

SUMMER  
**2018**

## Shared Harvest

FOODBANK  
HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.  
GIVING IS.

www.sharedharvest.org

### Inside this Edition

- 2 Notes From Our Director
- 3 Advocacy Corner
- 5 Billy Two Shoes
- 6 SNAP Stories
  - Conagra Grant
- 7 Honorariums/Memorials
- 7 Food Donors
- 8 Stamp Out Hunger

### 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.

FEEDING  
AMERICA



OHIO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOODBANKS



Richard O Jones  
Editor

# harvest gatherings



## Food boxes give students \$\$\$ relief

Even with the benefits available to him as a disabled American veteran, Miami University Regional Campus student Chris Miller still has trouble making ends meet while he finishes up his degree in computer information technology.

“Because I’m on rehab, I live on a \$600 a month stipend,” Chris said. “\$600 isn’t enough for me have rent, food, water, electricity.”

But feeding himself is less of an issue these days because of a three-way partnership between the Miami Regionals, the Hamilton YWCA, and Shared Harvest Foodbank, who with a grant from the Butler County Development Roundtable provides boxes of non-perishable

foods to qualifying students.

“The food boxes help out tremendously,” he said, “It frees up \$100 to help me pay my bills and take care of what I need to take care of so that I can stay in school.”

Sue Sepela is the director of the Learning Center at the Miami Regional Campuses and captain of the Support Team whose broad mission is to help students achieve their goals.

“We provide a lot of great support and extracurriculars, but we’re still not doing enough because sometimes our students aren’t able to work as

*Continued on page 4...*

## A hidden campus crisis

Sizable fractions of students who were doing very poorly in college... were dealing with food and/or housing insecurity.

According to a new study by the University of Wisconsin’s HOPE Center, “Still Hungry and Homeless in College,” more than one-third of America’s college students are facing hunger.

The report, which is the first to include students from two-year, four-year, private and public universities, found that nearly 1 in 10 community college students have gone a whole day without eating in the past month. That number was 6 percent among university students.

Researchers said that ballooning college costs, inadequate aid packages and growing enrollment among low-income students are all contributing factors. On top of that, some colleges are unwilling to admit they have a

*Continued on page 4...*

## Notes from our director...

**M**rs. Mazum was the lunch lady at my grade school and she ruled her kitchen like a queen. She wore the ubiquitous hair net and flower-patterned apron. She would fill your plate with food and made sure you ate your share, not wasting a crumb. She watched over us like a hawk, and there was no such thing as being shamed because your parents were behind on the lunch tab.

It was this way all through my schooling, including college. I had the room and board plan – three meals a day and a shared bunk room – there was no separation between them, you either had room and board or you lived off campus. And there was no choice – you either ate what was served or you didn't eat. Now, there are many meal plans on campus which is separate from housing, and the choices for building your own meals are amazing – like food courts in the mall.

Food service in schools and on college campuses is great – much better, healthier foods and many more choices – as long as you have money. Students whose parents fall behind in paying their lunch tab may face a lunch quite different than the regular lunches provided to others, if at all. This isn't the fault of the lunch ladies, but a change in how providing food to students is viewed. Schools faced with ever tightening budgets look to food service to at least be self-sustaining if not make a small profit. So those who fall behind are penalized by having their children singled out in the lunch line. It's economics.

On college campuses, you just go without. If you can't afford a meal plan, or to buy a meal, you don't eat. Approximately 36% of every 1,000 college students are classified as food insecure – meaning the lack of reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food.

We expect people to get a better education so they can be more productive, tax-paying citizens who are working toward attaining the American dream... but 36% of our college students are going hungry. How do we expect them to learn, let alone excel if their stomachs are empty and their brains don't have the fuel to focus and concentrate?

Food pantries are springing up in schools and on college campuses at an alarming rate in hopes of getting food into the hands of students who need it. The more expensive higher education is the more likely the issues of hunger will grow – or those who can barely afford college now will be locked out and higher education will become one more societal divider between the haves and have nots. It's economics.

It doesn't have to be this way. Food is as important a tool in education as books, technology, desks... and should be provided as such. Mrs. Mazum would be spitting mad if she knew how many children go hungry at school and on campus because of economics. After all, she was most concerned about 'her students' eating good so they could learn best – something she did not have growing up in the Great Depression. We have the means to properly feed students, we just need the will to do so.



Executive Director

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Kroger Round Up**

Round up your grocery purchase to the nearest dollar  
Every time you shop

### **Rubber Duck Regatta**

July 27 – Sept 1

#### **Duck Drop Sept 2**

Buy your Ducks at Kroger, look for the \$5/\$10/\$25 coupons at the register for a chance to win prizes and fight childhood hunger here at home.

### **Hunger Action Month**

September

Visit [www.sharedharvest.org](http://www.sharedharvest.org)  
for more information

### **Member Agency Conference**

Sept 21

### **Food for All Food Truck Rally**

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

September 29

Marcum Park, Hamilton

Food Fun Music

Food Drive

[www.sharedharvest.org](http://www.sharedharvest.org)  
for more information

# New Farm Bill proposals could mean massive cuts to SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the front line defense against hunger, enabling 1 in 8 Americans to put food on the table. But, both the US House and the Senate's early Farm Bill proposals puts the program in jeopardy.

## What you should know:

- Nearly 1.4 million Ohioans receive SNAP benefits. For every meal foodbanks provide across the nation SNAP provides 12. Without it, foodbanks would not be able to fill the gap in need.
- Recent proposals call for radically restructuring SNAP by increasing the age of people who must fulfill work requirement to qualify for benefits, shifting precious resources to untested and unproven employment and training programs that states will struggle to implement in any meaningful way to actually help people find living wage jobs.
- The proposed work requirements also reduces the age of children that exempt parents from meeting the requirement to age 3. It will be more expensive to pay for child care while the parent is trying to meet the requirement instead of allowing parents to remain home to care for their children while continuing to receive SNAP.



## ADVOCACY CORNER

Sarah Ombrek

- Any changes to SNAP should be based on the reality of who is currently served by SNAP. Most participants who can work, do work. Among those who don't, two out of three are children, older adults and people with disabilities.

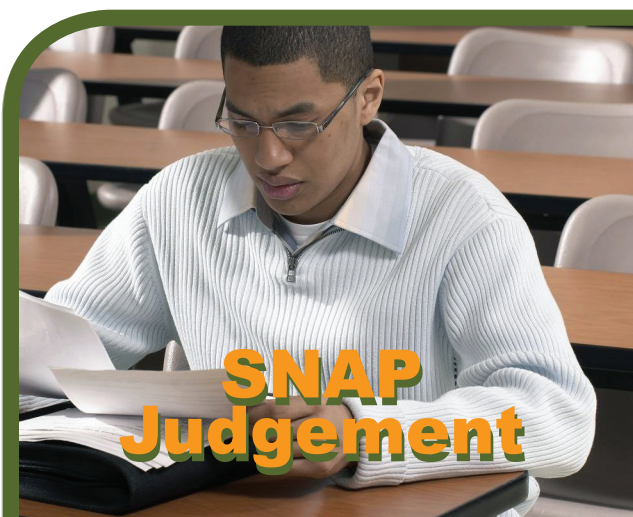


Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program

## What you can do:

- ✓ Sign up to receive advocacy emails with details about calls to action, contacting your legislators, advocacy events and other opportunities
- ☎ Send a message to your lawmakers letting them know that SNAP is vital, effective and must be protected
- Become an Advocate with Shared Harvest and raise your voice with us

Sign up at [SharedHarvest.org/advocacy](https://SharedHarvest.org/advocacy) or give Sarah Ombrek a call at 1-800-352-3663.



Most college students who face food insecurity may qualify for SNAP benefits because of their low income but can't receive benefits unless they meet at least one of the many bureaucratic rules, such as:

- Must be age 17 or younger or age 50 or older
- Is enrolled in college because of an Ohio Works First (welfare) requirement
- Has minor children
- Must work at least 20 hours per week

If they do receive SNAP benefits, they cannot use SNAP benefits on college campuses meals programs, which means they would have the added expense of living off campus.

## Food Boxes *continued*

many outside hours because we want them to be devoted to school,” Sue said. “So I wanted to see if I could help with some food, a snack box to lower the burden of grocery bills.”

She applied for and received a \$1,000 grant from the Butler County Development Roundtable, a professional association of development and fund-raising professionals from charities, to fund bi-weekly food boxes through Shared Harvest.

Because the university couldn’t administer the program as it involved food, Sepela sought a third partner to help facilitate the program and turned to Wendy Waters Connell, who recently became the executive director of the Hamilton YWCA and whose husband Chris is also a director of administration the Regional Campuses. And in a small-town kind of way, Sue Sepela is also the secretary of the YWCA board.

“It’s a storage issue,” Wendy said. “When she called me, I told her we have some open storage areas in the YW. This is part of the wider picture of our mission to support the community with connections and partnerships. So the food comes to us and she picks it up a couple of times a month, takes it to her office, gets it distributed to the students.”

They were all surprised at the amount of food that their grant could provide coming through Shared Harvest. More than the “snack box” that Sue had anticipated, the boxes include staple food items like pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, granola bars and even treats like Oreo Cookies.

“My favorite is the beef stew,” Chris said. “It’s probably about a week’s worth (of meals). It frees up \$100 to help me pay my bills and take care of what I need to take care of so that I can stay in school.”

## Hidden Crisis *continued*

hunger problem.

College hunger is not a new issue, researchers caution. But it appears to be growing worse, and not merely because college is getting more expensive.

Key findings include:

- 36% of university students were food insecure in the 30 days preceding the survey. This year’s estimate for community college students is 42%, but our larger study last year found 56%.

- 36% of university students were housing insecure in the last year. Housing insecurity affected 51% of community college students in last year’s study, and 46% in this year.

- 9% of university students were homeless in the last year. In comparison, 12% of community college students were homeless in this year’s survey, and 14% in last year’s survey.

“The data show that basic needs insecurities disproportionately affect marginalized students and are associated with long work hours and higher risk of unemployment,” the report concluded.

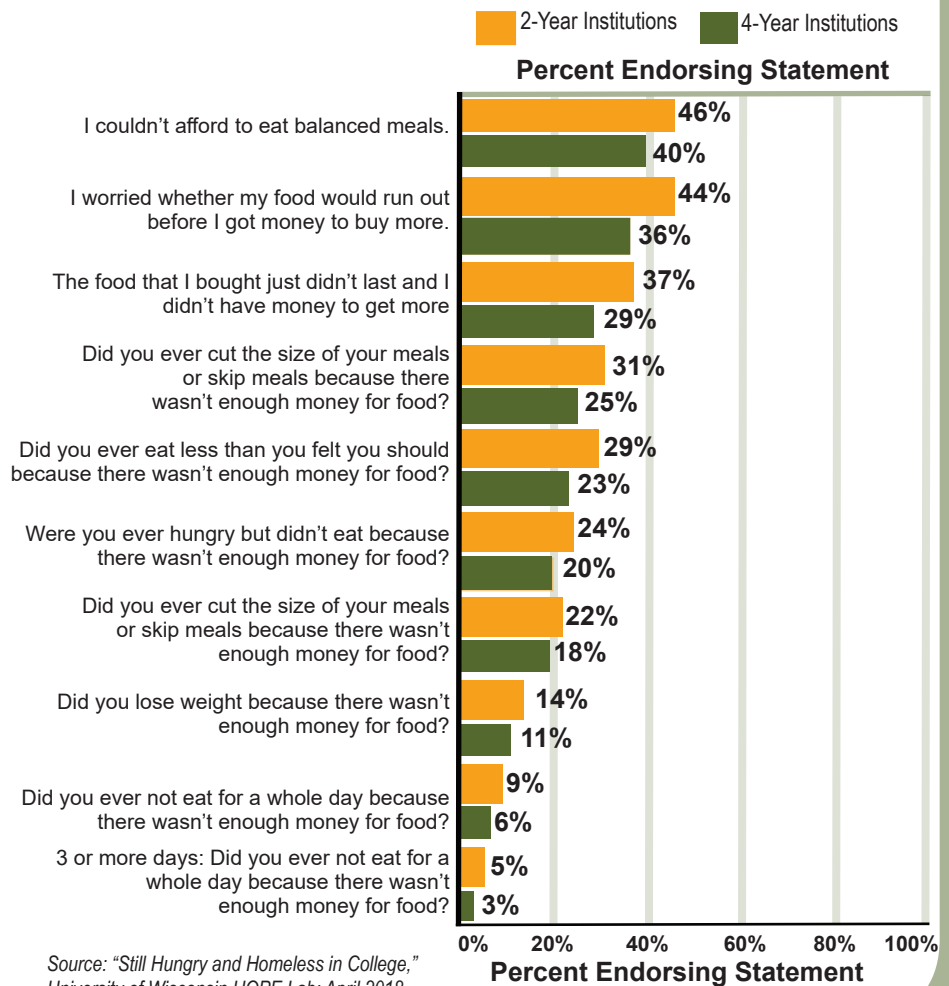
“The bottom line is clear: Educational attainment in the United States is being hindered by neglect of ... students’ basic needs [which] must be secured if they are to learn at any level—elementary, secondary, or postsecondary.

“For more than a decade, researchers have demonstrated the need and explained its scope and dimensions. The next and very necessary step is action.”

To view a PDF copy of “Still Hungry and Homeless in College” visit the News page at

[www.sharedharvest.org](http://www.sharedharvest.org)

### Food Insecurity Among College Students



# Billy Two Shoes will play for food

It's tough to put a label on the kind of music Billy Two Shoes plays as it comes from a place where country, bluegrass, and rock'n'roll intersect. But even as their musical roots are beautifully muddled, their mission is clear,

While most bands play with dreams of pop stardom, for the love of music and money, for the unsurpassed joy of creative expression, or some combination of the above, Billy Two Shoes has a different kind of musical mission.

"We make music to feed folks," said Josh Lawson, one of the trio. While Josh lives in Fairfield, his two band-mates, James Gettles and John Jenkins, both live in the Columbus area. So even though I-71 keeps them from playing together a lot, maybe once a month, when they do, they give the proceeds away, both the band's fee for playing and tip money they collect from the patrons of whatever establishment they are treating to their brand of music.



When they play in Josh's neighborhood, as they did recently at the Fairfield Pub, Shared Harvest Foodbank is the grateful recipient of their generosity.

"We try to keep it local to where we're playing," James said. "That way it's more meaningful for the folks who came in the show so they feel connected to what we're doing."

James said the idea to give it all away came a few years ago when an earlier incarnation of the band got together for a marathon recording session, making an entire album in four days, and realized that a lot of the songs they play are about people going through hard times.

"I feel like doing this kind of music just to put it out and play it, there's some sense of exploitation almost," he explained. Like you can't talk about these people, and the times, the hard times, and all that

stuff without doing anything for them."

All three current members of the band say they haven't experienced that kind of literal hunger, they have seen it in their lives.

John said, "I feel very fortunate that we're actually able to do this. I got a regular job, and just going to some of these places and bringing in donations, and seeing the help and seeing how relieved, and how much of an impact it makes, really makes you thankful for what you have."

"I'm a teacher in a local school district here," Josh said, "and I observe it often."

"There's a little light in my heart when I walk down the hall in the school that I'm working at and I see the little Shared Harvest boxes that they come to distribute to the kids. That's a full circle moment for me. Indirectly, that's what we're doing."



Like us on Facebook  
to learn more about  
Billy Two Shoes



## Hunger In Real Life

### True Stories From Shared Harvest SNAP Outreach

**O**n May 30, I received a phone call from my friend that I do homeless outreach with. She told me there was an emergency and asked if I could meet with her friend Jeremy. I took my work supplies and went to meet them that night. When I arrived, I met Jeremy and learned he is living on the streets.

Jeremy didn't tell me how he became homeless, but I knew he needed help applying for SNAP benefits. Most of the homeless people I have met in Hamilton only have tents to use as shelter. I have seen people living out in the humid heat, rain, and snow. Giving Jeremy access to SNAP benefits will help him focus on acquiring shelter and a job.

I have a passion for helping homeless people. They need all the resources and help they can get to have better lives. I am glad I was able to help Jeremy apply for SNAP benefits. I know I will see him again as I do homeless outreach in Hamilton. Every week, I will be helping the homeless apply for SNAP. This program will help them have easier access to the nutritious food they need to survive.

— Peter N. Engelhard Jr.

**I** met Alvin at a food pantry in Franklin, Ohio. He told me that he had never been to a food pantry before. The company he worked for abruptly went out of business and he was laid off. Suddenly, Alvin found himself with no income and nowhere to turn for aid.

It's a story we hear far too often in our positions as SNAP Outreach workers. One moment you could be getting by just great, then an event such as losing a job or no longer having a place to stay can change everything in the blink of an eye. Thankfully, we have assistance programs for those who need help.

I was excited to tell him that he qualifies for SNAP benefits. Alvin was happy that he could now turn more of his attention to finding another job and not have to worry about running out of food. At the end of his application, he told me he never thought that he would be applying for a government program like SNAP. I replied to him with "sometimes, we all just need a little help, even if it is short term." I was glad to be able to help Alvin in his moment of need.

— Nikkita Jennings



## ConAgra Brands Foundation grants \$50K to Shared Harvest

**S**hared Harvest Foodbank is honored to be one of only twenty foodbanks in the United States to receive a \$50,000 grant by the Conagra Brands Foundation.

Awarded through Feeding America, the grant will help build the capacity of our network to distribute healthier foods, provide information and resources to access better nutrition, and foster empathy to drive social change.

The strategic direction for Feeding America is that by 2025, in collaboration with our network and partners, Feeding America will ensure access to enough nutritious food for people struggling with hunger to make meaningful progress toward ending hunger.

Aligned with Feeding America's 2025 Strategic Direction to feed, nourish, unite and empower, Conagra Brands Foundation is providing funds to address "the greatest need and most significant obstacles to hunger relief" in local communities.

This grant will allow Shared Harvest to provide access to healthier food by mobilizing fresh produce distributions, particularly in rural areas or food deserts as well as provide grants or equipment to our network of pantries to build their capacity to handle and distribute more fresh produce to people who turn to them for help.

It will also help improve diet

quality and food security by out-stationing nutrition educators in our choice pantries side by side with our SNAP Outreach Workers. This team up will give people information about cooking and eating healthier as well as assist eligible people apply for SNAP benefits, providing resources to purchase healthier foods and provide resources to increase their food security.

Finally, we hope to increase public passion to end hunger by focusing on filming, editing and publishing monthly story banking videos about our network, volunteers and the people who turn to us for help, increasing awareness and building a network of advocates.

## IN HONOR OF...

Shared Harvest's service to our community by Melody Adams  
The Birthday of Martha Wenner by Janet Eckerfield  
Mary Knollman by Leonard Knollman  
Iris by Joe Setaro

## IN MEMORY OF...

Pat Steinhauser from "Her Girls" by Kathryn Asbrock  
Josephine Loving by David & Martha Bach  
Bea Loomis by Shelley Baker  
Phillip Baker by Wayna Baker  
Ginny Bowman by Earl Bowman  
Peggy Burdette by James Burdette  
Susan Campbell Mayne by Ellen Campbell  
Michael Cifuentes by Carolyn & Gregory Cifuentes  
Keith Leab by Mark Cox  
Uncle Val Santhouse, WWII veteran by Veronica Craig  
Mike Distola by Phyllis DiStaola  
Joseph Elam by Jenny Elam  
Joey Gibson by Dennis & Mary Garland  
Mary Osso, special nurse friend by Bill & Becki Kennel  
Elaine Tegge by Eric & Vivian Lange  
Donald Murrell by Kathryn Murrell  
Norman Porges by Ronald & Judith Porges  
Carolyn Rose by Ronald Rose  
Frances Goos by Joie & Jim Staarmann  
Tom Stallman by Judy Stallman  
Richard L. Tuley by Phyllis Tuley  
Helen Uliano and Rose Dixon on Mother's Day  
by Donald & Rosemary Uliano  
Fay Cohen Stein by Chris Watkins  
Donald Wolf by Juanita Wolf

## RETAIL RESCUE

Aldi's  
Kroger Company  
Meijer Stores  
Target  
Walmart

## INDIVIDUAL FOOD DONORS

Sue Bray  
Michael Disalvo  
DJ Ferguson  
Cassandra Jung  
Marcine Mootry  
Judy Schaefer  
Dan Whitney

## FOOD DRIVES

AK Steel Souper Bowl Drive  
Butler Co Educational Center  
Delta Kappa Gamma, Chi Chapter  
Fill That Bus/Ridgeway Elementary  
First Financial  
Han's White Tiger TKD  
Lambda Chi Alpha  
Macys Bag Hunger  
Pitt Ohio  
Stamp Out Hunger/NALC Food Drive

## THOUGHTFUL GIVING

In thanksgiving for all we have by David Ellerbrock  
So people will have food to eat by Larry Lednik  
Because people should not have to choose  
between food and medication by Ashley Rike

## FOOD DONORS

Advance/Pierre Foods	Mondelez
Anonymous	Nestle Waters
Butterball LLC	Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Chickpea Chicks Hummus	Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Colorado Premium Foods	Pilgrims Pride
Dayton Power & Light	Schwanns Food Service
Dittman-Adams	Smuckers
Ellenbee Leggett	Stouffers Food Service Sales
Food Drives	Sunshine International
Frito-Lay Company	Thyssen Krupp Bilstein
Giorgio Fresh Co.	Tri State Ingredients
Golden Plump Chicken	Tyson Foods
Interstate Warehousing	USDA
Kable Packaging & Fulfillment Services	Victory Wholesale Grocers
Kellogg's	White Castle
Kraft Heinz Foods	
Meijer Distribution Center	

**Kroger**

**ZERO HUNGER ZERO WASTE**

Join us in imagining a world with zero hunger and zero waste.

**Shared Harvest**  
FOODBANK

It's more than just a fund-raising campaign, it's a mission. The Kroger Round-Up fundraising campaign is running indefinitely, giving shoppers the option to "round up to the nearest dollar" their total grocery purchase at the cash register, with 100% of the funds benefiting Shared Harvest Foodbank in the five counties we serve. When you do your shopping at Kroger, be sure to ask the cashier to Round Up! Your change can make a change in someone's life... one meal at a time. Round-Up is part of Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste, a national effort to end hunger and eliminate waste across the company by 2025.



**FOODBANK**

**HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.  
GIVING IS.**

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**SUMMER 2018**

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## Foodbank Staff

Ann Copple	Administrative Assistant
Rick Devine	Operations Manager
Peter Engelhard	SNAP Outreach
Amberlee Finkes	Program Support Specialist
Sean Hassler	Driver/Warehouse worker
Nate Hoskins	Warehouse Manager
Debbie Houston	Food Production
Nikki Jennings	SNAP Outreach
Richard O Jones	Communication Specialist
Heather Merritt	CSFP Administrator
Sarah Ormbrek	Community Relations Director
Tina Osso	Executive Director
Terry Perdue	Chief Fiscal Officer
Darrell Sandlin	Chief Operating Officer
Mike Stamper	Retail Pickup
Taylor Wellman	Driver/Warehouse
Mike Williams	Driver
Robert Zohfeld	SNAP Outreach



**NEARLY 37,000 POUNDS OF FOOD COLLECTED IN ONE DAY!!!**