



H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach

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Agency of the United Way of Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties – Agency of the Mid-Ohio Food Bank

Gratitude abounds

As one gentleman left the H.E.L.P. House on a Saturday morning, Joan said to him, "Have a good weekend!" His response was simple, "I will – now that we have food."

Sometimes that simplicity of gratitude, for meeting one of the most basic needs of humanity, can still send a shiver through any one of us standing within earshot. In this world of abundance – in this time of stock market highs – in this powerhouse of a nation – in this time of political arguments at every level – how can it be that 15% of our neighbors still need food to get through the weekend or the month? How can it be that this gentleman's gratitude for a few sacks of food will make his weekend a good one?

On one day – within one hour – six senior citizens registered at the H.E.L.P. House due to cuts in their benefits. They had never been to a pantry before. How can it be that we make life so difficult for our elders?

At least once a day (including the six seniors above), someone will tell me that they are so grateful to get some food from the H.E.L.P. House and thus be able to use their money for medicine. In this time of huge drug companies, long TV commercials touting new drugs, record-high profits, three-page ads in magazines, how can it be that a senior citizen has to decide between food and medicine? How can it be that the ability to get both food and medicine creates such gratitude?

How can it be, that after long, hot days in the H.E.L.P. House, our volunteer workers will decide to keep coming back to help those in tough situations?

How can it be? The love of God and our fellow neighbors, the joy we see in children's faces, the gratitude of our clients – that is how it can be.

In turn, we constantly feel gratitude for the blessings that come to us from our readers, our communities, the United Way & grantors who seem to like what we are doing, the churches & organizations that sponsor meals or backpacks or food at Thanksgiving. That is how it can be!

God answers our prayers through you. Thank you for all the ways that you show us how it can be.

In Loving Kindness,

Dee Delores Heilman, Director

Capturing data: PantryTrak began July 1

Potential grantors need data to see if we are providing services they want to support. Current grantors need data to see the outcomes of their funding.

For several years, the H.E.L.P. House has been blessed with the donated time and skill of Jan Laing, formerly a data analyst at Nationwide Insurance. She has created databases, charts and graphs that have wowed our various constituencies.

It's only logical then, that Jan and board member Chandra Kelly attended meetings and trainings for PantryTrak, a web-based system for registration of clients plus data-gathering structure created and produced by the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Volunteer office assistant Debbie Hopkins, and additional board members have since also completed the MOFB training.

So, d-r-u-m r-o-l-l please, beginning July 1, every client is signing their digital signature on a laptop connected to 200+ other pantries across Ohio!

(Continued on page 2).

H.E.L.P. House Achieves Platinum Award from the Mid-Ohio Foodbank

At a recent meeting of representatives from the 550 agencies that partner with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, 10 agencies were recognized as having achieved Platinum standing in the Nourishing our Neighbors program. The H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach of London was one of those ten.

The Platinum standing was based upon an extensive application covering many facets of the programs and services provided to neighborhood communities.

The Mid-Ohio Foodbank Nourishing our Neighbors recognition program was designed to provide MOFB partners with a tool to review their operational and program capacity while also sharing a little more about their day-to-day work. Through the data-gathering, MOFB was able to recognize partners within the network who are going above and beyond to make sure that no man, woman or child goes hungry in our communities.

“Programs like these help connect the dots for many of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet, not only in our urban, but our suburban neighborhoods,” said Matt Habash, president & CEO of Mid-Ohio Foodbank. “Thanks to these amazing partner agencies, we have hope of ending hunger one nourishing meal at a time.”

Immediate needs all the time:

- Diapers
- Baby Formula

Our data (June food cost us \$1,422.09)

Items Distributed	June 2014	2013 Annual
Food items	25,298	344,299
Clothing	1,281	18,697
Household & personal	566	11,845
Soup kitchen meals	1,314	14,143
Includes approx. 85 meals delivered to the homebound each Monday night together with an additional 80 uncooked meals.		

(Capturing data..., continued)

Categories of food items obtained by clients will be added. Client data (*always confidential*) will be more easily aggregated to tell us the numbers of children, the sizes of our households, ages, amounts of food, and many more important pieces of information – and now data will be automatically generated for submission to MOFB – an agency requirement.

Back-to-School Supplies and Clothing

(More info on the next page)

Priority is grades K-8,

If those needs are met, we will assist Pre-K & HS

- **Supplies (August 16)** (donations by Aug. 13)
All school supplies are welcome, but the greatest needs are:
 - ✓ Plastic supply boxes
 - ✓ Zipper pouches
 - ✓ Boxes of tissues
 - ✓ Washable markers
 - ✓ Scissors (safety and regular)
 - ✓ Loose leaf paper (wide and college rule)
 - ✓ Pocket folders
 - ✓ Colored pencils
 - ✓ White glue
 - ✓ Glue sticks
 - ✓ Erasers
- **Clothing (Sept. 13)** (donations by Sept. 10)
 - ✓ New socks
 - ✓ New underwear
 - ✓ Gently-used/new clothing & shoes

Is this your year to volunteer?

We are always looking for volunteers who:

1. Believe that folks in poverty or on-the-edge deserve our faith and assistance
2. Believe that children need hunger relief so that they can learn and thrive
3. Believe that children in poverty should enjoy starting school and holidays as much as kids from families with more financial security

Volunteers can help with:

Check-in; checkout; marketing or outreach, cooking soup kitchen meals on Mondays; driving meals to the homebound in our van; managing a specific area of the H.E.L.P. House; assisting with daily tasks on Mon., Tues., Wed., or Sat.; grant-writing; development; capacity-building. Tell us what you want to do and we will find a place for you.



Summer's here... but the next round of outreaches will be sneaking up on us soon!

We need to plan ahead – and include you in the planning!



Back to school supplies and backpacks August 16th

Grades K – 8 (priority)
Deadline for donations: August 13

Back to school clothing September 13

Grades K – 8 (priority)
Special needs: underwear and socks
Deadline for donations: September 10

Coat Drive

October 25

Priority: Children's winter wear
All ages & sizes are welcome
Deadline: October 22

November 22



Clients select foods to fix on Thanksgiving Day
Deadline for donations: November 19



Christmas Party for Children – December 14

(Donations due December 13)

Christmas Shopping Day for Parents and Guardians – December 20

(Deadline for donations: December 17)

Parents select new & gently-used gifts to give to their children on Christmas morning.

Food-of-the-Month Drive

July	Peanut butter or canned meat (tuna, chicken)	Baby Formula Is needed <u>all</u> the time
August	Canned vegetables (or fresh from your garden!)	
September	Canned vegetables or canned fruit for Thanksgiving	
October	Stuffing for Thanksgiving	
November	Instant potatoes; gravy packets for Thanksgiving	
December	Canned soup or stews	

Important Dates for 2014

<u>Date of Outreach</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Deadline for Donations</u>
August 16	Back-to-School Supplies & Backpacks	August 13
September 13	Back-to-School Clothing	September 10
October 25	Coat Drive (new and gently-used)	October 22
November 22	Thanksgiving Outreach	November 19
December 14	Christmas Party for Children	December 13
December 20	Christmas Shopping Day for Parents	December 17

Volunteer opportunities happen on the same day as the deadline (6-8 pm) and the outreach (8-Noon)

Weekly Schedule

<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Hours for Volunteers</u>	<u>Open Hours for Clients</u>
Monday	Noon - 7 pm (Loving Kindness Kitchen & prep)	5 pm - 7 pm
Tuesday	9 am - Noon for hanging and sorting clothes 9 am - 1 pm for food & warehouse work	
Wednesday	8 am - Noon	9 am - Noon
Saturday	8 am - 11 am	9 am - 11 am

- ✦ Outreach events have additional volunteer times. Email helphouse@hotmail.com for more info.
- ✦ Internships and Community Service Participants are appreciated.
- ✦ **Nondenominational and nondiscriminatory – all are welcome!**



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Mission Statement:

To serve children, families and individuals in poverty
by providing food, clothing, and God's love.
We focus on recognizing their struggles within a
loving environment along with dignity and respect.