

SPRING
2019

harvest gatherings



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.



Richard O Jones
Editor



‘Pop-Up Pantries’ Popping Up

Shared Harvest Foodbank has been working with partners in Butler and Preble counties for Saturday food distributions to move the excess trade mitigation commodities we are receiving through USDA and to provide food to folks whose SNAP benefits were affected by the recent government shut-down.

When President Trump initiated the tariffs on trade, the agriculture community was hit particularly hard. To mitigate this, he signed an executive order Excess Trade Mitigation Commodities to provide \$1.2 Billion to pay farmers who have product to sell overseas but can no longer do that because of the tariff wars. The product USDA is buying up is being distributed through our USDA commodities program – and is coming in fast and furious... much more than we can safely store and distribute through our normal network, so we are beginning these pop-up pantries to move the trade mitigation commodities to people who qualify at 200 percent or below of the poverty level. We expect to do at least two to four each month and expand to include Miami, Warren and Darke Counties.

Recipients were so grateful for the additional food that there were reports of them getting emotional while waiting in line.

These photos were taken at distributions held in cooperation with New Miami Schools and the Butler County Educational Services Association.



Notes from our director...

It is with melancholy that I write this last column as the executive director of Shared Harvest Foodbank. After a search beginning in November of 2018, and through an exhaustive process, vetting 238 candidates for the executive director position, three candidates were selected for second interviews, and from those three, Terry Perdue was selected and will begin April 1. Terry and I will co-direct through June, then I will step into a new role as supply chain manager, building that job and procedures with the intent of hiring a staff person in the fall to take over that position, giving me about three months to train them before my official retirement on 12/31/19.

Terry comes into this position with four-plus years' experience as our CFO and prior to that 13-plus years running two major food pantries and soup kitchens both in Cincinnati and in Hamilton for Mercy Health. More importantly, he has the heart and soul for this job and is mission driven. But rather than me telling you about Terry, let me share with you a portion of what he wrote in the essay we requested from the final candidates to describe how their work and life experience inform how they would meet the responsibilities and core competencies for the job:

"A massive man filled the reception window, his frame towered over me. 'I need food,' his deep voice resonated. 'I'm sorry sir. Our pantry is closed,' I replied dismissively. Instantly, his face turned red, eyes bulged, veins popping. He screamed; cursing and calling me names that cut deeply. The ones that bullies said to diminish my confidence years before. Except this time, I had power. I had something he wanted that I could give or withhold as I desired. I stood slowly and met his eyes. Then, gently, from behind him appeared a little girl. "How did I not see her?" Her sweet face, gaunt and pale watched intently. 'Could this be the reason for his ferocity? His...desperation?'

"I learned several things from that experience. Desperation is a driver of many behaviors, good and bad. Power is a gift and a privilege that is not to be used to exert over people. Ever. And humility is gained when realizing that we are all interdependent on one another. Of all the traits of a leader, I believe humility is the most admirable; one which I value above all others and strive to preserve. Leaders possess a legitimate power by virtue of position that when wielded properly can motivate and inspire others to achieve the impossible.

"I am not afraid to stand up and speak out against injustice. I've stood beside countless people whose perceived worth was diminished by a societal class structure that oppresses them. Nothing in life has been easy. I am grateful for the struggles as each one has taught me a unique lesson. I am rooted in my faith from which I am restored. I understand that there is something to learn in everything and am ready to apply the wisdom that is gained from it."

I could not be more satisfied with the board's selection and am confident that Terry will be true to our mission adding his own vision, energy and enthusiasm working to ensure that not one person will suffer the indignities and stigma associated with facing hunger as a way of life. Hunger is not a choice, but we can choose to add our time, talent, and treasure to make this part of the world a better place for all of us. Terry has chosen to continue to fight the good fight and it is my hope that you all will welcome him with open arms, helping hands and the kindness you have shown me over these past 36 years.



Executive Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dinsmore & Shohl LP

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Retired, Meijer Distribution

Steve Woody
Retired, Kroger

Terri Coffey
The Kroger Company

Eric Knapke
Whole Foods

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kroger Round Up

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

Fight Hunger. Spark Change.

April 22 to May 20

See page 4 for more details

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

May 11

Red Nose Day

Walgreens May 23

Buy Your Red Nose April 2 to June 2

Help change the lives of kids who need our help the most.

Visit rednoseday.org for more information

Hunger Action Month

September 1-30

Food For All Food Truck Rally & Music Festival

September 28

www.sharedharvest.org/news

A New Era in Leadership

On April 1, Shared Harvest Foodbank will undergo its first-ever transition in directorship. After founding the Foodbank in 1983, Tina Osso has been the only executive director the organization has ever known. She and Terry will co-direct the operation for a transitional period before he takes the reins full-time in July.

Before coming to Shared Harvest, you managed food pantries and soup kitchens. How did you get involved in the fight against hunger?

I experienced chronic hunger myself as a child. My family and I walked for miles to collect food from churches and pantries. Although my family and neighbors had very little to spare, we often shared what we had with someone worse off than us. My faith has taught me to find strength in suffering and use it to prevent someone else from having to experience the same. The fight against hunger begins with a realization that even the simplest act of sharing can make a tremendous difference. I came to that realization as a child, every time I benefitted from the kindness and sacrifices of others.

How did working in pantries and kitchens prepare you for the particular activities at Shared Harvest Foodbank?

Most of the food obtained by the social service organizations where I worked came from Shared Harvest Foodbank. I witnessed



The board of trustees of Shared Harvest Foodbank have selected Terry Perdue as the new executive director, replacing founding director Tina Osso, who will be retiring at the end of the year.

the joy and hope that people felt when they received the food they were given. Knowing that it was acquired through Shared Harvest' efforts gives me a profound appreciation for the collaborative partnership between the foodbank who acquires the food and the food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters who help distribute it.

What do you think will be the biggest challenges facing Shared Harvest Foodbank in the coming years?

The biggest challenge facing Shared Harvest Foodbank and many others are the threats to federal and state funding that support hunger relief programs. It would be devastating to compromise federal programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that are the first line of defense against hunger.

Are there any particular projects you're looking forward to?

Absolutely! I am most excited to launch a capital campaign that will raise the support needed to distribute more food to more people. We could access millions of pounds of fresh produce and feed literally thousands of more children who don't have enough food to eat over the weekend if we weren't constricted by our space and aging vehicles.

What have you learned from Tina Osso that will help you transition into this new role?

Tina is a fearless ambassador for people living in poverty. She has taught me that through research and thoughtful consideration of the systemic causes of hunger, we can boldly challenge misconceptions and unite people in a common goal to influence lasting change.

Walmart and Sam's Club revive anti-hunger campaign

Since 2014, Walmart has worked with Feeding America and member food banks to implement this campaign to increase awareness of hunger in America and engage the public to raise funds to help people in need.

The 2019 Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign will run in all U.S. Walmart and Sam's Club stores from April 22 – May 20, 2019. As in previous years, the campaign will raise funds through the sale of products from participating suppliers and customer contributions at checkout.

The product purchase and register giving components will continue in 2019 - with Sam's Clubs joining forces with Walmart stores!

Each participating item purchased at Walmart or Sam's Club will unlock a donation equivalent to one meal secured by Feeding America on behalf of local member food banks from each supplier. 1 item = 1 meal (\$0.10) up to each supplier's maximum

donation. 100% of funds raised through in-store purchases will benefit local member food banks. Donations will be localized based on where each item is sold.

Register Giving: Customers can donate to their local Feeding America member food bank at the registers of Walmart and Sam's Club stores. Donations of \$1, \$2, \$5 or another amount will be accepted. There is no limit to what can be raised at the register! 100% of funds will be directed to local member food banks. Funds will be localized based on where the customer donation was made.

To help kick-off the campaign, every Feeding America Foodbank, regardless of campaign

activation, receives \$1,000. We do not need to do anything to receive these funds.

At least \$1,400,000 will be available to food banks that are proactively working to raise issue awareness and increase public engagement in hunger

relief during the campaign period, with a focus on storytelling content.

Over the past six years, Fight Hunger. Spark Change. has raised critical awareness of the issue of hunger in America and has donated more than \$50 million to fight hunger in communities across the country.



LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 11, 2019

Just put your non-perishable food item in a bag by your mailbox

We'll do the rest!!

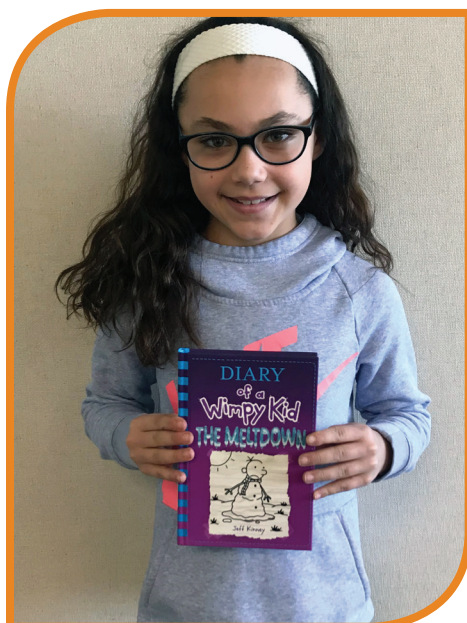
Altrusa Club Helps With BackPacks

When Altrusa International of Hamilton received a grant from the Altrusa International Foundation in Chicago, they decided to use a portion of the funds to purchase children's books for the Hamilton City School District.

After consulting with school liaisons and teachers, they selected *A Bad Case of the Stripes* for second-graders and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for third-graders for the first of three rounds of giving.

Members of the club spent an afternoon recently placing the books in bags to be distributed through Shared Harvest Foodbank's Backpack program.

"Altrusa International's focus is to eliminate literacy world wide, and we are helping to do this in our local area," said the club in a statement. "We would like to thank Shared Harvest Foodbank for their program to help us to continue our mission to eradicate illiteracy: Feed the body, feed the mind."





Miller-Coors Lends a Hand

As part of their annual employee meeting at the Sharonville Convention Center, the Miller-Coors Brewery in Trenton called all hands on deck to load bags with snacks that the company purchased for inclusion in the backpacks of the children participating in Shared Harvest Foodbank's BackPack Program. In-coming executive director Terry Perdue addressed the meeting.



Hunger In Real Life

True Stories From Shared Harvest SNAP Outreach

I met Michelle at a food pantry in Hamilton, Ohio. She was sure she would not qualify for SNAP because she has a job and owns her home. I was happy to tell her that she would still qualify for SNAP benefits and assisted her with the application process.

There is a lot of bad information out there when it comes to government programs. Many people do

not think that they qualify for programs like SNAP or Medicaid due to hearsay and bad news reporting. SNAP and Medicaid qualifications are based on the composition of the household, income, and assets. Certain assets do not count against you, such as owning your home or vehicle.

Michelle could not believe that she qualified for both of these programs. I helped her submit her application

for benefits and uploaded the required documents to help speed up the process. At the end of her application, she thanked me for all of the information I gave her and said I made her life so much easier. Michelle recently reached out to me and told me that everything worked out fine and she is now receiving her benefits.

— Robert Zohfield

IN MEMORY OF...

Peggy G. Burdette
by James Burdette
George Robert (Bobby) Boedicker
by Mark Cox
Julia Bauman
by Judy Florio
Joey Gibson
by Dennis & Mary Garland
Dennis Isgro
by Steve & Judith Isgro
Robert Beckman
by Susan Marvin
Harry & Landen Otto
by Loretta Otto
Virginia Lampl
by Linda Poulemanos
Tyler Schutte, hoping Tyler is having fun in
Heaven
by Ron Schutte
Leroy Brown
by Rev. Daniel Snider

FOOD DRIVES

AK Steel Souper Bowl Drive
Brookwood Elementary
Butler County Bar Association
Ultimus Fund Solutions

THOUGHTFUL GIVING

To help feed people in Butler County, by Virginia Alsept
Christmas is the time to help others. Each year I question myself? Don't people need
help all year long? God said YES! by Ronald Gossard
Furloughed Federal Employees during the shutdown, by Melissa Townsend
The special education staff and therapists at Fairfield North Elementary choose a charity
every year to donate money to help children, by Candace Yates

IN HONOR OF...

Mary Knollman
by Leonard Knollman
Joan Thomas
by Jackie McMurray
The new year
by Kaitlin Morrison
Tina Osso
by Carole Rothfuss
Mary & Ross Barry for the holidays
by Chris & Sally
Birthdays of Tehillah, Yedidya & Ben-Ysri
by Grammy Sue

INDIVIDUAL FOOD DONORS

Karen Poleyett
Judy Schaefer
Jeff Young

RETAIL RESCUE

Aldi's
Kroger Company
Meijer Stores
Target
Walmart

FOOD DONORS

Chickpea Chicks Hummus
Cowan Systems
Fresh Sausage Specialists
Frito-Lay Company
Meijer Distribution Center
Mondelez/Nabisco
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Snyder Lance
Tri State Ingredients
USDA
Westrock/McCormick



The Front Street Presbyterian Church in Hamilton celebrated Ash Wednesday with a soup dinner and a bowl painting party. Participants were able to purchase a bowl for \$10 to benefit Shared Harvest Foodbank.





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

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Ann Cople	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	Co-Executive Director
Terry Perdue	Co-Executive Director
Darrell Sandlin	Chief Operating Officer
Mike Stamper	Retail Pickup
Mike Williams	Driver
Robert Zohfeld	SNAP Outreach



FOOD

FOR ALL

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
MARCUM PARK HAMILTON**

Food truck, vendor, and entertainer applications are available online at www.sharedharvest.org/news.