WINTER **2019**

Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.
GIVING IS.

www.sharedharvest.org

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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



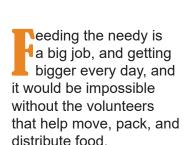




arvest gatherings

Volunteers Keep Things Running

Area pantries
rely on the
kindness
of the
community



In addition to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time at Shared Harvest Foodbank, each of the pantries that we provide food to also have their own cadre of generous individuals who give their time to the cause.

"Without the volunteers, we just wouldn't be able to get it all done," said Bob Ratterman, director of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. A retired journalist, Ratterman began his second career as a volunteer at the pantry and became



Ann Fuehrer of Oxford finds that volunteering fulfills her sense of social justice.

director when the job opened up.

Terry Coyle, director of Franklin Area Community Services and its pantry, manages over 150 volunteers to keep the operation going there.

"It is a lot, I know," she said. "So most of those work in the pantry building, either in the mornings, bringing in Retail Rescue, getting us stocked and ready for the day. Some work while we're open, taking care of the clients, making up the baskets, and all the millions of jobs that need to be done each day. Some are on our board, some are on committees, like a public relations committee, or we have a committee that helps makes newsletters, we have people that strictly just go out and their job is to pick up Dorothy Lane Market donations, one day a week, or one day a month. So you know there's lots of behind the scenes things going on."

Coyle said she is fortunate to live in a caring community, so it's not as difficult as one might imagine to keep all those balls in the air.

"We are so blessed that way," she said. "I'm not gonna say there's never been a lean time. because you're going to have some turnover, people move away or get sick, or get elderly. But honestly, when people start here, they typically really like it. It gives you that, immediate feedback you know, it feeds your soul type of job. And so, they stick with it. I have volunteers that have been here twenty, twenty-

Continued on page 4...

Notes from our director...

e all have firsts in our lives: first grade, first kiss, first love, first heartbreak, first job, first apartment, first failure, first success, first child, first loss. We measure our lives by firsts, build our memories on them.

But there is a time when we start experiencing our "lasts."

That is where I am now.

This will be my last year at Shared Harvest Foodbank, so I have begun to experience those lasts... last time I will do this or that. I come to these lasts with a bit of apprehension, not for what I leave behind but for what new firsts are ahead.

As far as what I leave behind, I have been blessed to find some incredible people to carry on our mission, folks who are as passionate as I am about the injustice of hunger and poverty and who have a clear vision of what we need to do and the skills to get it done. I've often called us the island of the misfits because we really would not fit anywhere else – square pegs in round holes – a band of people who come from all walks of life with some common ingredients: Heart. Empathy. Compassion. Humor. Faith that we can be better and do better. Trust that when we need it, it will come. Strength to stand up and speak out.

The board, staff, volunteers, donors – all coming together to work with the single purpose of fighting hunger right here at home. Some gear up every day, working to make this place better for the least powerful of us, those marginalized by society, struggling to just have food on the table in this land of plenty. Some work as they can, lending a hand, writing a check, donating food, advocating for those who feel they have no voice.

I could not be more humbled by the caring people who have stepped up to help, who will continue to help long after I am gone because it is the right thing to do. They understand that we are part of a society that suffers when any of us suffer and are willing to demonstrate their kindness in very tangible ways. This has been such an incredible journey for me to witness from the five-year-old who spent the coin in his piggy bank buying SpaghettiOs to hand carry into the foodbank, to the donors who I did not know leaving a bequest for us in their wills – and everyone, every business, every congregation and school, every partner, foundation, and United Way in between.

So as I go through this year of "lasts" I can't help but wonder what new "firsts" will come next. One thing is for sure – all that I have experienced in this work, the people, the stories, the struggles and successes have become part of my being, and I thank all of you for the small daily miracles I have been able to participate in. I never thought on that cold day in March of 1983, that a chance meeting would bring me here. Destiny has a way of walking up to you on a street corner and whispering in your ear... come experience the most incredible journey you will ever have... all you have to do is listen.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Kroger Round Up

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

> Cookies for a Cause March 15 to 17

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive May 11

Food For All Food Truck Rally & Music Festival

September 28

Want to conduct a food drive?

Contact Sarah Ormbrek 513-874-0114 or sarah@sharedharvest.org

Visit
www.sharedharvest.org
for more information



Advocacy Corner

Sarah Ormbrek

oward the end of December, many of the families we serve were hit with a double whammy. First, USDA put out a proposed rule that further restricts SNAP benefits.

The very next day, we entered a government shutdown.

Currently any person receiving SNAP who is between the ages of 18 and 49, does not have dependents, and is not considered disabled can only receive benefits for three months every three years unless they are working or in a qualifying education and training program for 20 hours a week.

This is often mischaracterized as a work requirement but is more accurately labeled a "time limit."

Even in its current form, this harsh time limit does not help someone find or keep a job, but rather takes away their food assistance after a specific period of time.

Presently, states are able to waive this time limit for people, temporarily, in areas with elevated unemployment. This allows states to be nimble around economic fluctuations. The new proposed rule would both tighten the criteria for states in qualifying for a waiver request while expanding the grounds upon which it can be denied. This proposed rule is a covert way of throwing people into deeper poverty and hunger at a time when they need help the most.

According to the USDA, that means over 750,000 people who currently are not working but are in a waived area will lose benefits. This rule would target the people most in need of our networks help-the unemployed and underemployed poor.

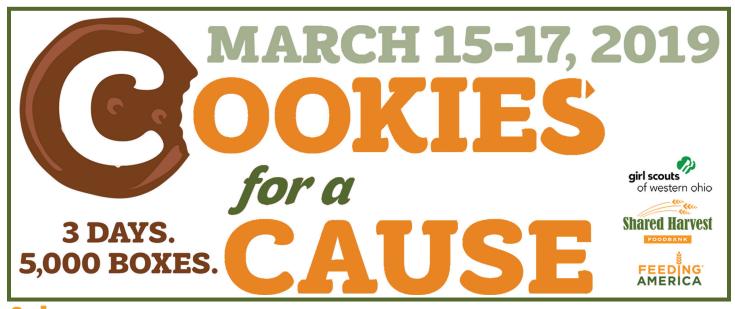
Foodbanks cannot do it all and certainly not at a time when a partial government shutdown means more people turning to the pantry lines due to lack of funding for SNAP and other nutrition programs after February and less food available due to lack of funding for storage and distribution to include transportation of USDA commodities to Foodbanks.

If ever there was a time for kindness of a stranger now will be that time.

Once the proposed rule has been published in the federal register, there will be a 60-day period for public comment.

Please consider submitting your comments to prevent this harmful rule. If you have not already, please visit our website advocacy page and sign up for emails.

Once the rule is published, I will be sending out the information on how to submit a comment.



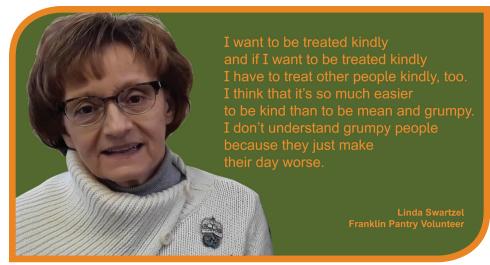
Volunteers keeps pantries running continued

five years. They're now in their eighties. They still work, they're some of the hardest working people I know."

Some volunteers treat their effort as seriously as if it were a regular, full-time job. Jane Feissinger, director of the Salvation Army pantry in Middletown, points out two key volunteers, Barbara Martin and Jan Perander, who show up every day, all day.

"It's hard to imagine people not knowing that they're going to have a next meal," said Martin, a retired Coca-Cola executive. "And somehow that just got me, and I decided to work at a food pantry when I retired. Which was about the same time Jan did, and so we worked there. Then our church pantry consolidated into another, so I decided to try the new food pantry and see.

"I would see somebody on the street with their sign and that always got me, and I'd think what could I do? I mean, you can give that person a couple of dollars, or go get them a sandwich or something, but there is something a little bit more that we could do. So, hopefully most of our clients are feeling a little bit of relief for maybe those five or six days of food insecurity.



"Make those food stamps last a little longer," Perander added.

"I'm not going to change the whole world," Martin said, "but maybe we can help a few people in the community.

There are as many reasons and motivations for their generosity as there are volunteers, but for most of them, their spirit of volunteerism was instilled early in their lives.

Brooke Holl, an Oxford volunteer, said her kindness comes from her parents.

"Of course, they do all the groundwork," she said, "the church, learning the lessons of right and wrong. My dad did a lot of volunteering, my mom did a lot of volunteering. I think when

you become a parent, kindness becomes the whole center of your existence, because you have kids and not only do you want to set an example, but you want them to truly be kind, so that becomes the whole focus of your world."

Anne Stremanos, a volunteer at the Franklin Area Community Services pantry currently serving as president of the organization, said, "My mother was a very loving, giving person. She always volunteered and it was just a way of life with us to care about other people."

Ratterman said that one of his biggest lesson in kindness came not from his parents, but from a high school classmate.

"I was not the most out-going person, but he was a football player and all the rest of that, the usual things. He invited me to places, and went to parties and did different things together, and drove me to games, things like that. To me that was somebody who didn't have to step down to some guy that isn't going to be able to do very much, but I've always thought about him when I think about kindness, and being really the help and draw people out."



More Than A Game

Local girls basketball squads score big for the poor and needy

when given a chance to do a good deed for a local charity, the Fairfield High School girls basketball team went above and beyond and did it for the benefit of Shared Harvest Foodbank.

They call it a "Foundation Game," a pre-season scrimmage, and by designating a charitable cause they not only try to engage the entire school, but also the opposing teams.

"It counts as a scrimmage but the players are allowed to wear uniforms and you treat it like a real game," said coach Michael Stelljes. "It's officiated, there's real time on the clock, we keep score but it doesn't count against your official record."

Such an event might generally generate a couple hundred dollars, but by taking a multipronged approach with intense marketing in the school and on social media and by offering a variety of ways to donate, the team generated \$1,052.35 plus 650 pounds of food.

Altogether, the team's effort was able to provide nearly 9,000 meals to local families in need.

"I think it was a group effort, though," Coach Stelljes said.
"There was players, team parents, coaches, other parents that were all helping out publicize the event in different ways. Coach [Kevin] McDonald also invited the middle school teams to participate."

"I didn't know how successful it was going to be because I never participated in a thing like that," said team member and event organizer Brooklyn Richardson. "So I think we just tried our best

to get the word out and like spread it everywhere. I went around school telling people about it, make sure they came to the game and everything."

"We told everybody in my family, about coming and advertised it on social media," added Kristen Leeseman, also an organizer.

"We also made posters," said team mom Amy Mills. "And we offered free admission."



Donations at the door: \$428.17 Split-the-Pot: \$55 Raffle: \$50 Online Donations: \$50 T-Shirt profits: \$469.18

Total: \$1,052.35

Coach Stelljes added, "The coaching staff got with the coaches from the other schools that were involved. The freshman played against Ross and the varsity and JV played against Loveland, and we wore the Shared Harvest t-shirts for warm up shooting shirts, and so all the teams bought the t-shirts. We sold 112 t-shirts. The coaches wore the shirts for the games, and some spectators bought them at the gate as well.

"And we also had a couple baskets donated so we could raffle off as well," said Amy Mills. We had split-the-pot events going on during the games and that money was split 50/50 with Shared Harvest."



"People felt good and it was a couple of days before Thanksgiving so people were in a giving mood," said coach Stelljes. "I know when coach [David] Loper first brought up the idea of doing a foundation game and picking a charity, he really wanted to do something that's right here in our

community, that's close to us."

Kristen added, "That is a good way I think if you're not able to give back to the school this is a good way to bring multiple communities together to give back to Shared Harvest in another way. So having foundation games I think helps tremendously, opening up awareness, the fact that there is another way to give."

"I thought it was a fantastic event," said Kevin McDonald, the junior varsity coach. "I thought the two other schools that were involved really embraced it as well -- which made it even better especially since we had to pick up a third team to play the freshman game. Loveland didn't have a freshman team so we brought in Ross, so it was three schools."

"So helping with food donations and cash really proves that not only Shared Harvest cares but also Fairfield School District cares," said Amy Mills. "So I think it's great that we all come together, not only do we see the need but we also share the same concerns."

Hunger In Real Life

True Stories From Shared Harvest SNAP Outreach

eth was referred to me from the SUCCESS program at the Butler County Educational Service Center.

She lives in West Chester, Ohio. Her SUCCESS liaison wanted me to help her apply for SNAP because she was in a financial hardship and caring for her grandson. I helped Beth apply for SNAP over the phone. During the phone application process, Beth told me of the financial hardships she is facing. Her high monthly mortgage payments make it hard for Beth to support herself and her grandson. Beth needs all the help she can get to put food on the table. After I helped her fill out her SNAP application, she thanked me for the valuable help I gave her.

The SNAP program will help Beth focus her resources towards other things like paying off her mortgage. SNAP will create a safety net for Beth and her financial hardship will lessen. She will be able to focus more on helping her grandson succeed in the community. After talking with Beth for 30 minutes, I know I made her day. She thanked me constantly for helping her get access to food. This made me feel good. I hope she does well in paying her bills and taking care of her grandson.

- Peter Engelhard Jr.

FOOD DONORS

Advance/Pierre Foods Anonymous Butterball LLC Chickpea Chicks Humus Classic Carriers Colorado Premium Foods Cowan Systems Crescent Dayton Power & Light Dittman-Adams **Echo Logistics** Ellenbee Leggett Food Drives Frito-Lay Company Giorgio Fresh Co. Golden Plump Chicken Honey Baked Hams Interstate Warehousing Kable Packaging & Fulfillment Services Kellogg's KLLM Transport

Kraft Heinz Foods Meijer Distribution Center Miami University Oxford Mondelez **Nestle Waters** Ohio Association of Foodbanks Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services Pilgrims Pride Ramler Trucking Ruggles Farms Schwanns Food Service Sioux Honey Smithfield Foods **Smuckers** Snyder Lance St. Paul Seeders & Feeders Stouffers Food Service Sales Sunshine International Taylor Farms Thyssen Krupp Bilstein Tri State Ingredients Tyson Foods USDA

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Comfort Keepers Contech Engineered Solutions Cort Furniture CSL Plasma Dayspring Montessori Delta Kappa Gamma, Chi Chapter Dollar General Elements Wellness Center FS3 **Express Scripts** EveMed Vision Care (Luxottica) Fairfield Girls BasketBall Fill That Bus/Ridgeway Elementary First Financial Food Truck Rally Gardens Alive **Graham Packaging**

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IN HONOR OF...

Jeff Weber's Birthday by Kristin Atkinson Patty Brown for her kindness and friendship by Judy Barlow Recent concert with Brian Bui, Miles Davidson, Mason Johnson, Taylor Jones, John Taylor, Joey Gibson, Abby Bower, Brian Zaborski & Evan Jellev by Mark Binas Fr. Jeff Silver by Bill & Nora Ellen Bowers Tony Bustle & Fran Westfall by Linda Burton Jack Adams by Anthony Cole Max & Maddie Cole by Anthony Cole

Birthday of Justice Asher by Stephen Crain Robie Dalton by Debra Dalton Clara Fitzhugh by L.D. Fitzhigh Chuck Gayhart at the holidays by Margie Gayhart Mark N. Cohen for the holidays by Bonny & John Jones New Year's Day by John & Gail Kimble The holidays by Alan Kinstler Mary Knollman

by Leonard Knollman

by Linda Lovelace

Jeannine White

Katrena Enhgel's birthday by Roscoe & Janet McIntosh **Evelyn Meiner** by Rob & Betty Meiner Clients of 2018 by Roberta O'Shell Randy L. Reynolds by Deanna (Michelle) Revnolds Tina Osso by Carole Rothfuss Betty Gibbs by Ronda Schickney Lynn, Lizzy, Jackie, Andrew & Elise for Christmas by Tony & JoAnn Schutte Mr. & Mrs. Greg Walker

by Stephen & Phyllis

by Joe Setaro Betty Gibbs by Ronda Shockney Ethan Spencer at Christmas by Graham Spencer Kathy Eckert by Judy Stallman The Vail Family by Donald & Florence Vail Thanksgiving by Nova Vanlieu Jeff Ingels by Jackie Weil Frances Marie Hall at Chanukah by Alan Wimmer Dr. Samuel DeLeeuw by Joan Witt

Dr. Mark Newman

by Kathy Schneider

Schwartz

Iris B. Setaro

IN MEMORY OF...

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by Jeffrey & Nancy Meiller

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Schellenbach THOUGHTFUL GIVING

To help with the vital work you do. by C D Barnes To help feed people in Butler County by Virginia Alsept Thank you for all you do! by Lori Campbell I give because I know Shared Harvest does good work! by Barbara Caudill

Great cause. Keep up the good work, by David Goodwin Everybody deserves a good meal. by Amy Grimes I want to help the less fortunate because I can. by Ron Gulino I want to help in our community by Terry Schibi-Carter Because it is the right thing to do. by David & Stephany Sloneker

by Mark & Elaine Farmer

by Keith & Kimberly

by P.A & P.B. Gaible

Duane & Helen Gambrell

by Michael & Carol

George & Frances Kirby

by Michael & Carol

Eleanor Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick Gaile Woody

Gambrell

Gambrell



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5901 Dixie Highway Fairfield, Ohio 45014-4207 www.sharedharvest.org 800-352-3663

WINTER 2019

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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**

Communication Specialist Richard O Jones

Heather Merritt **CSFP** Administrator

Sarah Ormbrek Community Relations

Tina Osso **Executive Director**

Terry Perdue Chief Fiscal Officer

Darrell Sandlin **Chief Operating Officer**

Mike Stamper Retail Pickup

Mike Williams Driver

Robert Zohfeld SNAP Outreach



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 will run indefinitely in all area stores, 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.