



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

Celebrating 20 Years of Focused Intentional Giving

June 2017

Akron Canton Regional Foodbank: *Feeding Eight Counties*



Dan Flowers has served as President and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank since 2003. He and Shelly Hinton, Vice President, attended our May Board meeting to give an update on Foodbank operations and planning.

The Foodbank is looking ahead to ensure it can continue meeting increasing need for its services. As it rapidly outgrows its current Summit County location, Dan and his team are exploring the possibility of adding a Stark County food distribution hub. Similar to Goodwill's innovative *Community Campus* concept, the hub would be a shared space from which community organizations focused on hunger issues could distribute food, offer programming, and provide other resources to Stark and surrounding counties.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is proud to partner with the Stark Community and Paul and Carol David foundations to address food security issues, by awarding a 2015 planning grant to explore possibilities for a Stark County Food Hub and a 2016 implementation grant to help facilitate the Foodbank's merger with Community Harvest. If a Stark Hub becomes a reality, Dan and Shelly have assured us that it will be more than just a distribution site. Many possibilities are being

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has grown steadily since it was established in 1982. Last year, it distributed 28 million pounds of food, or about \$35 million worth, operating on a \$7 million cash budget. It distributes that food to around 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, and other programs serving eight counties, including approximately 90 serving Stark County.

The 2015 report entitled *The Future of Food Security in Stark County*, commissioned by Stark Community Foundation, stated that 15% of all Stark County residents (and 24% of all Stark County children) are food insecure. It also showed that demand for hunger services continues to rise.

Based on trends and national statistics, to meet growing demand, the Foodbank expects to distribute 40 million pounds of food by 2025.

explored, including a donation center, a volunteering program, storage for food programs, an operating pantry, and creating easier access to fresh produce.

Dan's gauge of good partnership is longevity: relationships that last over time and remain faithful to commitments and to the partners' missions. He claims the Foodbank's real value is not simply measured in food distributed; it's also in the numerous collaborative efforts making distribution possible. That collaboration is so powerful, according to Dan, that "If all you see is food in a transaction, you're missing the miracle."



Louisville Middle School *Community Garden Project*

Louisville Middle School received a Servant Leaders grant to establish a community garden on the school grounds, with the food grown to be donated to those in need. The project was undertaken by members of the school's Builder's Club, a service-focused group working to develop leadership skills.



As with other Servant Leader projects, the students have gained a mixture of academic and citizenship skills. They've been learning about soil, planting methods, maintaining a garden, and harvesting, and also about the effects of donating to those in need. Gardening and harvesting will continue throughout the summer.

We salute the Louisville Middle School students who are working to feed their community.





GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS WORKSHOP

Participants will learn about our grantmaking strategies, proposal guidelines, and application process. Foundation staff members will be on hand to answer questions.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:00-10:30 a.m.
First Floor Conference Room
400 Market Avenue North, Canton, Ohio 44702

To register, please contact Trudy Brown at 330-454-5800 or tbrown@scfcanton.org



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