New Year, New Hope

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For Nira and Steven and thousands of others across Northeast Ohio, life brings many unexpected challenges. But in each person’s most difficult hour, friends like you are right there, offering crucial help and hope.

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The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to think about the legacy you’ll leave in our community. By joining Tomorrow’s Harvest, the planned giving society of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, you’ll ensure your life’s work fights hunger for generations to come.

To learn more, please contact:
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Sr. Manager of Donor Relations
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3 Simple Ways to Make Your Legacy Fight Hunger

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Leave the Greater Cleveland Food Bank a gift of cash, securities, or another specified asset in your will.

2 Life Insurance
You can donate a paid-up life insurance policy or designate the Greater Cleveland Food Bank as a beneficiary of a new policy.

3 Retirement Assets
Retirement assets, a profit-sharing plan, a 401(k) or 403(b), or IRA. Retirement assets are not only great gifts — they also routinely help lower taxes for your other beneficiaries.

This information is not tax or legal advice. Please consult an advisor about your specific situation. If you have any questions, you and/or your attorney and financial advisors are invited to contact Kristen Glazer, at kglazer@clevelandfoodbank.org or 216.738.2056.

To Amend Your Estate Plans
You can include the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in your estate plans by sharing this sample bequest language with your attorney:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, tax identification number 34-1292848, 15500 South Waterloo Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44110 (insert percentage amount or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for programs and services that fight hunger.”

Mary and Debbie each face unique challenges, but thanks to your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, hunger isn’t one of them.

Mary and her husband are retirees surviving on social security. It isn’t easy. Even a small hiccup in their living expenses — due to illness, a higher than normal utility bill, or some other unexpected obligation — can make life difficult.

Meanwhile, their adult daughter Debbie is facing her own set of challenges. She’s a single mother struggling with health issues.

Both Mary and Debbie come to Plymouth United Methodist Church in Ashtabula, a partner agency that distributes groceries provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank . . . and they’re so very grateful.

“Groceries are mighty expensive,” says Mary. “The food my husband and I receive here helps us supplement what we buy on our own.”

Mary and Debbie at Plymouth United Methodist Church distribution.

It makes a huge difference for us — how we live and what we can afford.”

Debbie feels the same way: “Because of this food, my daughter and I haven’t gone hungry when we didn’t have money. I’m not sure how we’d eat without help.”

The women especially appreciate the nutritious produce. “The vegetables are a gift,” Mary says. Debbie agrees: “They’re just so expensive these days.”

Both mother and daughter want you to know you’re making a wonderful difference for their families. “We can’t even say how much this food helps. We just want the donors to know how thankful we are.”
Thank you for your support, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank is constantly striving to meet the most pressing needs of our diverse community. Today, I want to tell you about one of our most promising developments.

As you may know, seniors are living longer than ever before. Sadly, many of them are actually “out-living” their life savings. Their resources have not kept pace with rising expenses. Now, retirees who had worked their entire lives cannot make ends meet. And when the bills come due, food is often the first sacrifice.

That’s why last year, thanks to your support, we began delivering fresh produce and nutritious food to low-income seniors throughout Northeast Ohio at 21 different sites, including senior centers and high rise apartment buildings.

You’ve made an extraordinary difference. I’ve met many of these seniors, heard their touching stories. The overwhelming sentiment expressed is gratitude. They are so thankful that we remembered them. You made that possible.

Now, we aim to add 10 more low-income senior complexes to our rotation in 2018. Kind neighbors like you give me every confidence we’ll achieve that goal, ensuring countless more struggling seniors have access to the food they need.

Thank you again for your wonderful support. You’re making a profound, lasting difference in many lives, and I’m sincerely grateful.

“Food for Thought
Kristin Warzocha, President & CEO

2017 Highlights
What you helped accomplish for hungry children, families, and seniors in Northeast Ohio last year is extraordinary:

- 55 million meals
- 19 million pounds of fresh produce
- 29 million pounds of perishable food
- Over 10,000 NEW Seniors received food
- 4,466 NEW low-income and food insecure children received food

Your kindness will never be forgotten by these struggling neighbors. Thank you!

Thank you for making everything we do possible!

Grateful Child, Aspiring Musician

Because of you, Kiana has delicious meals and a brighter future. Thank you!

Market Program and Backpacks for Kids Program.

“I like the hot meals,” she says. “I don’t know what my favorite food is, but noodles, pizza, carrots, and corn are all really good!”

Kiana is learning to play the cello at school, and she loves it. Maybe someday, she’ll become a professional musician. Whatever happens, there’s no doubt that compassionate friends like you have given this precious girl a brighter future. Thank you!

We’re not Here to Judge Anyone. We Just Want to Help.

Your support goes so much further because of volunteers like Mary Ann, who donate hundreds of hours each year.

Seven years ago, Mary Ann felt a calling to help her hungry neighbors.

She began volunteering at St. Michael the Archangel Church, a partner agency of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the west side of Cleveland.

“In those days,” she remembers, “we used to feed about 50 people a month. But the area is struggling. Last year, we provided food for more than 11,000 people.”

Like many volunteers, Mary Ann has had no shortage of memorable, meaningful experiences while distributing food to her neighbors in need.

Life hasn’t been easy for 10-year-old Kiana.

“My dad died when I was only a baby. I don’t remember him,” she says. “My mom is going through some things, so my grandmother is raising us. Sometimes we stress her out,” she teases.

Even though Kiana’s circumstances are difficult, you won’t hear any complaints. She’s always smiling! And she’s very grateful for the things she does have — including food that she receives from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at Case Elementary School, through the School Market Program and Backpacks for Kids Program.

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“One lady who came here was so ashamed to ask for help. But she had lost her son and been abandoned by her husband in the same month, and she and her daughter were hurting. “I told her, ‘We’re not here to judge anyone. We just want to help.’ When I gave her the food, she burst into tears.”

It’s this type of interaction that makes volunteering with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and its partner agencies so rewarding for Mary Ann, and countless others, too.

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