



Join the Mission of
Community West Foundation
 to advance the health and well being of our community.

Community West Foundation: The Battle Against Hunger

The battle to fight hunger locally is on. **Community West Foundation**, serving Cleveland's West Side, has given **\$302,000** for food programs including Meals on Wheels, hunger centers, food pantries and food banks over the past five years.

But the current economic crisis has increased the need. Families are facing challenges that many of us cannot even imagine. One in eight people are hungry. But the number is even worse when you look at children. One in five children experiences the physical pains of hunger. These findings underscore that more must be done, and quickly, to help struggling families. Hunger calls for bold action. Food banks are the main direct providers of emergency food assistance.

Anne Goodman, President and

CEO Cleveland Foodbank, along with **Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director Second Harvest Foodbanks**, shared dramatic results of a recent Hunger in America study at Community West Foundation's Annual meeting where more than 150 community leaders, including the principle shareholders and stakeholders of the west side, were in attendance.

The nationwide study shows growing need within 185 Feeding America food banks both nationally and especially in Ohio.

One in eight Ohioans is now in need. And that need is growing in suburbia.

"We love data, because people say, 'It couldn't possibly be so,'" said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director Second Harvest Foodbanks.

That is why organizations like Community West Foundation are answering the call.

"We've received a record number of grant applications - an increase of 40 per cent over last

year. Community West Foundation is committed to maintaining our level of funding and support for our non-profit community," said David Hessler, Chairman Community West Foundation.

"The well-being of our neighbors has been a high priority for Community West Foundation. Our grant making has focused on programs that address issues intensified by the economic crisis," said David T. Dombrowiak, President & CEO, Community West Foundation, at last week's CWF Shareholder's meeting.

David Dombrowiak explained that the Community West Foundation's focus to help feed the hungry began with a comment by Henry Jacques, the Foundation's Vice Chairman and member of the Grants Committee who said, "Wouldn't it be remarkable if our mission could be that no seniors will go hungry in our area, thanks to the Community West Foundation." That mission has been expanded so that no one goes hungry!



David T. Dombrowiak, President & CEO Community West Foundation, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director Second Harvest Foodbanks, Anne Goodman, President & CEO Cleveland Foodbank, David J. Hessler, Esq., Chair of the Board, Community West Foundation.



Walter Hagan, and Henry T. Jacques, Community West Foundation.



John Kemper, Dr. James Magisano, David Hessler, Chair, and Bob Yaroma, Community West Foundation.



Dr. Neil P. Smith, Fairview Hospital Chief of Staff, Jan Murphy, President Fairview Hospital, David Bronson, MD, President Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals.

A 46 Per Cent Increase

"It literally gets me up in the morning to know there are people working so hard that no one goes hungry in the world today," said Goodman, adding "There is so much generosity out there. I wish we could put ourselves out of business".

Feeding America, through its network of food banks and agencies, provides emergency food assistance to 37 million people per year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. This is a 46 per cent increase in just one year.

The food bank network is serving one million more people each week compared to four years ago. 40 per cent of client households have at least one working adult, but there is a 68 per cent increase in adults seeking assistants who have been unemployed for less than a year.

Serving six counties, the Cleveland Foodbank reports one in nine people turned to a local hunger center in 2009. Over 250,000 clients are served per year, including 76,000 children and 33,000 seniors. One in four children in Ohio lives on the brink of hunger, ranking Ohio third in the nation behind just Louisiana and North Carolina.

15 per cent of clients are senior - number 33,000 people - a 75 per cent increase from 2005 to 2009. Many

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Join the mission of The Community West Foundation to advance the health and well being of our community. At a time when there is so much need, the Foundation is helping others through grants, donations and service. Won't you join us and help those less fortunate. A donation to the Community West Foundation stays right in our community and helps our neighbors most in need. Contact the Community West Foundation at 216-476-7060 or visit www.communitywestfoundation.org for more information.



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seniors are taking care of grandchildren.

Too Many People are Suffering Silently

"Too many people are suffering silently. It is the new poor. They have played by the rules all their lives and now they suffer silently," said Hamler-Fugitt.

Although 16 per cent of households have a working adult, average annual income of \$9,760.

Over 80 per cent of clients are "food insecure" and are choosing between food and utilities, food, and rent, food and medicine, or food and transportation. "We can make sure people don't have to make these difficult choices.

There is a growing need in suburbia. It is accelerated by unemployment plus unemployment benefits lapsing.

"This is a great testimony to the strength and goodness of the people in

our community. Unfortunately, it is not enough," reports Goodman. Up 40 per cent from last year, 100,000 pounds of food is distributed daily.

"When you see one million pounds of food in our warehouse and know it will be gone in three weeks, it illustrates the magnitude of our problem, but also the magnitude of our power," said Goodman. "If we can just get food to children in schools, that meets a huge need."

The Power of People

Most Cleveland Foodbank agencies are hunger centers (pantries, kitchens and shelters) run by faith-based groups. Most of the food comes from the Cleveland Foodbank, and 70 per cent of pantries and 67 per cent of kitchens are run by volunteers.

Over 90 per cent of pantries and kitchens use volunteers and almost three-fourths are run entirely by volunteers with no paid staff.

"It is almost all faith-based. If that doesn't make you feel good about humanity, I don't know what will," said Goodman.

The mission of the Cleveland Foodbank is to alleviate hunger by providing food and support to community organizations that feed the hungry. These include 612

programs involving pantries, soup kitchens, children's programs and shelters. Included are 432 independent programs, 107 hunger network programs, 22 Catholic charities programs, 18 Salvation Army programs, and 33 Country Neighbor programs.

6000 meals per day are made using donated and purchased food.

In 2009, the Cleveland Foodbank distributed 27.3 million pounds of food, valued at \$27 million. They are targeted to distribute 32 million pounds of food this year – an increase of almost 50 per cent in two years.

Ohio Benefits Bank – helps clients served by hunger centers stretch their dollars by signing up for the SNAP Program (formerly known as food stamps). SNAP is a first line of defense against hunger allowing low income families to purchase products they need at a local grocery store.

In Ohio, 225,700 people per week are being helped this year, up from 207,700 in 2006.

"None of this would be possible without your time,

talent and commitment," Hamler-Fugitt told Community West Foundation Board Members.

Ohio Benefits Bank

She said a state-wide program, Ohio Benefits Bank, is a resource with huge promise.

Nationally, over \$49 billion in federal funds for low and moderate income families go unclaimed each year. Nearly half of these funds are available in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In Ohio, more than \$1.7 billion in tax credits and work support programs are unclaimed by Ohio citizens. Nearly 95 per cent are federal dollars.

"This takes those in need out of the food pantry and the kitchen line and allows them the dignity to go to the grocery store," said Hamler-Fugitt. "It is neighbors helping neighbors, a tool completely free of charge."

The Ohio Benefits Bank on-line service is free of charge to organizations seeking to better served the citizens of Ohio. To find out more about Ohio Benefits Bank, phone the hotline at (800) 648-1176.

Learn more about the work at Community West Foundation and how you can help by visiting CommunityWestFoundation.org.



Fred DeGrandis, Chairman Cleveland Clinic Community Physician Partnership & Quality Alliance, Marc Nathanson, Executive Director West Side Catholic Center, Susan Ertle, Director of Advancement, West Side Catholic Center, and Rev. William Murphy, President, St. Ignatius High School.



William Reidy, Community West Foundation, and Dennis Clough, Westlake Mayor.



Rick Kemm, Executive Director, May Dugan Center, Peggy Zone Fisher, Community West Foundation Board of Trustees and President & CEO the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, and Angela Contreras, Program Coordinator, May Dugan Center.



Youth Challenge Representatives Melissa Thurstone, Community Development Manager and Angelica Compton, Foundation & Communications Coordinator.



From Community Service Alliance, William Dillingham, Board Chair and Jeff Nichols, Executive Director.

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