



Fresh Veggies Equal Big Smiles

“These apples are humongous!” Leontyne exclaimed as she picked fresh fruit and veggies at the Church for All People produce market. “My son will be so happy – he loves apples! And just look at these beautiful peppers!”

Leontyne attends the church and started visiting the market about a month ago. After 25 years working as a home health and hospital nursing assistant, she developed knee problems and high blood pressure. Now she is on disability and can't drive, so a church staff member picks her up and takes her to their produce market.

“When I come to the market, I go for the fresh fruits and veggies first over any other food,” she said. “And smell this bread – it's so fresh, it still has that bakery smell!”

She laughed and talked about the great chicken dinner with the baked potatoes and salad with fresh greens she planned to make for Randy, her 11-year-old son, that evening.

“We wouldn't be able to eat all this good, fresh food on my disability pay if it wasn't for this market,” she said.

Thanks to your gifts, Mid-Ohio Foodbank stocks the shelves of produce markets to fill plates with fresh, healthy food for families like Leontyne and Randy. [📌](#)

To find out how a gift to support produce markets can be doubled, [click here.](#)



Roots Cafe Fills Summer Feeding Gap for Kids

When we think about school letting out for the summer, we think about summer vacation, outdoor games, trips to the pool and fun. But summer can also mean a time with two more meals to provide at home for kids every day when there's no food in the fridge.

Southside Roots Cafe is partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs and six Columbus elementary schools this summer to provide area kids who fall into this summer meal gap with breakfast, lunch and a snack as well as a made-from-scratch dinner to take home.

This new summer program incorporates school subjects so kids don't fall behind. The schools will staff the programs in the mornings, and Boys & Girls Clubs will provide staff and camp-style activities in the afternoons.

"Roots Cafe already works with Boys & Girls Clubs during the school year through our Kids Cafe, so this is a natural fit for us," Amy Schiebel, program director for Southside Roots Cafe, said.



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She said meals are served family-style and feature foods that the participants may never have seen.

“It’s a rotational menu that encourages the kids to try new things. Then we repeat the new menus every few weeks to get them to learn new foods and integrate them into their diets,” she explained.

Schiebel is excited about expanding the Kids Cafe feeding program, which started in the summer of 2016. In the last year, Roots has served 92,000 meals through Kids Cafe alone.

You make healthy summer meals possible for children through Southside Roots Cafe. Thanks for helping keep the fun in summer for kids! 🍷



The Habit of Caring for Others Starts Early

Charlotte Joseph may be one of the youngest friends we have at Mid-Ohio Foodbank. She just turned four in April and had a party with friends. But instead of gifts, Charlotte and her parents asked guests to bring items to create Kids' Packs – bags with specific items to be given to kids through food pantries.

Charlotte and her parents, Jessica and Mac, moved to Columbus from New York City two years ago to be close to family. They were inspired by a tour they took at Mid-Ohio Foodbank and are impressed by the giving spirit of the community. They decided to encourage that spirit in activities they do with others.

“While it is important to give back every day of the year, we have found that our daughter’s birthday was a perfect time to remind her of how fortunate she is (we all are) and that she has the ability to help others in real ways. And if we can share that experience with our friends and family, all the better,” said Charlotte’s dad, Mac.

Charlotte and her party guests decorated paper bags and filled them with the donated items. She was very proud that they collected 167 pounds of food and items for hungry kids!

Thanks, Charlotte! 📍



Donate Now!



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