



SUMMER 2010

Agency Focus: Good Samaritan Pantry of West Jefferson

Working out of a church basement in West Jefferson, a crew of warm-hearted people is making sure their neighbors don't go hungry. The Good Samaritan Pantry is a community effort serving between 60-80 families weekly. The pantry is housed at the local United Methodist Church but support comes from the entire town – from churches sending volunteers and competing to collect the most macaroni and cheese to local schools holding food drives. According to Susan Maggard, pantry director, “We’ve never had to beg for help.”

The pantry sees people from all walks of life – many struggling to find work after being laid off and others with serious health issues. Each has their own reason for needing help. Shirley is a senior citizen forced to visit the pantry to help raise her two grandchildren – one a teenager and the other a toddler. She currently receives no help with their care and is working on being awarded support to help keep them fed. Eleanor stopped in to pick up food for her ill and home-bound sister. According to Gordon, another senior struggling to make ends meet, “If this place wasn't here, it would be a huge loss to the community.”



... Luke has a snack while his mother gets food from the Good Samaritan Pantry of West Jefferson.

Pantry volunteers also serve many families who live in cottages that lack cooking facilities. The nearby cottages were built as summer vacation rentals but are now used as full-time residences for many low-income families. Volunteers make sure to give them foods that don't require a stove for preparation.

Good Samaritan is one of three pantries serving Madison County, and they receive most of their food from Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Like the over 500 other hunger relief agencies served by the Foodbank, they are caring for their neighbors when they most need it.

Face Time



Danielle Rasico
Teen Volunteer

Danielle Rasico, a senior at Upper Arlington High School, has her future mapped out: she wants to become a chef. For her senior project, she decided to volunteer for Mid-Ohio Foodbank. “Chefs feed people,” says Danielle, and the thought of giving time to a feeding operation that serves 20 counties and provides for over 52,000 meals per day made sense to her.

Her project required 16 hours of volunteer service, but Danielle went far above and beyond by logging **70 hours** sorting and boxing food at our warehouse. She logged another 30+ hours at her church, St. Andrew Parish in Upper Arlington, helping with fish fries.

We are grateful to Danielle for choosing the Foodbank for her senior project and for making a difference for so many in our community.

Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Community Rewards programs reset on April 1st. The program raises money for the Foodbank whenever customers use their Kroger Plus Shoppers Card while shopping. If you had previously designated Mid-Ohio Foodbank or if you are signing up for the first time, log on to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and designate your card to benefit the Foodbank. Our ID number is **83610**. The program does not affect your fuel points or discounts. Over the last year, participating shoppers have raised \$2,500 to help feed families in need.

Time to Tee Off

Ready for some time on the greens? The Foodbank is welcoming all golfers to join us and enjoy a great day of golf for a great cause. The 20th Annual Golf Classic takes place August 23rd at the beautiful Medallion Club in Westerville. Registration is \$2,200 for a foursome or \$550 for an individual. The outing raises funds for important programs like Second Servings, our prepared food rescue program that picks up food from restaurants and caterers and delivers it to soup kitchens and shelters. To register, call Claire at 614.317.9403 or email cbadger@midohiofoodbank.org.

Getting Our Hands Dirty



Foodbank staff and volunteers have built a community garden next to our new building to provide more fresh produce to families in need.

The Foodbank is flexing its green thumb this year by starting a community garden. Our new facility has an extra 4 acres of land, and we couldn't resist the opportunity to use some of it to grow our own food.

We've already received help planning the garden from area master gardeners, the OSU Extension program, the Franklin Park Conservatory and many community members. A group of students from Metro High School are working on a project to incorporate energy-saving ways of watering and lighting the garden by using rain water and solar panels. Thanks to Wal-Mart, a donated greenhouse helps with starting plants from seed.

Volunteers helped plant the raised beds and will keep the garden weeded and healthy. We cannot wait to start harvesting lots of fresh produce from our own yard.

Challenge Met!

Nearly four years of planning and hard work, combined with the community's generosity, have paid off. We have met the March 31 deadline for The Kresge Foundation's and an anonymous donor's challenge grants and exceeded the Foodbank's \$16 million capital campaign goal for the purchase and renovation of our new food distribution facility. We are deeply thankful to every single person who made this a reality!



Our new space has made it possible to distribute more food than ever before to hungry men, women, and children throughout central and eastern Ohio. With 204,000 sq. ft., the new facility has three times the space to handle food donations.

The challenge grants resulted in \$1.75 million towards the total campaign goal. Over 3,300 donors helped make the campaign a success with support from corporations, foundations, individuals, families, community groups, and churches. Our sincere gratitude goes to our wonderful campaign co-chairs Chad Jester of Nationwide Insurance and Tom Katzenmeyer of The Ohio State University who helped us meet the goal.

"The completion of the Kresge Challenge is about far more than dollars raised and deadlines met," said Mid-Ohio Foodbank President & CEO Matt Habash. "It is a testament to this community's generosity. The challenge inspired individuals from a range of backgrounds to unite for a common purpose – to help Mid-Ohio Foodbank have the capacity to provide more food."

Food Donor Focus: Giant Eagle, Inc.



Ever since they came to town in 2000, Giant Eagle has held feeding local families in need close to their hearts. Their partnership with Mid-Ohio Foodbank continues to grow and help more people every day.

Giant Eagle's involvement takes place at all levels. D. David Daniel, vice president, GetGo, Giant Eagle Express Operations, joined the Foodbank's Board of Trustees in 2001, and helped grow the partnership. In 2003, Mid-Ohio Foodbank began our first ever retail grocery pick-up program at local Giant Eagle stores. The program picks up nonperishable items which are always needed, but, more importantly, it also captures much-needed frozen meat. The first year resulted in 98,000 pounds of meat and 63,000 pounds of non-perishable foods. Since then, the program has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year, we picked up over 420,000 pounds of meat and 250,000 pounds of nonperishable foods from 23 Giant Eagle stores. The program has served as a model to other area grocery stores that have since followed their lead.

According to Dave Daniel, "Surrounded by the bounty of our stores, we are constantly reminded of how important it is to reach out and help struggling individuals and families. Every day, Giant Eagle store locations donate food to local organizations that help feed the hungry through neighborhood pantries and food banks. It's the best possible way we can think of to be neighborly."



Mid-Ohio Foodbank

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NEWSFEED

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JUNE

30th Central Ohio Restaurant Association presents Foodfight6.30. Eat at any of their participating restaurants and a portion of your bill will benefit Operation Feed. See <http://www.midohiofoodbank.org/news-events/events> for a list of participating restaurants.

JULY

19-25th See the pros golf at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational and support Mid-Ohio Foodbank. The Invitational donates 100% of all ticket sales to local charities. Visit www.nchigolf.com and designate the Foodbank when ordering your tickets.

AUGUST

23rd The 20th Annual Mid-Ohio Foodbank Golf Classic takes place at the Medallion Golf Club in Westerville. For information, contact Claire Badger at 614.317.9403 or cbadger@midohiofoodbank.org.