we work together.

Please help us provide food – and hope – to more hungry children than ever before. Thank you for all you do for our Northeast Ohio neighbors in need.

All my best,

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YOU PROVIDE SUMMER FOOD FOR KIDS IN NEED

“If we didn’t have the Cleveland Foodbank here, a lot of our kids simply would go hungry,” says Jeff Haynes, director of the Broadway Boys & Girls Club.

The Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland has an established reputation as a safe place for kids in need to learn healthy lifestyle practices, build character and get help with homework. It’s also a place where kids can expect a nutritious meal every weekday during the school year and over the summer.

Jeff says he’s thrilled to host the Foodbank’s Kids Cafe, Produce to People and Backpack programs. Not only does he get to make sure the kids have enough to eat while they’re in his care, but when they go home, too. Children who belong to the club have full access to all of these programs and meals.

During the school year, Jeff sees between 120 and 130 kids come through on a daily basis. In the summertime, however, the Broadway location sees a huge influx. Because so many children are suddenly without the free and reduced-price meals provided when class is in session, they depend on the club for summer food.

He appreciates that the [Foodbank](#) allows the club to provide a healthy balance of food. A typical meal will consist of a hearty sandwich, fresh fruit and milk. Like the Boys & Girls Club’s many constructive programs, the summer feeding initiatives have a notably positive effect on kids’ behavior and happiness.

“One really cool thing about these kids is their willingness to help serve,” Jeff notes. “I have a line of children who race to me before each meal wanting to help distribute the food, knowing that they will have to wait to eat.”

Thank you for providing needed food for Cleveland children who might otherwise go hungry. You make such a difference!

“IF WE DIDN’T HAVE THE CLEVELAND FOODBANK HERE, A LOT OF OUR KIDS SIMPLY WOULD GO HUNGRY.”

*Erika, Royale
and Aamiya
North Broadway
Neighborhood*



**THERE'S STILL
TIME TO GIVE!**

This year's Harvest for Hunger campaign is nearing its goal of raising enough food and money to provide 16 million meals, 2 million more than last year! More than 500 companies, schools, nonprofits and governmental entities, supermarkets and media partners participated by running fund and food drives this year, which will provide free, nutritious food for local soup kitchens, pantries and shelters to feed our hungry neighbors.

The campaign has benefited greatly from the vision and leadership of our co-chairs: Ken Marblestone of Charter One and RBS Citizens Ohio and Albert Ratner of Forest City Enterprises. A cornerstone of the campaign is the Check Out Hunger program, a cashier-led fundraising effort in grocery stores across the region during March and April. Collectively, participating retailers raised more than \$1.3 million dollars this year!

It's not too late to help! Every dollar you donate provides food for four nutritious meals! Visit www.harvestforhunger.org to make a gift today.

Special thanks to the following for their support of this year's campaign:

2012 Campaign Co-Chairs

Ken Marblestone, Charter One and RBS Citizens Ohio

Albert Ratner, Forest City Enterprises

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**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN NEED OF
FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

The [Cleveland Foodbank](http://ClevelandFoodbank.org) understands that times are tough and money is tight for many Northeast Ohioans. In order to help struggling families, the Foodbank has a benefit outreach program to make the application process quick and easy for more than 20 programs including SNAP (food stamps), prescription benefits, child care vouchers, WIC, medical coverage, and other assistance programs. Our team of benefit counselors can help with the application process over the phone! Counselors located throughout our 6-county service area can help with face to face applications as well. We hope to ensure that all Northeast Ohioans are receiving the benefits they need to keep their families fed.

If you or someone you know is struggling to put food on the table and not receiving SNAP (food stamps) currently, call to see if you are eligible for this or other benefits. Benefit counselors can also make referrals to a food pantry or other agency in your neighborhood. Call (216) 738-2067 for assistance.

SAVE THE DATE

TASTE OF THE BROWNS

Join us at the 14th Annual Taste of the Browns Monday, September 10 at the Cleveland Browns Stadium. All proceeds benefit the Cleveland Foodbank and the fight against hunger.



THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING SUMMER HUNGER



Norbert
Euclid, OH

Joseph
Near West Side
Neighborhood

Malika
Lee-Miles Neighborhood

Tiffany
Ohio City, OH

MAKING AN IMPACT – AND LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS – AS FOODBANK VOLUNTEERS



Connie and Penny working hard in the Cleveland Community Kitchen.

Penny Roberts and Connie Pool have been close friends since age 11. The women grew up together in Euclid, lived together in college and even taught math at the same school. Now both retired, Penny and Connie remain two of a kind – they volunteer together preparing meals in the Foodbank’s Cleveland Community Kitchen.

About seven years ago, Penny read in the paper that the [Cleveland Foodbank](#) was having an open house. She was very aware of the hunger problem facing her community – even back then – and was looking for a way to get involved.

“There’s such a need out there,” Penny says. “You just feel like you’ve got to do something.”

Naturally, she recruited her longtime comrade to join

in the effort. Connie has been a volunteer for about four years. She says she loves the friends she’s made at the Foodbank and the feelings of satisfaction the work gives her.

“It’s a way of giving back – it feels good to do something good,” she says.

Both nearly 70, Penny and Connie are incredibly active. Connie loves to garden, go camping with her husband and spend time with elderly members of her church – she takes them to the grocery store and doctor appointments and brings them meals. Penny is a member of the Cleveland Hiking Club and also enjoys reading, biking and recruiting more volunteers.

“Anyone would find it fulfilling,” Penny says of volunteering. “To me, it’s very important. I feel very blessed and want to give back.”

Connie is so glad her friend encouraged her to help out at the Foodbank. She loves getting to know the variety of folks who give their time and looks forward to seeing them when she volunteers.

“There are people from all walks of life – it’s neat to hear their stories,” she says. “It’s good and interesting work to be a part of. I would tell anyone to just give it a try. It’s fun!”

The Cleveland Foodbank is truly blessed to have enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers such as Penny and Connie. Thank you both for standing with us in the fight against hunger!

JOIN TOMORROW’S HARVEST

Tomorrow’s Harvest is a society recognizing individuals who have included the Cleveland Foodbank in their estate plans through a bequest, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. Through these special gifts, our supporters are able to make a thoughtful and significant difference in our community, even beyond their lifetimes. Because, as long as there are hungry people in Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Foodbank will be here to feed them.

To learn more about how your generosity could make an impact for generations to come, please contact Stephanie Mowls, Development Officer, at 216.738.2137 or smowls@clevelandfoodbank.org.

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 is 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 YOUNG FAMILIES GROW UP STRONG AND HEALTHY

After several months of searching for a new job since being laid off, Margaret has finally found a position as an in-home healthcare worker. She's so excited to have an income once again, but she knows it will take time for her finances to recover from the time out of work.

Margaret and her two young children – Allanah, 12, and Keegan, 4 – recently relocated to Mentor, Ohio. The move was a big expense. Margaret had been living with and taking care of her father, but when he died, she was devastated, and without a home.

Allanah's in middle school and on the free-meal program, and Keegan is in the Head Start program. Margaret is already fretting about what she'll do this summer to make up for the hot breakfasts and lunches her children depend on during the school year.

Although her new job is helping the family get back on their feet, Margaret is concerned about whether or not her budget will be able to stretch far enough to include fuel costs, rent and utilities, let alone meals for her family.

But thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Margaret has one less expense to worry about. She discovered the food pantry at Mentor Church of Christ, a local [Cleveland Foodbank](#) partner agency where she can pick up hearty grocery staples to keep her family full and healthy.

Margaret is overwhelmingly grateful for the help of generous neighbors like you who choose to give so her children won't have to go to bed hungry.

"It's been tough," she says. "This place will really help us this summer."

*Margaret and her son, Keegan
Mentor, Ohio*



“THIS PLACE WILL
REALLY HELP US
THIS SUMMER.”

URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO PROTECT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Food banks and hunger programs throughout the country rely on federal nutrition programs to help feed hungry Americans. These programs are authorized through the Farm Bill.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is particularly important as the source of 27 percent of the food moving through the national network of food banks. As demand has increased, this nutritious food from the USDA has declined, putting a strain on food banks across the nation.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is the foundation of the nutrition safety net.

Both of these important programs are authorized and funded through the Farm Bill, which will expire at the end of September. **Please take a minute to send a message to your Senators and Member of Congress urging them to protect these programs.** Visit www.clevelandfoodbank.org and select “Advocate” from the menu on the left. From there, click the link to “Learn more” under “Current Issues.”

YOU'RE GIVING EVEN MORE KIDS ACCESS TO SUMMER MEALS

Cleveland Heights is one of our community's most diverse suburbs. Probably due to the fact that John D. Rockefeller built an estate there, the area is often misconceived as being one of the area's more affluent neighborhoods.

But as Sam Lapidis, Young Adult Services Coordinator at Cleveland Heights Library will tell you, poverty exists everywhere – approximately one in three children in Cleveland Heights lives below the poverty level. This summer will be the library's third time to host its Summer Lunch Club program, which provides a hot lunch for 50 to 80 kids every day of the week during the summer.

Not only is the library a good place for unemployed parents to take their kids for free activities during the summer, it's also available to working moms and dads who have a hard time affording extra summer meals for their children. Sam notices many youngsters showing up for morning story time and lining up for a free lunch immediately after.

"We see kids spend their entire days here," Sam says. "We're glad we're able to feed them."

Because the library is centrally located, it's a good access point for the [Foodbank](#) to connect children in need with hearty meals. Sam's happy to note that many kids who sign in for lunch also sign up for the library's summer reading program, giving the Summer Lunch Club a doubled positive impact.

Kids and parents are so appreciative of the Summer Lunch Club and often write thank-you notes for staff and volunteers.

One mother wrote on a picture of Tinkerbell that her child had colored: "I just want to thank the staff for taking the time to give lunch to my family. We visited the library [and] we had lunch – that saved me as I'm unemployed. Thank you again."

Thank you so much for helping us provide summer meals to Northeast Ohio families in need.

*Emma
Cleveland Heights, OH*

“**WE’RE GLAD
WE’RE ABLE TO
FEED THEM.**”



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