



STARK COUNTY **HUNGER** TASK FORCE

Fighting Hunger Since 1981



A Note from the Director

BY MAUREEN KAMPMAN

COVID-19 has turned our daily routines, lives, and businesses upside down. With everything changing in our world on a day to day basis, at the Hunger Task Force, we certainly felt the effects. We know that times are tough, but there are still reasons to smile, and you Stark County are one of those reasons! Being surrounded by so much uncertainty and unrest, we weren't sure how we would continue our fight against hunger. Because of you and your generosity, with time and financial support, we were able to be there when our community needed our help. The people who reached out in so many ways was truly humbling to our agency.

We saw a massive peak in our service numbers, where we were feeding over 200% more people than before COVID 19. Without support from our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, we would not have been able to keep up with the needed service level. Because of this support, we were able to make the programmatic changes required to allow us to feed the vast increase in clients and grant us the ability to keep our staff, volunteers, and clients safe and healthy.

On behalf of everyone at Stark County Hunger Task Force, we are grateful for your continued support in our fight against hunger in Stark County!

Thank You!

Our Mission

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

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A Community of Generous Donors

BY MAUREEN KAMPMAN

The Stark County Hunger Task Force saw a huge increase in the demand for its services. Many of our neighbors found themselves quickly unemployed with no other options than to seek assistance. Thankfully, due to the generosity of our community, we were able to address this huge increase in need. We saw so many individuals give generously. We had local and national companies reach out to provide support. Our local foundations and organizations rallied together to help. We are so grateful for all of the support that we received. There are just a few shining stars that we want to highlight from the past few months. These are groups, organizations, or companies that went the extra mile to support the Hunger Task Force in fighting hunger in Stark County.

- The Marathon Petroleum Company's Canton refinery held an employee giving campaign for SCHTF. The employees raised more than \$36,000. Utilizing the Marathon Foundation 100% match, the total gift to SCHTF was \$73,000. This gift will provide over 500,000 pounds of food which is roughly 425,000 meals to the hungry in Stark County.
- The annual Stamp Out Food Drive could not be conducted this year with letter carriers collecting food from residences. Because of this, our local Branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Stark County Stamp Out Chairperson, John Laughlin, conducted an NALC member donation drive, which brought in over \$8,000 and allows us to provide 56,000 pounds of food to our community!
- SCHTF has always had dedicated leadership in our Board of Directors, but this year they proved that even more than usual. Our Board President, Bob Fay, and our Board Members helped develop a gift of over \$30,000 to SCHTF. This donation began with a matching grant from the Canton Rotary and included generous contributions from Employer's Health and the CVS Foundation. This gift allows SCHTF to provide over 210,000 pounds of food to our neighbors in need.

These examples are only a few ways the Stark County community and its residents have supported the Hunger Task Force. We have also had so many community members show up to volunteer in our pantry and with our Backpack for Kids program. The financial and volunteer support from our friends, neighbors, and community members is why we have been able to continue to address the need in Stark County and carry on our fight against hunger!



Executive Director Maureen Kampman with the coordinators of Stamp Out.



Assistant Director Stephanie Sweany with representatives from Marathon Petroleum.



Ways to Donate

- Visit us online at starkhunger.org
- Send a check to PO Box 20941 Canton, OH 44701
- Text HUNGER2020 to 443-21

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Meet our Hunger Fighters

BY STEPHANIE SWEANY

We have always been incredibly lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers. We had consistency, we knew who was coming each day. Some of our volunteers have been with us for years. Like everything else, we had to make major adjustments in March. When the pandemic hit, 50% of our volunteers were no longer able to come and assist us. Many were vulnerable or had vulnerable members in their households. We knew that we would see an increase in clients and were worried about our capacity to serve at this increased pace. But, as always, the Stark County community came through with overwhelming support. Our phones and inboxes were blowing up with volunteer inquiries. We have had so many new volunteers get involved through the pandemic. Many have stayed and are volunteering their time several days a week. We thought we'd highlight a few and let them tell you their story. To our volunteers that are reading this, but have been unable to come in the past few months, we miss you! We hope to see you all soon.

**Want to join our Hunger
Fighting team?**

**Contact Stephanie at
stephanie@starkhunger.org**



Meet Becky: Becky is a teacher who started volunteering with SCHTF after the school closed in March. With flexibility in her remote instruction, she enjoys volunteering in the pantry and making a difference in her community. Becky has continued to volunteer in the summer because she has made friends with the other volunteers.

Meet Bill: Bill got involved with SCHTF through the suggestion of a friend. He likes working with everyone to accomplish the same mission. He enjoys the teamwork involved in the pantry, it makes the work more fun. Bill finds volunteering to be very rewarding and sees how grateful our clients are when he is loading their car full of groceries.



Meet Gabe: When the pandemic hit, Gabe felt a call to action to support the community. For the past couple of months he has been volunteering his time in the pantry as well as our Backpack for Kids program. His favorite part of volunteering is the one-to-one interactions he has with the clients as well as the other volunteers.

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