Our Mission
To find, rescue and distribute food to people living in poverty through an efficient network, uniting the public and private sectors;
To raise awareness of the impact of poverty.

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Federal program not meeting basic needs
When was the last time you spent $2.36 on a meal? Could you get by on $1.86?

According to a new study by the Urban Institute, that's the average amount per person spent by people living in food insecure households in the United States. The average American spends $12.75 per meal at home.

But the primary government program helping food insecure families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance or SNAP, covers only $1.86 of that $2.36. That's a 27% deficit.

More than 42 million Americans received benefits totaling approximately $64 billion in 2017.

Substantial evidence shows that SNAP effectively reduces food insecurity and poverty for millions of people and has important long-term benefits for children and families.

However, several recent policy proposals include reductions in SNAP funding, and revenue shortfalls in the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 will likely increase pressure on safety net programs such as SNAP.

At the time this article was published, there was evidence that SNAP recipients were able to access food insecure households to get by on $1.86 of that $2.36.

I think people ought to know that people on SNAP are regular people. They're people that you probably know. There shouldn't be a stigma. It's important because it helps people put food on the table.

- Robert Zohfeld
SNAP Outreach Supervisor
513-276-9261

Kathleen lives alone in Lindenwald and manages to get by on $755 a month in Social Security benefits. Still, she only qualifies for $16 a month in SNAP benefits.

That's not enough to feed herself all the time, so once or twice a month she goes to a food pantry to supplement what food she buys and receives from other programs, such as Shared Harvest's Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Like many elderly Americans, Kathleen cannot survive solely on government programs, and says quite frankly that without food pantries and her monthly box, "I'd probably go hungry a lot of the time."

"There's a ton of food insecurity in Southwestern Ohio right now," said Robert Zohfeld, Shared Harvest's new SNAP Outreach Supervisor. "I see people who are homeless and just don't have a job, have no income, and we help those people acquire food to support their children and their families."

"A lot of times the help is temporary, but a lot of the people are also disabled, or elderly, and they are on a fixed income. Most people I see need help for a longer period of time, but I also see people who maybe lost a job and they're just trying to get through and keep food on the table for the next couple months."

When was the last time you spent $2.36 on a meal? Could you get by on $1.86?
Notes from our director...

In mid-February, I fell causing a shoulder injury that I am still recuperating from, and it has been an eye-opening experience causing me to count my blessings… I have health insurance and a team of medical professionals. I have paid sick leave and the ability to work remotely from home as necessary, thanks to technology, so I have a paycheck coming in every two weeks.

I have an incredible support system thanks to family, friends and colleagues who have picked up groceries I ordered online, brought in my mail, helped with household chores and even cut and shampooed my hair.

I have learned how hard it is to live with a disability (albeit temporarily) and how aging slows the healing process and limits your options for things as simple as cooking, doing dishes… taking a shower.

This injury has given me such a meaningful understanding for people who do not have what I have. While I am struggling, I know there is an end in sight and my life will return to what most Americans consider normal.

For those whose struggle IS their normal, they have few options but to depend on our food pantry and soup kitchen network for groceries or meals, our shelter network for a place to lay their weary heads. But as much as we do, we can only provide so much as charities rely on donations.

In this fight against hunger, federal nutrition programs like SNAP, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, WIC, school breakfast and lunch, senior nutrition programs to name a few provide ten meals for every one meal charity can provide for those who have nowhere else to turn. Without these programs, in addition to charitable food distribution, hunger in America would be a much bigger problem than we have today.

Let’s break down the numbers for the 2017 Federal budget: The federal outlay (spending) totaled approximately $3,650,000,000,000 (that’s what trillions looks like). Spending on federal nutrition programs totaled approximately $97,980,000,000 (that’s billions). BIG numbers, but in the scheme of things, federal nutrition programs are about 2.7% of the federal budget. That means 2.7 cents of every tax dollar you and I pay goes to help people facing hunger.

So, ask yourself this: If I lost my income, how long could I last without needing both federal nutrition assistance and charity? What about my family, friends, neighbors? Is 2.7 cents of every tax dollar worth having a safety net for all of us if needed? Seems like a small price to pay to live in a society that cares for its own.
When we think about hunger, we might think back to the Great Depression or to the global ads you see on television for other countries.

But 41 million Americans struggle with putting enough food on their table, and in Ohio that means 1 in 6 households do not have enough to eat.

The reality is what we think we know about hunger is not always what hunger looks like. When you are talking about 41 million or 1 in 6 households, that means it is possible you could be living next door to someone who is food insecure and never even know it.

Likewise, when people think about advocacy, they often imagine only one aspect of it which is engaging with elected officials through petitions, phone calls, and in person visits.

Certainly, this is part of what an advocate does but more importantly it is about being an informed citizen and passing that knowledge on to our communities.

When all of us are informed, I truly believe a difference can be made when we are looking at protecting and strengthening the programs needed to ensure everyone has enough food to eat.

The best place to start is by debunking many of the myths surrounding people living in poverty:

#1 MYTH: There’s a hunger crisis in other parts of the world—not in America.
FACT: High housing costs, rising food prices and unexpected expenses have left millions unable to stretch their dollars far enough. Sometimes they can put a warm meal on the table after a long day—and sometimes they go to bed hungry.

#2 MYTH: People who face hunger in America are typically homeless and unemployed.
FACT: Most of the households we serve are not homeless, and they have at least one working adult. Even though they’re pinching pennies, they struggle to fill their plates with the food they need to keep going.

#3 MYTH: Hunger is most frequently found in cities.
FACT: Seventy-five percent of the counties with the highest hunger rates in America are in rural areas. Limited access to jobs, transportation and education make it tough to earn a living in remote areas like rural Alaska.

#4 MYTH: Food waste and hunger are different problems with different solutions.
FACT: Shared Harvest Foodbank and Feeding America work with food companies, farmers and other generous partners to rescue more than 3 billion pounds of food each year and help deliver it to families in need. We believe that rescuing food from going to waste is critical to solving the hunger problem in our country.

#5 MYTH: I can’t do much to help overcome challenges like hunger and food waste.
FACT: Individual actions add up to make a significant impact. There are many ways you can help Shared Harvest fight hunger and poverty.

If you are interested in learning more about the Farm Bill and the importance of no structural changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, formerly and still known as food stamps, please call Sarah at 513-874-0114, email sarah@sharedharvest.org or visit our advocacy page at www.sharedharvest.org to sign up for advocacy alerts.

True Stories From Shared Harvest SNAP Outreach

I met Keith at a food pantry in Hamilton, Ohio. He is a single father of an infant son. When Keith is not working, he is caring for his son. Keith works for a local cleaning company and struggles to make ends meet. To continue working at his job, Keith is required to pay childcare costs daily. Keith told me that he is starting to get back on his feet and SNAP benefits will help alleviate some of the strain of having to purchase food. He has high hopes that he will thrive and is optimistic about his future. Keith wants to help others and give back to his community.

There is a growing number of single fathers in the US; this number has grown nearly nine-fold in the past 50 years. As a community, we can help protect programs like SNAP. Keith is a hard-working father who is just trying to make it in the world. He would prefer not to be on government assistance, but he knows that SNAP will help him make better nutritional choices for his son and himself. I am really happy I was able to help Keith that day.

— Nikki Jennings

I met Michael at The Salvation Army in Middletown, Ohio. He wanted to apply for SNAP benefits and we talked about his current problems. Michael is homeless, but he is fortunate enough to have a friend who provides him with shelter. Michael was recently laid off from his job and is not receiving any income.

The only food he receives is from his local food pantry. I helped Michael fill out his SNAP application and told him about organizations in his area that can assist him with housing.

There are many people like Michael who are living in the homes of friends or relatives, but not living in homeless shelters. These people are considered homeless because they do not have shelter of their own. SNAP benefits will help Michael put food on his table and allow him to focus on other essential tasks, like finding a job.

I am glad I met Michael. I could tell that he was more optimistic about his future when he left. I truly hope everything works out for him.

— Peter N. Engelhard Jr.
We Feed People Because...

No one should go hungry
Our core mission is to alleviate hunger by distributing surplus marketable and wholesome grocery products to a network of charitable food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other distributing organizations. Shared Harvest Foodbank serves the Ohio counties of Butler, Darke, Miami, Preble and Warren; which in turn distribute these products to needy and hungry people.

Food is Education
Shared Harvest’s BackPack program provides children dependent on school breakfast and lunch with meals and snacks for the weekend during the school year. Our surveys have shown that 70% of the children who participate in this program show improvement somewhat or very much in attendance, classroom behavior and performance. In 2017:
• An average of 3200 children were served weekly
• 100,555 bags of food were distributed
• 418,979 meals provided

Food is Medicine
CSFP provides a monthly box of nutritious supplemental food for persons over the age 60 whose income is at or below 130% of the federal poverty line. This program provides healthy food focused on the dietary needs of an aging population; which helps to improve health and reduce medical costs, so people do not have to choose between food and medicine. In 2017:
• An average of 1519 seniors were served monthly
• 18,222 boxes of food were provided
• 411,233 meals provided

Food is Hope
Our network of partner charities provides families living in poverty with one of the most basic human rights—access to food. In 2017:
• An average of 34,200 people received about 3 to 5 days worth of food monthly from pantries.
• An average of 29,600 meals were served monthly by soup kitchens and shelters
• Through our outreach program, 1447 households were able to apply for SNAP benefits providing an additional 1,100,952 meals

Through the combined support of national and local donors & federal and state programs, our network was able to provide 6,988,617 meals to people in need.
Almost half of the food we distributed in 2017, came from private donors, but charity cannot do it all. Safety net programs such as TEFAP, CSFP, OFP, ACP, & SNAP allow our network to provide 3,385,900 more meals to people in need, right here at home.

6,988,617 Meals Provided By Source

- In Kind Food Donations: 3,061,370
- TEFAP: 1,121,866
- SNAP: 1,100,952
- Ohio Food Program: 751,849
- CSFP: 411,233
- Clearance Program: 406,304
- Purchase Program: 135,043

$9,330,961 in Revenue

- Food Donations*: $7,138,678
- Government Grants: $706,693
- Contributions: $638,337
- Partner Charities: $389,007
- United Way: $192,628
- Ohio Assn. of Foodbanks: $174,785
- Foundations: $65,659
- Miscellaneous: $25,174

$9,278,318 in Expenses

- Food Distributed*: $7,073,502
- Operations: $1,829,285
- Food/Fund Development: $173,686
- Management & Support: $201,845

*Valued at $1 per pound
**Food Donors**

**Retail Pick-Up**

A M Conservation Group
A.L. Smith Transport
ABC Trucking
Advance/Pierre Foods
Aero Fulfillment Services
Anonymous
Bar S Foods
Beaver Street Fisheries
Bulldog Freightway
Busken Bakery
CBTS
Chickpea Chicks Hummus
Classic Foods
Colorado Premium Foods
ConAgra
Continental Express
Dale Fibrun Farms
Davids Tea
DHL
Frito-Lay Company
Good Foods Made Simple
Kellogg’s
Kraft Biscuit (Mondelez)
Kum & Go
Lakota Transport Inc.
Meijer Distribution Center
Miller Poultry
Nestle USA Inc.
Nestle Waters
Nihm Trucking
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Petsmart
Portion Pac/Heinz
Prairie Star Farms Dairy
Sanderson Farms
Schwanns Food Service
Smithfield Packaging
Supply Chain
Swift Transport
Tropicana
Tyson Foods
USDA
Vendors Supply of Ohio
Victory Wholesale Grocers
White Castle

**Individual Food Donors**

Christine Crear
Ryan Ehlinger
Simon Fluckiger
Irene Harrell
Julie Lamar
Rosemary Miller

Maria Ohl
Deklen Ombrek
Brad Ruter
Matthew Scagnelli
Charles Schwartz
Jennifer Sharras
Food Drives

Aftermarket Group
Thyssenkrupp
AK Steel
Arc Document Solutions
Austin Fartes Scouts
Badin High School
Butler Behavioural Health
Butler RTA
Butler Tech
Camp Campbell Guard
Camp World
CarMax
Cheesecake Factory
Childrens Learning Adventure
City of Hamilton
Clark Shafer & Hackett
Clarke Power Services
Community First Solutions
Community Health
Conitech Engineered
Solutions
Core & Main
Cornerstone Church
Crossview Christian Church
CSL Plasma
Deklen Ombrek
Delta Kappa Gamma Chi
DNA Diagnostics
Dollar General
Elements
ES3
Fairfield Senior High
FedEx
Fifth/Third Bank Food Drive
First Financial Bank
G.E. Aviation
GE Aviation
Goldfish Swim School
Graham Packaging
Graphel Carbon Products
Hamilton Library
Hi-Tek Manufacturing
Home 2 Suites
Kettering Health Network
Kroger HO
Kroger Marketing Associates
Lane Library
Life Span
Logicals
Macy’s Bag Hunger
Manheim
Meister Dental
Miami Hamilton
Miami M Town
MK Dental Excellence
Montessori Academy 8th
Graders
New Beginning Covenant Church
Ohio Eagle

Thanksgiving by Fred
The holidays, by John &
Patsyann Biederman
Pam Biederman by R.P. &
In Honor Of...

In Memory Of...

Tracy & Cecil Abney by
Carolyn Abney
Phillip Baker by Wayna Baker
Bea Loomis by Baker Family
Dencil Brooks by Norma
Barnes
Edward Bolger by Alice
Bolger
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bonner Sr. by
Paul Bonner
Lloyd Barnes by Terry & Mary
Brooks
Peggy Burdette by James
Burdette
Peggy G. Blanton by James
Burdette
Michael Cifuentes by Carolyn
Cifuentes
Shelia Crehan by Matt
Crehan
Edward J. Demske by
Elizabeth Demske

Mike by Margit Deutsch
Alison Moore by Andy &
Sarah Dillhoff
Diane Teubner by Janet
Eckerfield
Joseph Elam by Jenny Elam
Gene Collins by Frances
Fowler-Collins
Duane & Helen Gambrell,
Frances Kirby & George
Kirby by Michael & Carol
Gambrell
Joey Gibson by Dennis &
Mary Garland
Lou & Theresa Geiger by
Louis & Cheryl Geiger
Howard & Bette Green by
Patrick Green
Elmer Bitzer Jr. by Steve &
Olivia Harmon
Greg Farrish by Steve Glaub
Dean Crossley by Ronald &
Robin Herzog

Hilbert Lentz by Ronald &
Robin Herzog
Sam & Helen Isgro and Don
& Faye Yeakie by Steve
Isgro
Marlyn Stephenson by Craig &
Terry Jacobs Jacobs
Alberta Stricker by Leah
Lewis
Sam Liko by Gaynelle Liko
Mary Ann Armstrong by
Dianna Manning
Joy Keitz (Whaley) by Susan
Marvin
Charles McKinney by David
McKinney
David J. Metzler by Sandy
Metzler
Gertrude Resko by Kimberly
Nelson

In Memory Of...

Pam Biederman by R.P. &
Patsyann Biederman
The holidays, by John &
Barbara Blom
Thanksgiving by Fred
Bohanna
Margie Davidson for the
holidays by Keith Davidson
The Fecher Family by James &
Peggy Fairbanks
Tina by Cora & Bob Fiehner
The birth of Lauren Allen
Foley by Daniel & Diane
Foley
Chris & Nicole Griffith by
Rebecca Griffith

Nancy Halck on her Birthday
by Richard & Mary Griss
The Griss Family by Richard
& Mary Griss
The Hacker Family at
Thanksgiving by Arnold &
Virginia Hacker
Grandchildren by Neil &
Karen Hand
The birthday of Jana Morse
by Marlyn Heiger
Christmas by Cheryl Huebner
Christmas for my fellow staff at
Cornerstone Counseling
and Consulting by Dawn
Kearns

Christmas by Larry Knapp
Mary Knollman by Leonard
Knollman
Tony & Mary Osso by James
Korb
Mildred Lowther by Dan
Lowther
Ruth Schlabach by Susan
Marvin
C. Linch McKinney by David &
Janet McKinney
Christmas by Bob & Betty
Meiner
Thanksgiving by Jeff Miliner
Mary & Evan Paulus by Dale
Paulus

In Memory Of...

James E. Paulus by Suzanne
Paulus
Mary Potts Greene by Tim
Potts
The Fecher Family by David &
Deborah Ratterman
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Walker at the
holidays by Stephen &
Phyllis Schwartz
Pete, Terry & Cindy by
Barbara Sheyer
Dick & Mary Griss by Robin
Solazzo

The birthday of Carol Lentz by
Edna Stamper
The Vail Family by Donald &
Florence Vail
Steve & Phyllis Schwartz for the
holidays by Greg & Jo
Walker
Dr. Samuel L. DeLeeuw by
Joan Witt
My grandma who gave to
Shared Harvest for years
and I would like to carry on
the tradition of giving by
Mimi Zenni

Each ONE DOLLAR you give
provides SEVEN MEALS
FOR A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

OPW
Perform Your Core
Pole Zero
Process Plus
Res Care
Ridgeway School
Ryan’s Tavern
S.A.N.E.
SafeCo
Skylove
Springdale Deluxum Cinema

Swim Outlet
TaeKwon Donation
The Cleaning Authority
Thyssenkrupp Bilstein Of
America
Total Quality Logistics
Tri Health Digestive Institute
Ultimus Solutions
Villas of Park Place
Wayback Burgers
WWW Management

In Honor Of...

The birth of Carol Lentz by
Edna Stamper
The Vail Family by Donald &
Florence Vail
Steve & Phyllis Schwartz for the
holidays by Greg & Jo
Walker
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It’s more than just a fund-raising campaign. It’s a new way to shop for groceries for your family and bring food to the tables of hungry neighbors. The Kroger Round-Up fundraising campaign began in all area stores on March 5 and will run indefinitely, giving shoppers the option to “round up” their total grocery purchase at the cash register, with 100% of the funds benefiting Shared Harvest Foodbank in the five counties we serve. Round-Up is part of Zero Hunger | Zero Waste, a national effort introduced by The Kroger Co. to end hunger in the communities Kroger calls home and eliminate waste across the company by 2025.