

# COMMUNITY HARVEST, INC

PROVIDING A SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTION  
TO END HUNGER IN STARK COUNTY SINCE 1989

*Joining Forces with the*  
**AKRON-CANTON  
REGIONAL FOODBANK**  
**TO PROVIDE A HUNGER-RELIEF  
NETWORK STRONGER THAN EVER**  
DETAILS INSIDE

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HARVEST MOON RUN FOR 5 YEARS

We have worked hard to establish the Harvest Moon Run as the best trail run in Stark County! Our challenging course, chaperoned kid's area, grilled food, and post-race atmosphere are the top reasons avid runners, new runners, and families alike keep coming back.

A special thank you to those who joined our efforts to help fight hunger in Stark County by participating in the 5th Annual Harvest Moon Run. We could not have asked for better weather conditions. The course was dry, the sun was shining, and the temperature was perfect for running! This one-of-a-kind annual event would not be possible without the many months of planning orchestrated by the race team, our generous sponsors, over 330 participants, and 80 volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success. We would especially like to thank our 2016 Race Sponsor, **415 Group**, Santangelo Catering for the delicious food, and the Varian Orchard family for sharing their home with us for five consecutive years.

Although the odds appeared to be stacked against us with several new and popular 5k events being hosted during the same weekend, our loyal supporters prevailed in the end, helping to make the 5th Annual Harvest Moon Run our most profitable to date.

Now, to answer the big question that so many of you have been asking - Will there be another Harvest Moon Run? Your positive feedback, enthusiasm about our race this year, and dedication was witnessed and greatly appreciated! As a result of YOUR efforts to make this race so successful, we are pleased to announce **YES!** We **WILL** continue the Harvest Moon Run tradition!



Executive Director, Faith Barbato, with participants of the Harvest Moon Run for 5 consecutive years

**SAVE THE DATE OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017 IN YOUR CALENDARS!**

The  
**HARVESTER**

Fall 2016

### Connect With Community Harvest

**Phone** 330.493.0800  
**Address** 4915 Fulton Dr. NW, Unit 7, Canton, OH 44718  
**Email** [faith@communityharveststark.org](mailto:faith@communityharveststark.org)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/communityharvestofstark>



Join us for the  
**25th Anniversary  
Celebrity Cuisine**  
on Tuesday,  
**March 21, 2017**

Details Inside

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Community Harvest,

As I sit down to right my letter to you, our generous supporters, the significance of the date on the calendar does not escape me – **NOVEMBER 9, 2016**. I can't believe my journey with Community Harvest started exactly seven years ago today.

As a young girl raised in a farming family, I find myself reminiscing about days spent with cousins, romping in the hay, chasing cattle, and exploring the beautiful acreage cherished by my grandparents. I find myself feeling tremendously thankful for the values they instilled in me, respect for the land and its resources, and a profound appreciation for food and the nourishment it provides. Wasting food in my grandparent's home was never allowed. The path that led me to Community Harvest appears, in many ways, to be nothing short of destiny.

Community Harvest was one of the first non-profit groups in the country to establish an innovative food rescue program, designed to increase the involvement of the restaurant and food service industry by collecting excess prepared and perishable food and donating it to community groups serving the homeless and the hungry. The benefit is twofold – it feeds the growing number of Stark County residents unable to otherwise have a hot meal, and it keeps the food from eventually going to the landfill. I am quite certain my grandmother would be very proud of me!

Community Harvest has flourished over the last seven years, increasing the value of rescued and delivered food from \$730,000 in 2009 to \$1.6 Million in 2015 while operating expenses increased only moderately. This is only possible due to the support of a dedicated team of delivery volunteers who work tirelessly, delivering food to provide more than 80,000 meals each month for those in need! Quite frankly, their work load has also doubled during our growth, and I can't thank them enough for staying beside me on this journey.

As Community Harvest continued to expand, I became mindful of the increased workload for our volunteers and the desire for new members of the restaurant community to donate their unused, excess food to those in need. My concern was that we were beginning to outgrow our resources! The ideas

of hiring additional staff or purchasing a second truck were shared during board meetings, but we all kept coming back to the underlying philosophy of Community Harvest – *doing more with less to provide a sustainable solution for our community*. With hundreds of worthy charities and a service-ratio of 97% that we have been proud to maintain, it was clear that a solution centered in collaboration was truly the **ONLY** one that made sense for Community Harvest.

I am excited to announce a new chapter in our ongoing mission to serve children, families, and seniors. Effective January

1, 2017, Community Harvest will merge and become a program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. While our mission of delivering wholesome, fresh food at no charge to hot meal programs and shelters throughout Stark County will remain unchanged, I am confident this merger will allow us to expand our reach in Stark County and provide even more food than ever before.

This is truly a special moment for Community Harvest, and I am so proud to share it with you! Together, Community Harvest and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank will continue to provide high-quality, nutritious food to those in need. Please know how much we value you, your compassion, and your generous support for the hungry and those struggling in our community. It is my hope that you will continue to support our goals and our mission, as it is more vital than ever as we expand in the years to come. If you have not yet supported our Annual Community Harvest Fund Drive, we would be extremely grateful for your year-end tax deductible donation today. An envelope has been included for your convenience.

Gratefully yours,



Faith Barbato, Executive Director

*"If you want to go fast, go alone;  
if you want to go far, go together."*

- African Proverb



Faith Barbato  
Executive Director



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE FOODBANK IN ACTION?

Tours are available Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm, and usually last approximately one-half hour. Bring your family, employees, or school classroom to see how food moves through the Foodbank to get to those in need. To schedule your tour, please call us at 330.535.6900. We look forward to welcoming you!



## Run with Santa (& Faith!) at our fourth annual Selfless Elf!

In the spirit of the holidays, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank invites you to participate in the fourth annual 5K Selfless Elf run on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Selfless Elf is an exciting way to embrace the holiday season while celebrating the success of the Foodbank's holiday campaign.

Dress up in your favorite festive holiday themed costumes or running gear, and run or walk the 3.1-mile course beginning and ending at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Participants registered by December 2, will receive a long-sleeve special edition race t-shirt and coordinating striped elf socks.

While it's a little chillier than the Harvest Moon Run, we hope it will be just as much fun for you!

Join the Foodbank and become a Selfless Elf for those who are struggling with hunger in Northeast Ohio. For more information about Selfless Elf, please visit [selflesself.com](http://selflesself.com) or contact Megan Birman at [mbirman@acrfb.org](mailto:mbirman@acrfb.org).



# FEEDING MORE. TOGETHER.



AND COMMUNITY HARVEST

## Community Harvest & the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank are joining forces

### Welcome to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank family!

We're thrilled to welcome Community Harvest to the Foodbank! By joining forces, our combined organization will expand our reaches in Stark County and provide more food than ever before.

### About your Foodbank

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a nonprofit organization with a vision of a thriving community free of hunger. This year, 1 in 7 people in Northeast Ohio will face hunger, and the Foodbank will be there to help. The Foodbank is the source of emergency food for nearly 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, shelters and other hunger-relief programs that directly serve individuals and families in Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties.

### How your Foodbank works



The Foodbank, with its supporters and partners are leading the fight to end hunger in the communities they serve. In 2015, it distributed 27.9 million pounds of food and other essential items to its network of hunger-relief partners.

The Foodbank and Community Harvest share the same goal, so formally teaming up felt natural. While the Foodbank's operations won't change, we're confident this merger will drive efficiencies while creating new energy and innovation centered on unique ways of solving hunger in our community.

"We're confident this merger will drive efficiencies while creating new energy and innovation centered on unique ways of solving hunger in our community."



**Dan Flowers**  
President & CEO of the  
Akron-Canton Regional  
Foodbank

## YOUR DONATIONS PROVIDE HOPE FOR PEOPLE LIKE SANDRA!

Although Sandra came to the hot meal site alone, sitting in a room with more than 100 people enjoying a meal, she doesn't feel alone. During dinner at Refuge of Hope, a child next to Sandra finishes his meal early, and asks her if she's going to finish her fruit. She smiles, pushes it toward him, and tells him to enjoy it. What the child doesn't know is that Sandra has diabetes, and the fresh fruit and healthy options available during the meal help sustain her health.



For 17 years, Sandra worked for a Fortune 500 company, but due to health reasons, she was let go. Because of the job loss and a fallout with her family, she's been homeless and forced to spend a few nights sleeping on a park bench. But no matter the situation, she continues to talk about the blessings in her life.

Refuge of Hope gives Sandra more than a meal when she needs it most; it gives her strength, and belief in herself.

Refuge of Hope is a member hunger-relief program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and is also served by Community Harvest.

## You may have heard of a Foodbank or a food pantry, but what's the difference?

The Foodbank is a distribution center that provides an efficient operation to collect, sort and distribute food. The Foodbank has an 83,000 square foot warehouse including 8,000 square feet of refrigeration and freezer space. The Foodbank secures food donations from corporate food donors, state and federal food assistance programs, and Feeding America, the national food bank network.

The Foodbank is the storehouse for millions of pounds of food and other products that go out to the community. A food pantry functions as the arms that reach out to that community directly.

Food banks and food pantries—they are not the same. But they share the same commitment. At the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, we are proud of our partnership with food pantries—and many other hunger-relief organizations like Community Harvest—who act with us to carry out our vision of a thriving community free of hunger.



25th Annual

Community Harvest began in 1989 when a group of concerned citizens began their quest for a sustainable solution to hunger in Stark County by focusing on the involvement of the restaurant and food industry and started the first prepared and perishable food rescue Program in NE Ohio. This initial vision started with only seven food donors, two agency recipients, and roughly 8,000 pounds of food being delivered in the first year by board members and volunteers in their own vehicles. Community Harvest today rescues an average of \$1.6 million in prepared and perishable food and delivers well over 1 million meals each year in a large 14' refrigerated truck.

With over 100 billion pounds of food being wasted in the United States each year, approximately 3,000 pounds each second, the founding members of Community Harvest quickly realized the potential for tremendous growth after the first year. In order to keep up with this growth, they recognized the need for a major fundraising event to help purchase a refrigerated truck, supplies, and food packaging equipment. They wanted an event that was affordable for everyone to attend, an event that showcased the generous restaurants who were donating their excess food to Community Harvest at the time, and an opportunity for continuous growth for years to come. As a result of their brainstorming and diligent efforts to create a top-notch event for the community to enjoy, the very first **CELEBRITY CUISINE** was hosted in 1991.

As Celebrity Cuisine continued to grow over the years, the task of planning and executing the event was fully assumed by the Tri-County Restaurant Association to benefit Community Harvest. With a large planning committee committed to helping Community Harvest reach their goals each year, Celebrity Cuisine has become the single, largest source of operating income for Community Harvest.

We hope you will join us again on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017** as we celebrate our 25th Celebrity Cuisine “Silver Anniversary” at the Canton Civic Center from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. As always, attendees will enjoy a feast of local flavors including unlimited access to appetizers, entrée samples, beer, wine, and desserts while listening to live music and bidding on our silent auction for the low cost of just \$30/person.

## Donations for our Silent Auction and Giving Tree at Celebrity Cuisine

***Early planning by the Celebrity Cuisine committee will allow you to make a donation in time for your year-end tax deductions.*** As our largest fundraiser, the success of Celebrity Cuisine is critical to our ability to recover and deliver healthy, wholesome food to those in need. Please consider generously supporting this event with a donated item for our silent auction or cash sponsorship for the underwriting of larger raffle prizes. We will be auctioning off merchandise, gift cards, baskets, and services donated by area businesses and individuals. Each business or individual donating an item will be recognized in the program and will have their name prominently displayed next to their item.

We are also seeking gift certificates and gift cards valued \$10 - \$100 for our large giving tree at the event. The giving tree is a huge “crowd favorite” that offers local businesses and restaurants with promotional opportunities and incentives to get new patrons through their doors! Please contact Faith Barbato at (330) 493-0800 for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities for Celebrity Cuisine are very reasonable and offer the ideal opportunity for you to share the evening with colleagues and friends while sitting down at a private table with your own bottles of wine. Due to increased demand, we will accommodate attendees who have purchased tables in the past first. Don't delay. We expect tables to sellout again in 2017. Please call Julie Carpinelli, Tri-County Restaurant Association Manager, at 330-499-7007 for more details.

# 15TH ANNUAL STARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY GOLF OUTING

Just as the Tri-County Restaurant Association has been an invaluable partner of Community Harvest for 25 years, the Stark County Medical Society (SCMS) has become a new partner that has also been extremely instrumental in our success. Community Harvest was selected by the SCMS for proceeds from their 15th Annual Golf Outing for a fourth year in a row. On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, a sell-out crowd of golf enthusiasts enjoyed a picture-perfect day of golf, camaraderie, and great food for a great cause! Participants were greeted with a shrimp and Bloody Mary hospitality station sponsored by Med Beat Experience Center and chair massages by Lori Roof and Dave Marchovich of Nevaeh Salon and Spa of Hartville. A pre-golf cookout, 50/50 raffle, complementary gifts, several skill prizes, and dinner at the clubhouse made this an event that golfers will remember for quite some time!



## UPCOMING WAYS TO HELP



The holidays are approaching and offer a simple way to support Community Harvest. AmazonSmile is an easy and automatic way for you to support Community Harvest every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Community Harvest from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Those dollars add up quickly! AmazonSmile customers who selected Community Harvest provided over 3000 meals last year.

## SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

The Stark County Medical Society and Stark County Medical Society Auxiliary will team up again for their annual fundraiser, "Mission Possible."

The theme of this year's fundraiser will be Casino Royale - a night of dinner, auctions, and of course, Casino style gaming. Community Harvest was selected as one three non-profit agencies to receive proceeds from this year's event and will be joined in good company by PAL Mission and K9's for Warriors.

**MISSION:  
POSSIBLE**

**MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE VERY SOON.**

## SUPER BOWL OF CARING

*Providing Area Youth an Opportunity to "Pay It Forward"*



Community Harvest has been participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" since 2001. Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement that began on Super Bowl Sunday in 1988 in South Carolina when Pastor Brad Smith shared a simple prayer, "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,

help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Originally a youth-based program, now people of all ages have collected more than \$50 million through the Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit local charities.

On or near Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017, several area churches, schools, and civic organizations will again collect donations and then give 100% of their collection to Community Harvest. By using this weekend as a time to help the hungry, many youth in our community will learn about the reality of hunger in their own neighborhoods as they turn one of the nation's universal days of celebration into an opportunity to care for those in need.

Short video clips and additional information can be found at <http://www.souperbowl.org>. Community Harvest can provide announcements, soup pots, and even volunteers to visit your parish or school and help with the collections. Please feel free to contact Faith Barbato at 330-493-0800 to participate and for more information.

## Guest Bartending at...



*Join us*  
**Monday, February 20, 2017**  
**5:00-8:00 pm**

Our guest bartending events have become a crowd favorite! Please join Community Harvest from 5:00-8:00 pm on President's Day, Monday, February 20, 2017, at The Crush House at Gervasi Vineyard (1700 - 55th Street NE) for a night of fun and good cheer to benefit Community Harvest.

Whether you have the day off to relax or plan on joining us after work, drink and food specials, prizes, and our famous giving tree will add excitement to your President's Day plans!







## The HARVESTER

### *Fall 2016*

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#### NEWSLETTER



# Celebrity Cuisine

*Tickets are the Perfect  
Gift for the Holidays!*

We recommend that you buy your tickets in advance to avoid a long line at the door. Tickets are available for only \$30 at:

#### The Tri-County Restaurant Association

10 am – 3 pm • 330-499-7007

6959 Promway Avenue NW  
North Canton, OH 44720

#### Community Harvest

9 am – 2 pm • 330-493-0800

4915 Fulton Drive NW; Unit 7  
Canton, OH 44718



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CELEBRITY CUISINE

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