

Fall 2015

Food for Thought

Students
Are Ready
for Success,
Thanks to You!

*Jermaine,
Stockyards neighborhood*



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

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Kristin Warzocha
President & CEO

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

As students across Northeast Ohio prepare to return to school, I'm reminded of the many struggling families living in our community. As a parent myself of two school-age daughters, I know how busy this time of year can be. Parents with low incomes have the added stress of finding ways to afford the supplies their children will need to start the year off right.

A new backpack, package of pencils or box of crayons may not seem like much, but if your budget is already stretched to its limit, every extra expense means cutting back in other areas – including food.

Fortunately, the beginning of a new school year also means nutritious breakfasts and lunches through free and reduced-priced meal programs. This resource ensures that all of our students have the fuel to focus on their studies from the first bell through the last class of the day. But what happens after the school days ends? That's where friends like you come in.

Every gift from you this fall will mean more students have enough to eat during evenings and weekends. That's because when you give, you're providing nourishment for children through Kids Cafes, BackPacks for Kids, School Pantries and other programs throughout our service area.

I can't stress enough how vital your partnership is to the future of our community. When food-insecure children have access to consistent nutrition, they're better able to focus, develop and eventually break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you for your commitment to fighting hunger in Northeast Ohio!

Sincerely,



Derriana, a student at the St. Martin de Porres Kids Cafe, East Cleveland

You're Helping Students Escape Hunger

- In 2014, more than 12,826 children were served through our children's programs.
- The Food Bank provided enough food for more than 696,600 meals through the BackPacks for Kids program.
- 441,046 meals were served through the Kids Cafe program in 2014.

Barry Quinn oversees the Kids Cafe and BackPacks for Kids programs hosted by St. Martin de Porres Family Center. When school resumes this fall, he expects to see as many as 45 students coming from nearby elementary schools to receive an evening meal, as well as tutoring with local college students and athletic activities.

"We try to give them some direction and structure," he says. "The fact that the meals are nutritious is really important because they don't typically get that at home."

Barry also works in the local school district's athletic department, so he's a big part of many of the students' lives. He says he worries what would happen if these kids didn't have such a safe and enriching place to go.

He mentions one student, Evan,* whose mother has been going through a very difficult time. Unable to provide her son with balanced meals every day, she signed him up for the Kids Cafe and BackPacks for Kids programs. When he first started coming to St. Martin de Porres, Evan was weak and didn't have much energy. Not long after he began eating regular meals and nutritious snacks, his health improved immensely.

No child should ever go hungry, and thanks to your support, more kids like Evan are now thriving. It doesn't take much to give a child the chance to escape hunger – and your generosity is providing that chance with every gift you make to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

As St. Martin de Porres prepares to serve children in need this coming school year, Barry couldn't be more grateful that your generosity will provide nourishing food to help them thrive.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart," he says. "There's no way I could feed these kids every day without you!"

*Child's name has been changed.

Thank You for Helping Children and Families Thrive!



Donald,
Detroit-Shoreway
neighborhood



A'Miyah,
East Cleveland



Nicholas,
Middlefield, OH



Elaine,
Central neighborhood



Rachel,
Puritas neighborhood

September is Hunger Action Month!

Every September, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank participates in Hunger Action Month. Local events, volunteer opportunities and the annual *Taste of the Browns* event raise support for the 327,000 individuals living on the brink of hunger across Northeast Ohio. In doing so, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank joins more than 200 other food banks in the Feeding America network that conduct similar events across the country.

Hunger Action Month creates awareness of the issue of hunger and serves as a call to all Americans to get involved locally to bring an end to hunger right in your hometown. You too can help by visiting GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org to make a donation or to sign up to volunteer. Hunger Action Month is organized on a national level by Feeding America and includes events across the United States that directly benefit the network's hunger-relief efforts.

Save the Date Taste of the Browns 17th Annual Celebrity Dinner September 21 6 – 9 p.m. at FirstEnergy Stadium



Join the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and the Cleveland Browns as they tackle hunger in Northeast Ohio at the 17th annual *Taste of the Browns*. Held at FirstEnergy Stadium for more than 1,000 guests, this event celebrates our city's love of its sports team and our unique and acclaimed culinary talents, all while providing hundreds of thousands of meals to hungry Northeast Ohioans. To purchase tickets, visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Taste.

Harvest for Hunger a Tremendous Success

This year's Harvest for Hunger Campaign set a new record, collecting more than \$4.7 million and 403,000 pounds of food to provide more than 19.3 million nutritious meals for local food pantries and soup kitchens! Over 550 companies, schools, nonprofits and governmental entities participated by running food and funds drives this year. Special thanks to our 2015 Harvest for Hunger co-chairs, Bernie Moreno, Bernie Moreno Companies, and Andrea Hogben, Northeast Ohio Media Group. The success of the campaign was due in large part to the Check Out Hunger campaign, a cashier-led fundraising effort in grocery stores across the region during March. Collectively, participating supermarkets raised over \$1.5 million!

Harvest for Hunger is one of the largest annual, community-wide food and funds drives in the nation, covering 21 counties. Other participating food banks include the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

To see more pictures of this year's Harvest for Hunger Campaign, go to GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org.

Annual Nutrition Conference Recognizes Dedicated Partner Agencies

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank held its fifth annual agency conference with more than 250 representatives from our partner agencies Thursday, May 28. The event included a keynote presentation given by Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn on eating nutritious, whole food diets.

The conference also included our agency recognition event. Several awards were given for agencies' extraordinary commitment and innovative efforts throughout the year. The top honor was given to Denise Dworning, director of the Vineyard Community Church choice pantry. Since Denise began managing the pantry, it has distributed nearly 1.2 million pounds of food, providing more than 965,000 meals to more than 80,000 people!



Kristin Warzocha, Thomas Russ (Morgan Stanley Cleveland), Adalisse Rodriguez (Morgan Stanley), Vanessa Norris (Cleveland Housing Network) and Joan Steinberg (Morgan Stanley Foundation) help build a playground in a low-income neighborhood as part of this new initiative.

Morgan Stanley Is Making Northeast Ohioans Healthier

This summer, Morgan Stanley launched Healthy Cities Cleveland, part of a national program to encourage wellness, nutrition and play in underserved communities. As a Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities nonprofit partner, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank is working to help give kids in our community everything they need for a healthy start.

Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities began with three cities in 2014 – Chicago, Ill., Newark, N.J. and Oakland, Calif. After seeing the progress that was made, the program expanded to Houston and Cleveland.

Over the next year, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank will help deliver more than 710,000 healthy meals through the expansion of our School Pantry program, as well as provide support for nutrition education, health screenings and more. To ensure the program reaches as many children as possible, Morgan Stanley will play an active role every step of the way by providing funding and volunteers.

“We are so excited to be part of the Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities program, which will provide us with the opportunity to expand our School Pantry program and collaborate with other nonprofits to deliver additional resources that provide children with the building blocks they need,” the Food Bank’s Kristin Warzocha says.

OUR MISSION:
Working together to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day.

“I am so proud of Morgan Stanley’s support of children in Cleveland,” says Thomas Russ, Executive Director, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. “We hope the school pantries, wellness education and health screenings not only make a difference in the students’ lives, but also benefit their families and schools.”

Morgan Stanley believes that a city is only as healthy as its children. As an organization that has spent years feeding the next generation, we at the Food Bank couldn’t agree more.

Thank you, Morgan Stanley, for your leadership in making Northeast Ohio a healthier and safer place for kids to live and grow. Your commitment to the well-being of young people is sure to have a lasting impact in the lives of those we’re serving together.

Join Tomorrow’s Harvest

Tomorrow’s Harvest is a society that recognizes individuals who have included the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in their estate plans through a will, trust, annuity, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. Through these special gifts, our supporters are able to make a significant difference in our community, even beyond their lifetimes. Because, as long as there are hungry people in Northeast Ohio, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank will be here to feed them.

To learn more about how your generosity could make an impact for generations to come, please contact Stacey McKinley, Senior Manager of Strategic Gifts at 216-738-2056 or smckinley@ClevelandFoodbank.org.



David and Lottie, Puritas neighborhood

Your Gifts Provide Food and Stability

About a year ago, Robinson G. Jones Elementary’s afterschool program, The Edge, began hosting its very first Kids Cafe in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. In its first year, 186 students participated in the program, which provides regular access to healthy meals.

The huge turnout last year doesn’t surprise Mary Jo Cotner, a site coordinator for Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She says every child at Jones Elementary qualifies for the free or reduced-price meal program. Without the afterschool Kids Cafe, many children wouldn’t have another full meal until breakfast at school the next morning.

Mary Jo has seen the great need firsthand. Of the nearly 200 students she served through the Kids Cafe program last year, at least 10 were homeless. She knows the program is vitally important, especially for those without a permanent home to return to in the evening.

Your generosity is transforming the lives of children facing difficult circumstances. Support from friends like you means kids at Jones Elementary – and across Northeast Ohio – have the comfort of a nourishing meal when the school cafeteria is closed.

When they can eat regular nutritious meals, children who attend The Edge have the energy they need to learn and play. After the evening meal, they receive homework help, participate in afterschool book clubs, play sports, chess and music or take advantage of one of the many other activities The Edge offers, like Girl and Boy Scouts.

“You’re making a difference for these kids.”

Since The Edge began, Mary Jo says attendance has increased from 88 to 95 percent. As a new school year quickly approaches and the afterschool program grows, it makes her smile to know you’ll be there to support children in need.

“Thank you,” Mary Jo says with sincerity. “You’re making a difference for these kids.”

Students at Citizens Academy Say Thank You

Eden,
East Cleveland

This fall, when Keita Sa'ad enters the cafeteria at Citizens Academy, she'll be greeted by more than 60 smiling students. As the coordinator for the school's Kids Cafe, Keita will be responsible for ensuring each child enrolled in the afterschool program receives a nutritious meal before going home.

All students at Citizens Academy qualify for free breakfasts and lunches at school. But without additional help, many would go hungry in the evenings and on weekends. Thanks to you, children like Eden, 9, can receive nutritious meals that will help them concentrate during class and thrive.

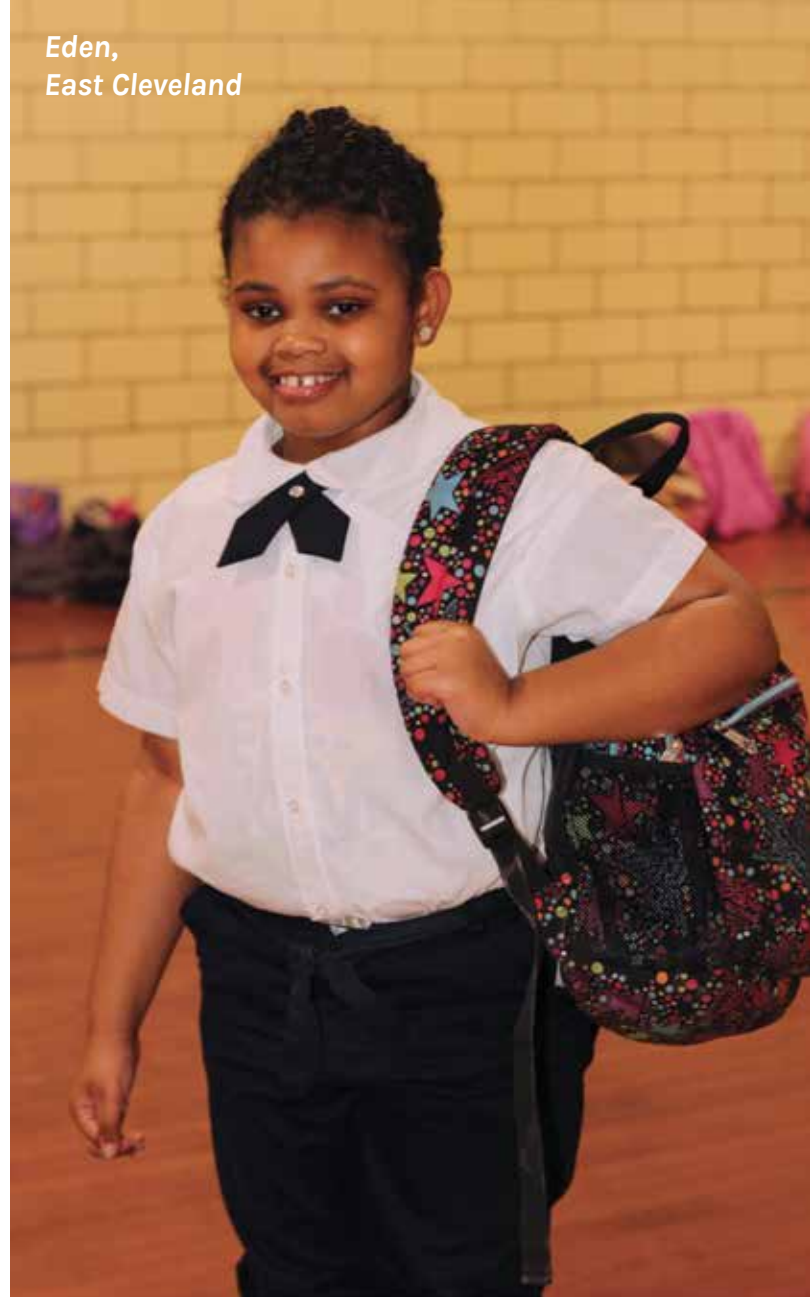
**“Consider yourself a true
hero to our community.”**

When school starts, Eden will begin fourth grade at Citizens. She's enrolled in both Kids Cafe and the BackPacks for Kids program, which helps supplement the food her parents can afford to buy for Eden and her two little brothers. Like many children in her community, Eden's parents get by on a thin budget, and these food resources mean Eden and her brothers won't go hungry when money is especially tight.

Eden is aware of her family's financial situation and knows how much people like you help out. She was excited to share her gratitude.

“Thank you!” Eden says with a big smile. “The food is important because we need to be strong and healthy.”

In addition to help with food, kids at Citizens Academy join



in a wide variety of enriching afterschool activities — from homework help to dance classes to drama clubs. Keita knows that this wouldn't be possible without your help.

Because you choose to give, many students at Citizens Academy are no longer at risk of missing meals in the evening and during weekends. For this, Keita — and the dozens of parents whose children she serves — are very grateful for your generosity.

“Consider yourself a true hero to our community,” Keita says.



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

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Connect with the
Greater Cleveland Food Bank!



local coordinator of
HARVEST
for HUNGER 

