

FOOD

for thought

Spring 2011



**Toledo
Northwestern Ohio
Food Bank, Inc.**



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President's Message

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported us in 2010! Your efforts helped us to distribute 6,011,268 pounds of food this past year. Compared to 2009, this is an increase of 36.5% or 2,195,770 pounds of food.

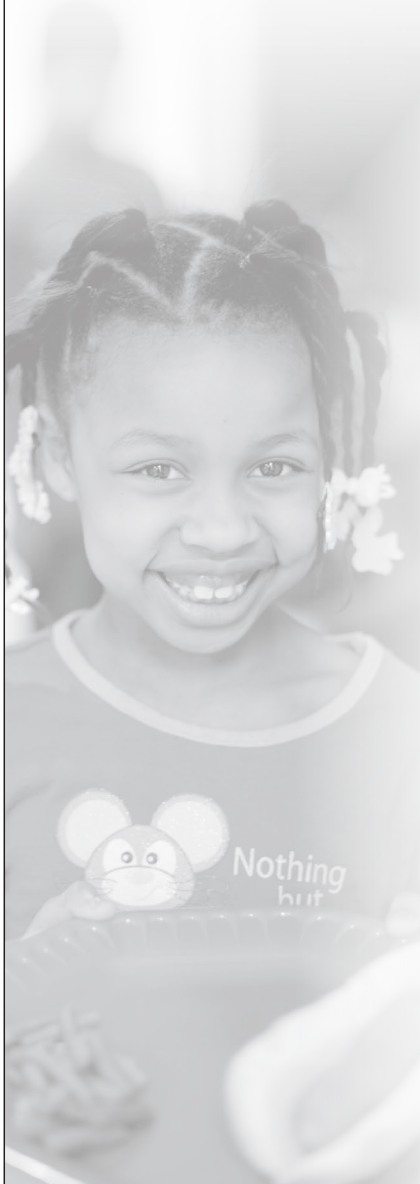
A man by the name of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said, "Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think." It is a simple thought with a powerful message.

If I asked you to divide your expenses into two categories; (essential and optional), how many of you would think to put food expenses in the 'optional' category? For many here in Northwest Ohio, this is a daily reality. When it comes to choosing rent or dinner, they may go without dinner to keep a roof over their heads.

Based upon these facts, it is important for us to receive the community's continued support in 2011. Year-round giving can provide hope to families, children and seniors who rely on our 300 member agencies to receive regular nutritious meals.

Sincerely,

James M. Caldwell



pg 2

Why Your Support Matters

pg 3

Event Wrap Up

AARP Ohio Holds
Statewide Drive

pg 4

Red Gold Tomato Company
Donate 15,000 lbs
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick
Donate \$2,500
Walmart Fights Hunger with Facebook

Why Your Support Matters

In 2010, the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank distributed 258,657 pounds of food to Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen. This has a retail value of \$413,851.20. They have been a member agency since 1984.

Bobb Pacholski has watched Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen and pantry grow for the past 29 years. He recalled the very first meal they served January 23, 1982. "Twenty three people showed up for a bowl of soup and a sandwich. By August of 1983, we were serving 1000 people."

Bobb said when he and a fellow deacon noticed a need in the area, they began the soup kitchen. They thought it would last a couple of years, but were surprised at the continued need. Before the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank opened in 1984, Bobb drove to Gleaners in Detroit to stock the pantry.

Pacholski was asked what he would say to encourage people to help: "We here at the pantry pride ourselves on running it without any administration costs. This means that we get great mileage from your (donated) dollar." Tom Kirkhope, Mr. Pacholski's right-hand man at the pantry, added; "It's great to help your neighbors, especially in these tough economic times."

One client of Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen is a senior and a retiree on a fixed income who has been coming to the kitchen for three years. When asked how OLL soup kitchen has helped, he replied; "It helps a lot. They provide good nutritious food. Everything is homemade and they

serve things like baked chicken and vegetables."

The client has noticed an increase in the number of people coming in for help. "They've been coming more and more. With 1.5 million foreclosures predicted this year, it's definitely worse." When asked, one thing he would want other people to know is that: "The economy may be better in some areas, but I haven't seen it here. I'm on a fixed income and it's hard to make ends meet. The people here and Bobb (Pacholski) are real friendly and willing to help."

Another client at OLL Soup Kitchen voiced a similar perspective. "I don't have enough money to survive. There has been no pay raise in social security for years. A lot more people need help." He also noticed a surge in the number of people coming in for help. "There are a lot more people and different faces." The one thing he wants others to know is: "With winter here and a possible increase in the water and utility bills, it's tough. We have to cut back on food to keep our medicine."

Without the support of the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, clients like these wouldn't get the help they need.

Bobb Pacholski also wanted to say that; "Jim Caldwell and Barbara Grandowicz and everyone at the Food Bank really go the extra mile to make us feel special."

Congratulations on 29 years of service to Bobb and everyone at Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen!

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Events Wrap-Up

ABUELO'S SPICES UP BENEFIT

On Saturday, December 18, Abuelo's Mexican restaurant held a benefit for the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank. For every person who brought in a special flyer, Abuelo's donated 20% of their bill to the Food Bank.

The event was a great way for our supporters to enjoy Mexican cuisine and raise money for our cause. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff at Abuelos for your hospitality.

OPERATION TURKEY CONCLUDES

Since 2003, Operation Turkey has helped us to provide turkeys to families in need during the holiday season.

This year, the event was extended until Friday, December 10. As a result of your generous donations, 24,290.50 pounds of turkey was bought and distributed this year. Thank you to everyone who donated or participated this year!

EMPTY BOWLS

Our 3rd Annual Empty Bowls "The Art of Soup" event was held on Sunday November 7, 2010 at the Toledo Botanical Gardens in the Terrace Room from 1-3 p.m.

A \$5 donation provided a bowl of soup, bread and dessert and helped to fill the bowls of the hungry. Local artisans also created beautiful handcrafted bowls that were available for purchase during the event.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD WRAPS UP

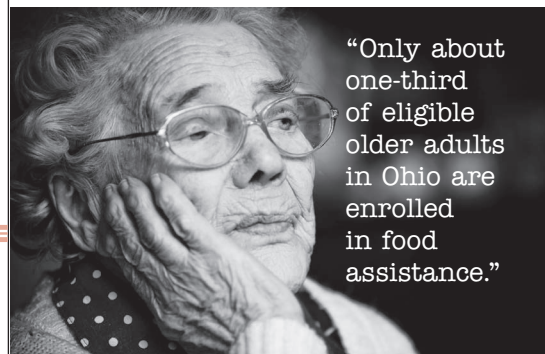
Our annual Scouting for Food campaign wrapped up on Friday, December 10. The campaign involved three different facets. The first leg of the campaign involved hundreds of area boy scouts, who went door-to-door to collect food donations from residents in four counties.

The second leg of the campaign was the Worksite Campaign which involved area schools and businesses who collected food donations on our behalf.

During the last leg of the campaign, TARTA once again hosted the *Fill the Bus* event. On Friday, December 3, they parked a TARTA bus at the Costco at Westgate to collect food donations. They also offered half-fare to all riders who brought a food item on a bus that day. In total, 108,964 pounds of food was collected during the Scouting for Food campaign.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year!

AARP OHIO HOLDS STATEWIDE DRIVE



"Only about one-third of eligible older adults in Ohio are enrolled in food assistance."

From November 1-21, 2010, AARP Ohio and the OASHF (Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks), partnered to hold a statewide food drive. The goal of the food drive was to raise awareness as well as food and monetary donations for 12 Ohio food banks.

The food donations particularly sought were low-sodium/low-sugar/high-protein items that many seniors need. Tamara James, AARP Ohio Senior Manager of state operations, said one of the food drive's goals was to raise awareness that assistance is available for those who need it.

"Only about one-third of eligible older adults in Ohio are enrolled in food assistance," James said. "We hope this food drive will help bridge the gap in the short-term, and that efforts by AARP Ohio, OASHF and other organizations to connect older adults with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment will help them in the long-term."

**Check out our
new website at
www.toledofoodbank.org**

Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank's website has been revamped. Navigating our information and learning about the latest news has never been easier! Our Calendar of Events provides visitors with food drive locations, benefit details and much more. You can even sign up for our quarterly newsletters online. Enjoy the new videos page located under the News section.

Please stop by and check it out: <http://www.toledofoodbank.org>!



Red Gold Tomato Company Donate 15,000 lbs



On Wednesday, December 8, Red Gold donated 15,000 pounds of product to the Food Bank. To help create interest around the donation, they constructed a huge 3 dimensional billboard near Manhattan Street on I-280 South. The rarely-seen billboard boasts the country's largest tomato cans; they could fit nearly 100,000 real Red Gold cans inside. We would like to thank all of the people at Red Gold Tomato for your generosity and creativity!



Fights Hunger With Facebook

The first part of Walmart's campaign was a national in-store food drive from November 15-22, 2010. All of the stores in our 8 county region participated by collecting food donations for us. A total of 14,996 pounds was collected on our behalf.

In an effort to fight hunger on a whole new level, Walmart also launched a Facebook contest on November 15th, 2010. The contest included the top 100 cities with the highest food hardship rates. These cities could receive votes from Facebook users. The top 6 communities with the most votes, split a \$1.5 million dollar prize. First place, Salt Lake City Utah, took home \$1 million. The other 5 winners split the remaining \$500,000 evenly. They were: Fresno, CA, Columbia, SC, Ogden-Clearfield, UT, Charleston, SC and Bakersfield, CA.

Thanks to everyone who voted for us or donated food!

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick Donate \$2,500

The law firm of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, donated \$2,500 to the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank through their Leadership Shumaker program. Mark Mercer and Nick Malone serve as co-chairs for Leadership Shumaker and indicated that "Leadership Shumaker is a program managed by associate attorneys at the firm. The program involves attorneys and staff at the firm in various fund raising events throughout the year to benefit local non-profit charitable organizations."

When asked what the Leadership Shumaker program has done in the past, Mr. Mercer replied, "Leadership Shumaker typically focuses its efforts to benefit local charitable institutions which have a direct impact on the local community in which we live. Since the program's inception in 2008, Leadership Shumaker has provided monetary support and in-kind contributions to Assistance Dogs of America (Northwest Ohio Division), Sunshine Inc. of Northwestern Ohio, the Polly Fox Academy, Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, the Sparrow's Nest, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and Toys for Tots. Attorneys Mark Mercer and Nick Malone co-chair the Leadership Shumaker program."

Mr. Mercer told us how they first became aware of Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank; "An attorney at the firm became aware of the "Backpack Program" through his general affiliation with the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank and was impressed with the Backpack Program's goal to fight hunger by providing meals to disadvantaged children. While no experts, we understand that hunger is a growing problem in our communities. Hunger can impact children's' cognitive development and we know that children who are provided nutritious meals are more prone to exhibit positive behavior in school and to achieve academic success."

Mr. Mercer ended by saying that his colleagues were "impressed with your operation and the impact it has on the lives of those less fortunate." The Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank would like to thank everyone at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick for their generosity and support!

2nd annual Blues & Jazz Festival in the works

The soulful sounds of Blues and Jazz will again fill Centennial Terrace this summer. The Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 4pm - midnight. It will feature the Swamp Kings, Ron Yarosz, Tony Monaco and a headline act yet to be named.

As more details become available, they will be posted to our website; www.toledofoodbank.org and on facebook; <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Toledo-Food-Bank/345782664064>.

If you have any further questions, please contact our Events Coordinator, Sabrina Meek, at 419-242-5000 ext. 212.