

BRINGING FOOD TO REMOTE COMMUNITIES:

Mini-Mobile Market Initiative

The SE Ohio Foodbank's Mini-Mobile Market program addresses transportation barriers in rural areas by delivering food directly to neighborhoods and community gathering places. This initiative is vital for residents who cannot easily travel to larger distribution events at county fairgrounds.

Recently, SE Ohio Foodbank trucks set up at the Federal Valley Resource Center. As the thrift shop opened and pickleball practice began, a few cars were already waiting. Throughout the event, neighbors chatted, caught up on the week's events, and discussed meal plans using the ingredients they received, such as split pea soup and applesauce. The majority of participants were over 60, reflecting the increased need for food assistance among older adults.

Traditional mobile markets, typically held at county fairgrounds, serve hundreds of families. However, Mini-Mobile Markets ensure those unable to reach the fairgrounds have access to food closer to home. As the project progresses, the SE Ohio Foodbank team is identifying more locations and increasing the frequency of events to enhance food accessibility in remote areas.

This event complemented the Federal Valley Resource Center's Friday Food Pantry, adding essentials like eggs, cheese, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, apples, cereal, milk, and canned goods. Four organizations participated: SE Ohio Foodbank, the Federal Valley Resource Center, the Athens County Public Library, and the SE Ohio Breast & Cervical Cancer Project. By offering multiple resources at one stop, the event effectively addressed transportation barriers and provided significant value to attendees.

Thanks to the support of donors and friends, this program is poised for expansion, ensuring that all community members have access to nutritious food.



DIRECTORS LETTER

Warm greetings from the SE Ohio Foodbank! The beginning of 2024 brought many fresh opportunities as we tackled food insecurity for children and seniors, expanded health equity initiatives, and extended food distributions in our region.

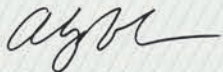
In the summer months, many of our neighbors experience concerns over rising utility costs and food prices. With the absence of daily school meals, families with children also feel added pressure when trying to fill their fridge.

I want to highlight two foodbank projects that take on these issues. During early 2024, our team broadened food distributions to remote areas of our counties through Mini-Mobile distributions. This project has served 206 families, including 91 new families, living far from our normal distribution sites at county fairgrounds.

The second project, our Summer Meals program, provided 29,940 meals to 16,436 children in 2023. As we amp up this year's program, we expect to feed just as many school-aged children.

As we work to provide food, support, and resources to people in Southeast Ohio, we are encouraged by community contributions. From the Fill the Freezer projects in Perry, Hocking, and Gallia counties, to the support of Kroger and Hocking Hills businesses, to the hard work of our volunteers, you have helped bring food to the far corners of our counties. Thank you for your continued support for our efforts to alleviate food insecurity in Southeast Ohio! We could not do it without you!

With a grateful heart,



Alicia Miklos
Executive Director



SE OHIO FOODBANK MILESTONES:

Over 2 Million Meals Distributed and 40,000 Unique Individuals Served in First Half of the Year



2,013,936 Meals Distributed



42,376 Unique Individuals Served



157,476 Total Visits

535 Volunteers Contributed Over 3,100 Hours

FILL THE FREEZER: A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR FOOD SECURITY

Fill the Freezer began as a pilot project in 2021 through a partnership with the Community Foundation for Perry County, an affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). The program has since expanded to Hocking and Gallia counties, working with local fair boards and FAO affiliates to make a significant impact.

This initiative allows buyers at livestock sales to donate hogs to Fill the Freezer, providing support to 4-H youth who raise livestock and to community members facing food insecurity. All donated meat is distributed to local food pantries, ensuring high-quality, locally-raised pork products are available to those in need.

The SE Ohio Foodbank (SEOFB) plays a critical role by storing and distributing the donated meat. Given that most food pantries have limited freezer space, SEOFB uses its extensive freezer capacity to hold the meat until it can be delivered to each county's pantries. This process keeps pantry freezers stocked for months, and in some cases, nearly an entire year.

"Fill the Freezer is just one example of how our affiliate foundations bring their communities together to meet needs and create opportunities through gifts of time, talent, and treasure," said Tracy Mann, FAO's senior director of outreach. "This program wouldn't be possible without our partnership with the SE Ohio Foodbank. We are honored to be a part of its work to help our neighbors facing food insecurity - one pig and one gift at a time."

This collaborative effort demonstrates the power of community partnerships in addressing food insecurity and supporting local youth, proving that together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of many.



HOCKING HILLS GIVES BACK CAMPAIGN RETURNS, AIMS TO BEAT LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS

Hocking Hills Gives Back in July Campaign Returns!

We are excited to announce the return of the Hocking Hills Gives Back in July campaign for its third year! A heartfelt thank you to this year's participating businesses: The Woodlands at Hocking Hills, High Meadows Lodging, Hocking Hills Coffee Emporium, Eco Luxe Vacations, Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center, The Cabins at Hickory Ridge, Country Cabins of Hocking Hills, Cozy Escapes, and The Orchard School.

Over the past two years, this campaign has raised \$10,486.70, providing the equivalent of up to 17,722 meals to those in need!

KROGER'S \$20,000 CONTRIBUTION FUELS HOPE FOR HUNGRY KIDS

Thanks to a generous \$20,000 donation from Kroger, children facing hunger in Southeast Ohio will enjoy more than 12,000 meals and snacks this summer. This partnership fueled the recent Summer Meals Packing Event, where volunteers packed boxes of shelf-stable, kid-friendly foods.



In our community, one in five children face food insecurity. The absence of school meals in the summer makes it even harder for them to get the nutritious food they need. Kroger's contribution ensures that the SE Ohio Foodbank can reach any child in need, regardless of their eligibility for state-funded nutrition programs.

Over 40 Kroger leadership and staff members, along with special guests, including Kelli Johnson, from Senator Vance's office, and Jeremy Shanklin, from Congressman Wenstrup's office, participated in this event. Mark Bruce, Corporate Affairs Manager for Kroger's Columbus Division, shared the importance of events like this, "Each member of our team talked about how impactful it was to see 3,000 boxes packed with a total of 12,000 meals, realizing there's a need for even more. Our associates left energized to keep working and keep doing what they can to feed more of our neighbors."

In addition to the meals made possible by Kroger, SE Ohio Foodbank will provide food to 15 summer meal sites across Athens, Gallia, Hocking, and Perry Counties. The rural summer meals program will also return, offering shelf stable food boxes to those unable to make it to summer meal sites. Together, we are making a significant impact on childhood hunger, helping children grow and thrive.

Thank you, Kroger, for your invaluable support. Because of you, hope and nourishment reach the tables of those who need it most.



Stay Connected How YOU Want to Stay Connected

Let us know how you want to stay informed and up-to-date with important news, events, and resources. Please visit hapcap.org/subscribe or scan the QR to update your contact preference and contact information. Thank you for being a vital part of the effort to end hunger in Southeast Ohio and for helping us stay connected!

Update Your Contact Preferences Here



or visit hapcap.org/subscribe



HAPCAP.ORG | 740-767-1022 | INFO@HAPCAP.ORG
3 CARDARAS DR | PO BOX 220 | GLOUSTER, OH 45701

GIVE ONLINE

