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### OUR MISSION

The Stark County Hunger Task Force fights hunger in our community by providing financial, logistic, strategic, and food support to our network of local emergency food pantries.

## Hunger challenge unveiled

Are you ready to discover hunger? Take the challenge.

For Hunger Awareness Month, SCHTF launched the Uncover Hunger Challenge, an invitation to shop and eat for one week in solidarity with Stark County neighbors coping with food insecurity.

We invite everyone to participate and eat on \$38.50 for one person for one week. With \$12 in SNAP benefits and the income remaining for food, that's what many of our neighbors face every week for a food budget for each individual in their household.

The challenge began the week of Nov. 16, but it can be taken any week. Check out all of the details on our Website – <http://starkhunger.org/uncoverhunger/>. Join us in stepping into the shoes of many of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity.



## Mineral City man drives away a new Chevrolet Impala

Joshua Taylor of Mineral City won the 2014 Chevrolet Impala outlasting 29 other semi-finalists during the final gala of the *Food for the People Car Raffle* Oct. 7 at Progressive Chevrolet.

With the generous donation of the new Impala by Progressive Chevrolet of Massillon, all proceeds from the raffle go to feeding the hungry through the Stark County Hunger Task Force network of more than 30 pantries and Backpack for Kids programs.

“We profoundly thank Progressive Chevrolet and the Chevy Network for donating the 2014 Impala worth \$30,000, and Fishers Foods, CSE Federal Credit Union and Quaker Steak and Lube for their tremendous contribution to this project,” said Amy Weisbrod, SCHTF executive director. “We are also grateful for the support of our radio affiliates and marketing partners, including NewsTalk 1480 WHBC, Mix 94.1, 98.1 WKDD, Rock 106.9, My 101.7, Q92 WDJQ, 95.9 FM WNPQ, FM 94.9 WQMX, 97.5 WONE, 99.9 WTVZ, Grabowski & Company, C. Massouh Printing Services and ClearChannel Outdoor. We rely on the generosity of the Stark County community as we provide free groceries to an average of 27,000 residents each month.”



**Impala Owner** – Joshua Taylor receives congratulations from Amy Weisbrod of SCHTF after winning a 2014 Chevrolet Impala.

Grabowski & Company provided priceless value to this campaign with their generous support of graphic design, event management and a social media plan with a twist. That twist engaged many on our Facebook fans to watch closely for the next clue of our Scavenger Hunt. Elise Mostov was the winner of the hunt and advanced to the final drawing.

Funds from *Food for the People Car Raffle* will allow Stark County Hunger Task Force to supply some 105,000 pounds for food to the hungry of Stark County through our pantry network and Backpack for Kids programs.

## SCHTF revamps starkhunger.org Website

The Stark County Hunger Task Force launched a new Website in September at [www.starkhunger.org](http://www.starkhunger.org). The site was created by one of our board of directors, Joe Rosza, using WordPress. The new Website is a one-stop information source for everything about our organization:

-  Our programs and upcoming events
-  Information for the community and potential donors about hunger and food insecurity in Stark County
-  The history of the Stark County Task Force
-  How to volunteer and/or help the SCHTF
-  Corporate Partners of the Stark County Task Force
-  Resources for the directors of our food pantries
-  Resources for the members of our board of directors

**Best Wishes  
for a  
Joyous  
Holiday  
Season  
from the  
Stark County Hunger  
Task Force  
staff and  
board of directors**



**December 5**  
*Spirit of Giving Day at Downtown Ford*

**Volunteering:**

**Pantry**  
330.455.6667  
ralph@starkhunger.org

**Ushering**  
Palace Theater  
330.495.2872  
msumser@hotmail.com

Now online @ [starkhunger.org/volunteer](http://starkhunger.org/volunteer)

# Why I became a hunger fighter

*By Sara Dieringer*  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
Stark County Hunger Task Force

In her address to the Smith College graduating class of 2014, as well as many alumni, family and friends also in the crowd, Ruth Simmons, former Smith president, spoke about becoming and remaining a person of moral discernment and deep personal conviction. "Whatever you do when you leave this place," she said, "do it in the full spirit of who you are and what you care about."

Having completed my degree early, last December, I sat in the audience as something between graduate and alumni. More importantly, I was also torn between what I thought my first year or so out of college ought to look like – my original post-grad plans – and the things I'd discovered while waiting for them to begin.

When I started working at the Stark County Hunger Task Force three months prior to hearing her speak, I thought neither SCHTF, Stark County nor Ohio fit into the map I'd constructed for my future. But in spite of my carefully made plans, I couldn't *not* have the honor of witnessing the powerful and transformative nature of generosity in action every single day and remain unchanged.

I am continually humbled by the dedication of SCHTF volunteers, pantry directors, donors, community partners and all of our many, varied supporters. They changed the way I view the place where I grew up, as well as my own role in its present and its future.

So 11 months after leaving Smith College for the big, bad world and freshly 23-years-old, I am still here. Although I never planned on becoming a "hunger fighter," it has become my platform of choice to act on the passion I hold for others, to confront and ameliorate injustices, to use my voice thoughtfully and to live out my personal convictions and moral discernment authentically.

Every day, I chose to make my life about serving the community that raised and educated me – a community I only ever dreamed of leaving behind. Why? The challenge SCHTF presented me was one in the full spirit of who I am and what I care about. Enter into the mission, step into the life of the community, invest yourself in this place and those who inhabit it with you.

I now pose the same challenge to all of you, and the good news is that you've already begun to answer it. But what I invite you to do is go deeper – renew, strengthen and further your commitment to fighting hunger in Stark County. What exactly that will mean varies from person to person, but keep it in mind while you read through our newsletter. Of all our programs and events, the Backpack for Kids Program is the one that stood out most and confronting childhood hunger drew me further into the SCHTF's mission.

So when you reach the end of this newsletter and read about the overwhelming present need of Stark County's children, consider using your voice to feed them – today, you can answer the challenge to go deeper, and you can do it now by sponsoring a child, a school or making a general Backpack for Kids donation.

# Runners, walkers take strides in the fight against hunger

Large steps were taken to fight hunger on Sept. 14 at the Brace Against Hunger 5K Run Walk on the Stark Parks Middle Branch Trail.

With the support of Drs. Morgan, Bernard and Associates, Shearer's Foods, Canton Pediatric Dental Center, Dr. Shelly Boss, Omni Orthopaedics, Shin Etsu, Aultcare and Aultman, Center for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Center for Advanced Periodontal & Implant Care, Amison Dental Group, Rice's Nursery, Dr. George Williams, GlenOak High School, Stark Parks, WHBC, The Canton Repository, B&C Communications, SolPie Pizza, Almost Heave Ice Cream and our participants, we are able to place over 100,000 pounds of food into the hands of those who have experienced a crisis and can no longer provide for their family.



Thank you to everyone involved with this event – you make the difference.



## New Stark County Hunger Task Force truck hits the highways

The Stark County Hunger Task Force was in desperate need of a replacement for their 14-year-old van.

This vehicle was used to transport food to and from the food bank. The van was in poor shape breaking down on the highway with a rusty frame and limited cargo space.

We commissioned for help from The Deuble Foundation, The Hoover Foundation and the Sisters of Charity of Canton, who led us to The Timken Foundation of Canton and The Paul and Carol David Foundation. They saved us by fighting hunger in a practical and tangible way: a new truck. A very special thank you goes out to these foundations for granting us the funds to purchase a brand-new, bigger and more reliable vehicle.



**On the road** – Richard Neiman, SCHTF pantry staffer, displays the new FUSO truck used for food bank runs for the SCHTF pantry and available for use by network pantries.

The new truck can hold 9,000 pounds of food which helps in more than one way. The expansion of cargo space has not only allowed us to purchase more nutritious food, but has cut travel expenses significantly.

We would like to name our trucks. If you would like to submit names for our small boxed truck that holds 3,000 pounds and our larger boxed truck we speak about here, please submit them to Amy Weisbrod at [amy@starkhunger.org](mailto:amy@starkhunger.org).



## Did you know that November is Hunger Awareness Month?

As the holiday approaches, many Americans will reflect on what they are grateful for and also begin to look forward to gathering around a table of plenty.

In recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, every November, The Stark County Hunger Task Force observes “Hunger Awareness Month,” or HAM for short. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Hunger Awareness Month is a time set aside to focus on gratitude, generosity and education. This November, we are speaking out on hunger, and if you have an opportunity for us to increase hunger awareness in our community, let us know.

We honored our many volunteers and pantry directors for the time and effort they’ve dedicate to fighting hunger at our HAM Appreciation Dinner, held on Nov. 6 at the Community Campus at Goodwill.

All Stark County schools are invited to participate in the Hunger Convention, a county-wide food drive, and take the opportunity to provide their students with a valuable learning experience.

SCHTF joined forces with Malone University, their ENACTUS student group, and the Kiwanis Clubs of Louisville, Canton, and Belden Village to Tailgate Against Hunger collecting canned food items and at the Malone vs. Findlay football game, along with monetary donations to help the hungry in Stark County.

Every Sunday in November, Angry Barbeque in Belden Village will donate 10 percent of the day’s sales to the Stark County Hunger Task Force.

Warstler Brothers Landscaping held a food drive every Saturday and Sunday between Oct. 11 and Nov. 23. Items were dropped off at 4125 Salway Ave NW, Canton, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Nov. 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Stark County Youth Lacrosse held a 2014 Turkey Shootout fundraiser at Canton Central Catholic High School’s Lowell Klinefelter Stadium. They’re donating 50 percent of the proceeds to SCHTF – see [starkcountyyouthlacrosse.com](http://starkcountyyouthlacrosse.com) for details.

Students from the STEAM Academy at Hartford Middle School and Alliance Middle School will be expressing their feelings about hunger through art, creating pin-wheels that will be displayed on Market Square in Canton during November.

At the Stark County Hunger Task Force, where we serve 27,000 of those Stark residents struggling with food insecurity, hunger is something we see every

day. But we also see incredible generosity and compassion at work in this community and the impact of something as simple as free bags of groceries on the lives of those in need.



**Hunger fighters** – Laura Wagner of Belden Village Kiwanis (left), Tiffany Fulks of Malone University ENACTUS (center) and John Markle of the Jackson High School Key Club guided the crews collecting food and money during the 2014 Tailgate Against Hunger at the Malone Pioneer - Findlay Oilers football clash.

*What about those in our community who cannot regularly count on access to adequate and affordable food for themselves and their families? What about their Thanksgiving table?*

Ultimately provides 15,000 pounds of free groceries

## Free community shred days benefit the county’s hungry

Stark Federal Credit Union free Community Shred Days Aug. 16 in Canton and Aug. 9 in Alliance proved a grand success.

The response in Canton at the 4100 Dressler Rd. NW branch filled the shred truck to maximum capacity by late morning and more importantly the two events will allow us to provide nearly 15,000 pounds of free groceries to the hungry of Stark County. Thanks to Stark Federal Credit Union for staging this important community service and for including Stark County Hunger Task Force. As always, the staff and volunteers from the credit union did a wonderful job.

The event offers individuals a safe convenient method for destroying confidential personal documents, and they received a free reusable grocery bag.

Stark County Hunger Task Force officials salute Stark Federal Credit Union for its support of the local battle against hunger.

Statistics show the county’s overall food insecurity rate stands at 15.3 percent, and alarmingly, nearly one in four children go hungry, amounting to more than 57,000, or one in six Stark County neighbors facing empty cupboards and iceboxes.



**On the road** – Piles of food build up at the Stark Federal Credit Union shred day in Canton Aug. 16 as residents line up to drop off documents and donations to feed the hungry.

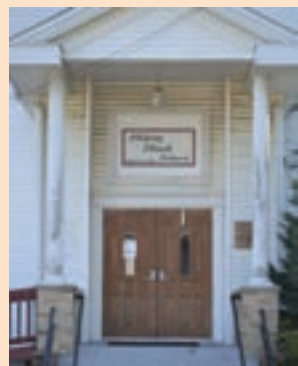
**TOP 5 MOST NEEDED ITEMS**

- Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken)
- Peanut Butter
- Soup
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Pasta

**DONATE TODAY!**

### Hold a food drive:

- at work
- in your neighborhood
- ask your holiday guests to bring a box of cereal, or something from the top five most needed items



## Pantry Spotlight: The Helping Hands Network

"I feel good knowing that I am doing a little bit to help," said a volunteer at The Helping Hands Network (HHN).

The emergency food pantry began in 1983 as a result of an identified need in the community.

East Sparta, Magnolia, Sandyville and Waynesburg were calling out for help, and the Helping Hands Network answered. Not only are they handing out free groceries to those in need in their community, but they also assist with school supplies, Christmas gifts and Easter candy for children. "God bless you for the service you are doing," said a visitor to the pantry located in the Sandy Valley community.

"We depend on our monthly allocation from the Stark County Hunger Task Force to meet our needs," said Becky Larson, Helping Hands Network director. The HHN serves on average 500 people each month a three-to-five day supply of free groceries. With 31 years of service, both the visitor to the pantry and volunteers know this is a good thing. "I volunteer because I want to help my community. I am disabled and can't work anymore, so being here makes me feel like I am still able to work," said Heidi Engle from the HHN.

You can help many areas in Stark County by supporting the Stark County Hunger Task Force. We have more than 30 pantries serving Stark County in every neck of the woods. For every dollar you donate, we can place up to seven pounds of food on these shelves and into the hands that need it. Visit our website at [starkhunger.org](http://starkhunger.org) to make a difference.

## Palette2Palate frames the battle to feed the hungry in Stark County

Twenty-one acclaimed Stark County artists came together to battle hunger with creativity during the second annual Palette2Palate benefiting Stark County Hunger Task Force. A vibrant mix of photographs, paintings, pottery and mixed media were on exhibit and then auctioned live by Rodney Dimmerling during the event held on Oct. 25 at the Joseph Saxton Gallery of Photography.

Palette2Palate gives the community an opportunity to feed their creativity, their belly and their conscience by helping feed the hungry in Stark County," said Amy Weisbrod, Stark County Hunger Task Force executive director.

Presenting works are photographers Shawn Wood, David Stewart, Mandy Altimus Pond, Jeannene Mathis-Bertosa, Mark Pitocco, Stephen McNulty, Michele Waalkes and Tim Belden; painters Nancy Stewart Matin, Tiffany Marsh, Nancy Darrah and Ted Lawson; potters Bill Shearrow, Donna Elliott, Jack Rogers, Laura Kolinski-Schultz, Liz Eynon and Gail Martino; Joe Martino and Scott Bryant in mixed media, and Russ Hench in metal work.

Palette2Palate was sponsored by Stewart Photography, The Schauer Group, Motter & Meadows Architects, Pinnacle Press, Mercy, Canton Chair Rental, A Studio Photography and Kat's Bake Shoppe. Thanks to the following areas businesses and individuals for their silent auction donations: Lucca Restaurant, Hazel Artisan Bakery, Chocolates by Erin, Red Carpet Car Wash, The Canton Flower Shop, The Wholesome Hive, The Canton Charge, The Cleveland Gladiators, Pat Schneider, Redda Latona and Mary Anne Schwartz.

The Stark County Hunger Task Force is grateful to all who attended, sponsored or donated and helped to make this event a success.



**Au Pear** – Donated by Nancy Stewart Matin to Palette2Palate 2014

## Passionate about childhood hunger? So is SCHTF

Twenty-five percent of all children living in Stark County are hungry – that's one in four.

For the hungry and food-insecure children of Stark County, the only meals they can count on often come from in-school initiatives. If these children are in need Monday through Friday, what happens when they go home for the weekend without the safety net of school breakfasts and lunches?

During the 2013-2014 school year, 46 percent of students enrolled in Stark County schools – public, private and charter – participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). At the schools we serve, that number jumps to 82 percent of all last year's enrolled students.

The sad truth is that these children have to worry about where their next meal will come from. They show up to school on Monday morning without having eaten enough, or very much at all. We think there's something wrong with that picture, and we know you do as well.

Food insecure children are at a higher risk of classroom difficulties, including fewer achievement gains in math and reading, increased inattentiveness and even repeating a grade.

That's why we support five backpack programs – three right here in the Community Campus Pantry. Designed specifically to target childhood hunger, every month our backpack programs supply crucial weekend meals to more than 2,200 school-aged children at five local elementary schools in three Stark County school districts. Students at risk of weekend hunger receive a bag of food from which they can easily assemble four healthy, non-perishable and kid-friendly meals to sustain them over the weekend.



You can help us make their lives both healthier and brighter, and it's easy. Childhood hunger matters and sponsoring a child in our Backpack for Kids Program does too. Place security directly into their hands, and help give them the freedom to focus on being kids, instead of wondering if and when they will be able to eat or where their next meal will come from.

Food insecure children are at a higher risk of classroom difficulties . . .



### Sponsor a child in need

- Yes, I would like to sponsor a child for one month at \$10.00
- Yes, I would like to sponsor two children for one month at \$20.00
- Yes, I would like to sponsor three children for one month at \$30.00
- Yes, I would like to sponsor one school for a week at \$250.00

*Cut me out and mail in the enclosed envelope*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



For online donations, go to: <http://starkhunger.org/take-action/donate/>