



CONNECTION

News and information for friends of Freestore Foodbank

SUMMER 2021



Standing together to fight hunger

“He was very appreciative there are resources that make it possible to provide for his family.”

—TAWANDA ROLLINS
Freestore Foodbank
staff member

As we are seeing the first steps of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, there is still a long road ahead—especially for individuals and families in the tristate area.

Tawanda Rollins, manager of Customer Connection Center Volunteer Operations at Freestore Foodbank, shared her interaction with one customer. He lost his job due to the pandemic and thanks to your generosity, had somewhere to turn when he needed it most.

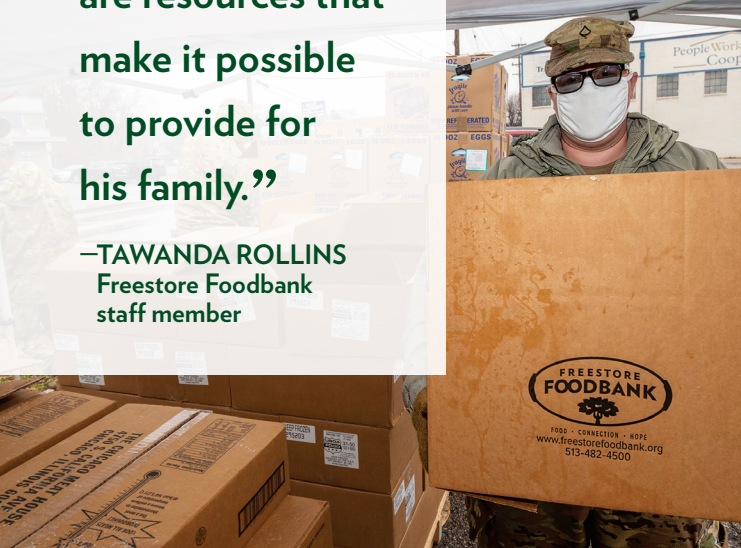
“He was laid off and his wife’s income wasn’t enough to provide for their family of four,” Tawanda says. “He mentioned that he never thought he would have to utilize a food pantry. He was very appreciative there are resources that make it possible to provide for his family.”

Meeting the ongoing need—thanks to you

Freestore Foodbank has experienced a 60% increase in overall demand and thanks to your generosity, we’ve been able to distribute about one million pounds of food every week across the 20 counties we serve.

In addition to supporters like you, we are filled with gratitude for our incredible volunteers, and for the partnership of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard. From the early days of the pandemic, they have been here to support the Foodbank when we could not access the help of volunteers due to COVID-19 safety precautions.

Freestore Foodbank is deeply grateful for the way this community continues to come together to help neighbors at risk of hunger. Thank you for standing with us to serve children, families and seniors in the tristate area.



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A message from our President & CEO

One thing that has become clear throughout the pandemic is that people really see the faces of hunger now. They have experienced firsthand, or through their neighbors and friends in their communities, that hunger is real and impacting people every day—especially children in the tristate area.

At Freestore Foodbank, as always, we are on the front line in the fight against childhood hunger. And that's why we are once again hosting our 27th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta on September 5. You can read more on this page about this unique event, which helps feed thousands of children in the tristate area every year.

For all you have done to partner with us since the pandemic began, thank you. The incredible outpouring of support from people like you has made it possible to keep up with the significant increase in need.

We also would love to have more volunteers join us—or rejoin us!—if you are comfortable. Our volunteers are a critical part of the work we do, and we can now have people back safely in both indoor and outdoor options. You can visit our website for more information. We hope to see you soon!

For all you continue to do for our neighbors and community, thank you. We are so grateful for your generosity.

Kurt Reiber, President & CEO

“The incredible outpouring of support from people like you has made it possible to keep up with the significant increase in need.”



Time to get quacking—and fight childhood hunger!

It's summer, which means one thing: our Annual Rubber Duck Regatta is around the corner! The event will be held on September 5, and the funds raised will help feed children and families at risk of hunger in the tristate area.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, we could not confirm at press time if the event will be in-person or virtual. **For the most up-to-date information, please visit rubberduckregatta.org.**

“I'd love to see those ducks cascading off the Purple People Bridge into the Ohio River because it's something that can bring a sense of normalcy back to the community,” says Kurt. “But we want to make sure our staff is safe, the families we serve are safe and our volunteers are safe.”

“Our Rubber Duck Regatta really brings life to the phrase, ‘Buy a Duck, Feed a Child!’ With that \$5 duck, you can help provide 15 meals to kids right here in our community.”

—KURT REIBER, President & CEO of Freestore Foodbank

Visit rubberduckregatta.org today to get up-to-date information and buy your ducks to help fight child hunger in our community. Remember, every \$5 you give can provide 15 meals for children at risk of hunger in the tristate area. So “Buy a Duck, Feed a Child” today!



Buy a Duck, Feed a Child. See how your generosity can make a difference!

Buy your ducks today at rubberduckregatta.org

- \$5 ➤ One duck = 15 meals for children
- \$25 “Big Quack” ➤ Five ducks, plus one free = 75 meals for children
- \$50 “Freestore50 Quack Pack” ➤ Ten ducks, plus two free = 150 meals for children
- \$100 “Flock of Ducks” ➤ Twenty ducks, plus four free = 300 meals for children

Donor Spotlight

Cooking up a bright future

Connie and Bob Reed have a passion for food—both cooking it and providing food for people who are hungry.

When Bob retired recently, he enjoyed learning how to cook to help out. Connie, who especially loves to make desserts, wasn't so sure about the arrangement at first. "Now, we take turns in the kitchen," says Connie.

Supporting people who need help has always been part of their lives. On Thursdays, they cook together as part of their church's work to prepare hot meals for the hungry. They also support Freestore Foodbank: Bob and Connie have been donors for more than 30 years! Currently, they contribute to the Cincinnati COOKS! culinary training and job placement program.

One student particularly impressed Bob. "She was trying hard and COOKS! taught her the skills to get on her feet and get a job. That kind of turnaround is what we like to support."

"A few years ago, we created a donor-advised fund for the tax benefits during our high-income years," says the Reeds. "Now, in retirement, we are using that money to give back to the community."



Make an impact on future generations like Bob and Connie with a legacy gift.

Leaving a legacy of generosity

Recently, Bob and Connie informed Freestore Foodbank that the organization will be a beneficiary of their estate. "Our children have done well and we have provided support to the grandchildren for their education. Part of our estate will go to the family, and a large part will benefit organizations we support, like Freestore Foodbank."

"Our point of view is that we have benefited from our society, so in our estate plan, we want to give back to our community for the good fortune we have had."

Please contact Maureen Gregory at mgregory@freestorefoodbank.org or 513-482-7542 to learn more. If you've already included us in your plans, please let us know so we may thank you and know your intentions.



Program Spotlight

Helping our neighbors move forward

At Freestore Foodbank, your support goes beyond food assistance. While what you give helps families put food on their tables, it also provides opportunities for people to move toward self-sufficiency through initiatives like our Stabilization Program.

For participants in the program, they are assigned a case manager that works with them to eliminate the barriers they have to employment. Then they can focus on securing a job that will lead to a more stable life.

"Transportation and housing are the two biggest barriers to employment," says John Heinecke, a Stabilization Case Manager at Freestore Foodbank. "Maybe a utility bill is holding someone back from getting an apartment, or getting their electricity turned back on."

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CONSIDER FREESTORE FOODBANK IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Leave a legacy and make a lasting impact for our community! Consider making a gift in your will or trust or designate Freestore Foodbank as a beneficiary of a retirement account.

For more information on including charitable giving in your financial planning, contact Maureen Gregory at mgregory@freestorefoodbank.org or call **(513) 482-7542**.



Help children at risk of hunger all summer long

While this school year has been incredibly challenging for children and their families, the summer months are often even tougher.

When schools are closed for the summer, kids that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals no longer have that food to rely on. That puts an incredible strain on the family's resources to provide three meals a day per child—especially at a time where so many parents are still out of work.

Right now in the tristate area, about 90,000 children don't know where they'll find their next meal. And at Freestore Foodbank, we are continuing to see an increased need due to the long-term impact of the pandemic.

That's why we're counting on your support again—it's critical to ensure we can keep our summer meal programs running at full capacity throughout the summer months.

Your generous gift today is vital to ensure we can continue providing nutritious food to families facing hunger—all summer long. To give today, please return the enclosed reply slip along with your gift, or visit freestorefoodbank.org. Thank you for your support!



Every \$1 can help provide 3 nutritious meals to children, families and seniors at risk of hunger in the tristate area.

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Eliminating those barriers make all the difference for people like MacCray. John was his case manager, and says he was highly motivated to get a job and move forward in his life. MacCray found an apartment and made the deposit.

Thanks to your support, we were able to provide rent assistance for the first month, and MacCray went through our LIFT the Tristate (Logistics, Inventory Management, Facilities Management and Transportation) program.

Now, he's working full time at a warehouse in Cincinnati. John says MacCray worked hard and just needed a little assistance at the start. Thanks to you, he got the help he needed and is on his way to building a brighter future for himself.

“He thanks me all the time and is so grateful for the help he's received.”

—JOHN HEINECKE
Stabilization Program Case Manager

Your support makes all the difference to people like MacCray. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to helping our community grow stronger!

Stay connected to the work you support! Visit us at freestorefoodbank.org



Yes, I want to provide more nutritious meals for children and families at risk of hunger this summer.

I've enclosed my tax-deductible gift of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$_____

I would like to be a **Full Plate Partner** and commit to a monthly gift of \$_____. My first gift is enclosed.

I would like more information on including Freestore Foodbank in my will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

Double my gift's impact. I will ask my company to match my gift.

Company Name _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make your gift payable to: **Freestore Foodbank**
1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202 | 513-482-3663

DONATE NOW

Your online gift will be put to work quickly. Please visit our website: freestorefoodbank.org

Double your gift's impact: Many employers offer matching contributions dollar for dollar.

To find out if your employer has a matching gift program, please contact your HR department.

Questions? Please call our Donor Relations Department at 513-482-FOOD (3663).

Please charge my gift on my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____ 41_108283_1021

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. We will send a receipt for your records.



Your gift changes lives!