



Full-Time Grandmother of Seven Finds Food for All at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Cathy lives a busy life with her seven grandchildren, five of whom she has permanently adopted. Providing for such a large family has been difficult, especially considering the health challenges her family faces. One of Cathy's grandchildren was diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome, and Cathy herself has been bravely battling thyroid cancer while trying to manage her diabetes.



Although she receives SNAP benefits, it is usually not enough to feed their house of eight, and Cathy needs to find ways to reduce her food bill each month. She now regularly visits the weekly drive-through distributions hosted by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at the City of Cleveland's Municipal ("Muni") Lot.

"I have been coming down to these distributions and it helps tremendously with my food bill. It helps me keep the food lasting from month to month," Cathy expressed.

Not only does the food she receives help to keep her family fed, but it also helps them to stay healthy. Cathy always gets plenty of nutritious food from these distributions, which she finds enormously helpful. She notes that a balanced diet is very important to help her manage her illnesses and stay well so she can take care of her family. She also uses this food as an opportunity to teach her grandchildren early on about nutrition and how to seek out healthy snacks.

"I got a grandson who looks forward to the grapes. I got other ones that love apples. I got one granddaughter who is apple crazy! They're happy, and knowing that they are happy makes me happy. Knowing that they're going to eat healthy makes me happy. I don't have to worry about them going hungry."

When asked about how Cathy has coped with the pandemic, she explained how she has had to find ways to incorporate breakfast items into her food shopping now that the children don't get breakfast at school.

"From the Food Bank, we'll get rice, grapes, oatmeal or something in one of those boxes. So, I fix whatever I'm fixing into a big pot of something so that it's enough to go around so I know they are fed in the morning," she expressed.

Cathy works hard to feed her large family and to keep them all safe and healthy meanwhile battling cancer and struggling with other financial stresses. We're so glad that Cathy has found the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and is utilizing our resources as best she can.