

THE ROAD AHEAD

While hunger has always been a significant issue, the urgency to help ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day has become even more important. We know that even more people will turn to us and our partners for support as our community slowly recovers from job loss, economic hardship and more. Now, more than ever, we must continue to help meet the growing needs of our community.



In this together CLE



“It makes me feel great that I can make a difference, that I’m making history and making it better for people who don’t have the opportunity to go to the grocery store, and it makes me feel wonderful.”
~ Specialist Tanyia Hughes of the Ohio National Guard

I have seven of my grandchildren that live with me. This helps me tremendously with my food bill. It helps me keep the food lasting from month to month. Keep up the good work because every little bit helps, every day.

~ Cathy visits our drive-thru distribution at the Muni Lot



THANK YOU

You have played such an important role this year in the fight against hunger! Your efforts, both big and small, mean more to people struggling with food insecurity in Northeast Ohio than you will ever know. 2020 will live in our memories for many years to come, and our entire Food Bank family thanks you for your incredible generosity during these unprecedented times that helped make all of this work possible.



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

2020 IMPACT REPORT

In a year filled with many challenges, the community’s tremendous support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank has helped us meet the growing and urgent needs of our neighbors including more seniors, children, families and individuals than ever.

We are pleased to share with you the incredible impact that you have helped make possible in 2020. With the support of donors, volunteers, advocates, and our network of nearly 1,100 program partners throughout our six-county service area, we have been able to continue and increase our services despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and make considerable progress toward reaching and exceeding the goals in our current Strategic Plan. Your generous support plays a critical role in helping to make this possible. Thank you!



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The Food Bank provided almost 56 million pounds of food this year! That is 9 million more than last year.

Never in our forty-year history have we seen such demand – or distribution growth – of this magnitude.

We served more than 404,000 individuals with fewer partner agencies open, many of whom had to close or reduce their hours, due to the pandemic.

More than one-third of the clients served this year were turning to the Food Bank or one of our partners for the first time.

This equates to more than 150,000 people or 55,000 households, which is twice as many new households as during this same time last year.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

This year has truly been unprecedented. As the pandemic hit Northeast Ohio in March, the Food Bank quickly worked to put together an action plan. With schools, businesses and partner agencies shutting down and volunteers canceling, our community rose to the occasion and jumped in to serve the growing number of Northeast Ohioans in need. We developed new distribution methods, purchased additional food and expanded our programs to safely serve the growing number of clients struggling with food insecurity.



In March, supported by the Ohio National Guard and the lack of adequate space to serve the large number of families in need, **we began to hold weekly non-contact, drive-thru distributions at Cleveland's Muni Lot.** Combined with the efforts of our partners that remained open, **we provided more than 382,000 Emergency and Community Food Assistance Program food boxes as part of the total 37 million pounds of fresh produce and perishable product we distributed this year.** We also worked with our partner agencies to establish best practices, enabling them to hold their own drive-thru distributions.

We quickly provided grab-and-go lunches at several locations and doubled our weekly distribution of backpacks to 9,200, providing six shelf-stable meals to meet the significant needs of children out of school and not receiving free or reduced price breakfast and lunch. **We also converted our Outreach Truck into a traveling "Food Truck"** for kids in 16 areas that desperately needed these resources to help make up for our Summer Feeding Partners that weren't able to open during the summer months.

Since March, **our Benefits Outreach Counselors and Help Center Team have fielded 25,000 calls** and helped connect clients to food resources that remained open in their own communities and register individuals for our weekly distributions. **They also coordinated 4,700 distributions through walk-up services in our parking lot and deliveries to home bound seniors and individuals with disabilities.**

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS PROGRESS

Notwithstanding a myriad of challenges, we continue to strive towards the original goals of our FY2019-FY2021 Strategic Plan. We are grateful for your partnership, which has helped us to make significant progress towards these goals, especially in the face of unprecedented challenges.

FY2019-FY2021 STRATEGIC PLAN			
GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4
Address hunger today by providing nutritious food and targeted programming to reach more people who experience food insecurity	Address hunger tomorrow by connecting people to supportive services to help them become more food secure	Improve access and outcomes for people we serve by better tracking success	Assess and create financial and organizational capacity to meet mission-related goals

GOAL 1: ADDRESSING HUNGER TODAY

With the support of partners like you, we were able to expand programming to better reach our neighbors who can most benefit from increased access to nutritious food, including:

404,000+
Neighbors Served



56,000

unduplicated
children



93,000

unduplicated
senior citizens



5,300

individuals with
health challenges

GOAL 2: ADDRESSING HUNGER TOMORROW

In 2020, we set a goal to connect more families to additional resources that can help our clients build a more food secure future. During this time, **we helped more than 41,100 eligible people apply for SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and other public benefits. We also **connected 10,800 people to non-profit partners** specializing in employment, housing and healthcare – the main drivers of food insecurity.

GOAL 3: IMPROVING ACCESS & OUTCOMES

Our Data Management and Analytics Team was able to leverage our technology to help us track how our services and organizational needs are changing with our emergency response to the pandemic. With their help, we were able to identify closed partners and communities who had been most impacted by COVID-19 so that we could build new partnerships in these areas and help ensure their continued access to nutritious food.

GOAL 4: ASSESSING AND CREATING CAPACITY

The charge to expand our distribution capacity is urgent, given the unmet need for healthy food in our community even before the pandemic.

We are now moving expeditiously to begin work on an expansion project that will allow the Food Bank to increase our overall footprint throughout our service area and allow us to better support our clients and partners.

As we grow, we will continue to build inclusive spaces so that every client, partner, supporter, and staff member is welcomed, known and valued.

