Your Generosity Sees Seniors Through Tough Times

Judith worked hard all her life to raise her four children into adulthood. She held down a steady job at an insurance company and supplemented her income with part-time jobs. Then, soon after Judith hit retirement age, her world came crashing down.

“My company closed down suddenly, and we didn’t get our pensions,” she says. “I was saving for retirement—just like you’re supposed to. But sometimes life doesn’t go your way.”

A vibrant and active woman now in her sixties, Judith vowed to make the best of a bad situation. She took odd jobs to make ends meet, which included installing fences alongside two men half her age.

“The Toughest Choice of All

Despite her best efforts, Judith continued to struggle. Some months she even had to choose between buying groceries and paying medical bills. That’s why she was deeply grateful to learn about All Faiths Pantry, a Greater Cleveland Food Bank community partner.

“People who have worked so hard shouldn’t have to go hungry,” Judith says. And thanks to your steadfast support, they don’t have to! Right now, thousands of seniors just like Judith are counting on your help in the form of life-sustaining food.

Every $1 you give to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank helps provide 4 wholesome meals that can nourish hungry seniors all winter long. Thank you for caring.

4 Stars for stewardship and accountability

You can trust the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to handle your hard-earned donations effectively and efficiently. We’ll stretch every dollar you donate to help bridge the meal gap and connect hungry Northeast Ohioans with the nutritious meals they need to succeed. Our 4-star rating with Charity Navigator is a reflection of our commitment to being industry leaders in financial health, accountability and transparency. To learn more about our 4-Star rating, please go to charitynavigator.org

40 for 40: A Special Invitation for Friends of the Food Bank

You care deeply about helping hungry people in Northeast Ohio. It’s apparent in the way you give so generously to provide healthy, hearty meals for children, families and seniors in need. That’s why you should know about an exciting offer we’re extending in honor of our 40th year.

For just $40 a month, you can become a Friend of the Food Bank, our most committed group of donors who provide a steady, reliable source of hunger-fighting revenue all year long.

You’ll also qualify for these membership benefits:

• Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of the Food Bank
• Special opportunities to meet with Food Bank leadership
• Invitations to special events

Best of all, your gift of $40 a month will help to provide 160 meals for hungry Northeast Ohioans each and every month. There’s no better feeling than that!

Reporting for Duty

This Army veteran regained his strength and sense of purpose, thanks to you

John brings a spirit of passion and intensity to everything he does. For six and a half years, he served bravely overseas in the U.S. Army. Throughout his military career, John held true to a fundamental maxim: “You get the job done, no matter the cost.”

That advice served him well when he was stationed in Germany and on a peace-keeping mission in Saudi Arabia. But it did little to ease his transition to civilian life.

Back home in Ohio, John found sporadic work as a truck driver. His marriage suffered and finally ended in divorce. Lost and alone, he began staying at the Veteran’s Resource Center. That’s when, thanks to your support, he says his life began to change for the better.

Back on Solid Ground

“My next step is to get an apartment and be self-sufficient again,” John says. “In the meantime, I’m enjoying top-notch meals and getting my life together.”

After working three months in the Veteran’s Resource Center kitchen, John got hired as a downtown ambassador. Now he’s looking to parlay that experience into a full-time job.

“Your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank helps distribute wholesome, delicious food to community partners like the Veteran’s Resource Center. In effect, you’re providing a valuable service to those who have served us all so courageously!”

“I’d just like to say thank you,” John says. “You’re making a difference in the Greater Cleveland area. The people getting your help are grateful to receive it—I can tell you that firsthand.”

Your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank helps distribute wholesome, delicious food to community partners like the Veteran’s Resource Center.
2018 Highlights
Your partnership paved the way to a successful 2018 at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. In the last 12 months, you helped the Food Bank strengthen and expand key programs for children, seniors, and other community members in need. With your help, proven programs like BackPacks for Kids, Kids Cafe, Summer Feeding, School Markets, Senior Markets, and Mobile Pantries served more nutritious meals than ever. Thank you for making 2018 the year so many hungry Northeast Ohioans got back on their feet.

Great partnerships tend to grow from humble beginnings. Forty years ago, caring, community-minded people like you helped to create the Greater Cleveland Food Bank with a simple goal in mind: rescuing food that would otherwise go to waste and getting it into the hands of those in need. Back then, non-perishable items made up the bulk of our distribution. But as our operation grew, we also learned more about Northeast Ohioans’ health needs—and our critical role in meeting them. Today, more than two-thirds of the food we distribute is perishable.

You deserve a massive share of the credit for that. Thanks to your support, the Food Bank is able to provide more fresh produce, dairy and prepared meals than ever before.

Our clients feel the difference, too. Thanks to you, we’ve nimbly adapted our services over the years to better serve hungry seniors, families and those struggling with health challenges. We’re connecting people to the resources they need and improving food security in the long term.

We’ve come a long way together. And now, in 2019, your partnership remains instrumental to our mission. January marks the coldest part of the Cleveland winter, when the cost to heat a home can rise. Your generosity will help keep Northeast Ohioans’ health needs—and our critical role in meeting them—alive.

Did You Know?
Your support makes an incredible difference in Northeast Ohio. Last year, your compassionate generosity helped distribute:

- More than 57.3 million meals
- 21 million pounds of produce
- 30 million pounds of perishable food
- Almost 3 million kids’ meals and snacks
- Over 25,000 new seniors, families and children served

Thanks to you, we’re doing more than ever to serve hungry seniors, families, and those struggling with health challenges.

Food for Thought
Kristin Warzocha, President & CEO

Pointing to Healthy Produce
On her way home from work one day, Aeisha began to worry. Money was getting tight, and her paycheck simply didn’t stretch far enough to provide for four growing kids.

“Four children means a lot of bellies to feed,” the hardworking mom says. “And during school breaks they’re home all day. Food runs out fast.”

Hope on Wheels
Then, as if in answer to her troubles, Aeisha noticed a sign pointing the way to one of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank’s Mobile Pantries. It just so happened to be making a stop in her neighborhood to distribute fruit, vegetables and other wholesome foods for people in need.

“I found sweet potatoes, carrots and cucumbers to take home to my kids,” Aeisha says. “It was perfect for side dishes and snacks to get them through the week.”

Aeisha asked to share a message of gratitude especially for Food Bank supporters like you: “You’re making it possible for people to enjoy delicious meals that they wouldn’t have otherwise. Thank you for caring.”

From Stacks to Snacks: A Day at the Kids Cafe
As a page for the Cleveland Public Library’s Rockport Branch, Fran’s used to peace and quiet at work. Whether she’s cleaning, shelving books or going about her other usual tasks, most of Fran’s work proceeds in silence and solitude.

That all begins to change when Fran’s favorite part of the day approaches. After school lets out, dozens of children arrive in anticipation of a healthy, filling snack. Fran welcomes them inside with a smile, instantly transforming from the library’s jack-of-all-trades into its Kids Cafe volunteer.

Thanks to your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, more than 5,000 children enjoyed Kids Cafe meals at the library last year.

Broad Smiles and Full Bellies
“They’re so nice and smart and engaging,” Fran says. “They’re not shy. They tell me how much they like the fruits and vegetables. Even hummus and a broad range of healthy foods. It doesn’t go to waste.”

When snacktime is finished, Fran’s ears ring with the sounds of laughter and contentment. She leaves work with an extra bounce in her step, already looking forward to doing it all over again.

Thank you for making possible the vital work of volunteers like Fran. Because of you, Kids Cafe sites across Greater Cleveland continue to distribute delicious, nutritious food for children in need.

“I want to thank each and every one of you who give. Please, keep up the good work.”
—Fran, Kids Cafe site volunteer

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On behalf of every single person you’ve helped over the years—and those you’ll continue to help this winter—I extend my sincerest thanks.

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Fran knows most of them by name, and she says their gratitude is plain to see.”They’re so nice and smart and engaging,” Fran says. “They’re not shy. They tell me how much they like the fruits and vegetables. Even hummus and a broad range of healthy foods. It doesn’t go to waste.”

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Food can help!

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Back on Solid Ground

“My next step is to get an apartment and make a difference in the Greater Cleveland area.” —John

Your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank helps

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After working three months in the Veteran’s Resource Center kitchen, John got hired as a downtown ambassador. Now he’s looking to parlay that experience into a full-time job.

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