

**Deputy Secretary Visit to the Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.
Monday, July 20 9:00am - 10:00am
15500 South Waterloo Road, Cleveland, OH 44110**

Contact:

Mary O'Shea, Advocacy & Public Ed. Manager 216-738-2135// 216-469-2863 cell

Anne Goodman, Executive Director 216-738-2044

General Foodbank 216-738-2265

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks
614-221-4336// 614-271-4803 (cell)

Purpose: To promote United We Serve, the President's summer of service initiative, and understand and foster the connections between USDA and anti-hunger organizations.

Event Outline:

- Greeted by Anne Goodman, Executive Director of CFB
- Tour of food bank to see community kitchen, USDA commodities, and learn about Summer Food Service and other food bank programs
- Demonstration of the Benefits Bank with community trainer
- Prepare a few meals in the community kitchen
- See the Benefits Bank mobile truck outside of the food bank
- Wrap up and depart

People of Note:

Bill Coquilette, CFB Board President

Alice Ake Armstrong, CFB Board Member

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

Justin Elchert, Director of Ed. and Outreach, Ohio Assn. of Second Harvest Foodbanks

Dustin Speakman, Director of Community Services, Ohio Assn. of Second Harvest Foodbanks

Nora Nees, Dir. of Nutrition and Enrollment Services, Ohio Assn. of Second Harvest Foodbanks

Erin Sprouse and Russell Allen, Ohio Benefit Bank Counselors

Michael Iberis, Executive Director, Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley (Youngstown)

Jon Politi, Board president, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley

Flora Schneider, Board member, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley

Bernie Kosar, Sr., Board member, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley

Rev. Leonard Killings, Board President, Lutheran Urban Community Ministry (Invited)

Caroline Frederick, Director, Lutheran Social Services of Cleveland

Dr. Syed Abu Abdullah, Imam, Islamic Center of Cleveland

Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, Nursi Chair of Islamic Studies, John Carroll University

Ms. Julia Shearson, Executive Director, Council for American Islamic Relations Chapter

Mr. Zahid Siddiqi, General Secretary, Islamic Center of Cleveland

Imam Abbas Ahmad, Imam, First Cleveland Mosque

Sister Donna Wilhelm, Executive Director, InterAct Cleveland

Joyce Garver Keller, Executive Director, Ohio Jewish Communities and Ohio Faith Based
Advisory Board Member (Invited)

Amy Kaplan, Director of Government Relations, Cleveland Jewish Federation

USDA and the Cleveland Foodbank

Cleveland Foodbank received almost 3 million pounds of USDA entitlement and bonus foods in TEFAP in FY 2008. It is also an active participant in the Summer Food Service Program, with 14 sites serving 1000 children per day. It participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program through 10 Kids Café programs, serving about 430 kids per day. It has a full-time SNAP Outreach Counselor who works in the community to sign up people for SNAP and other benefits. The Ohio State Outreach Plan gave a total of \$861,000 in reimbursed funds for SNAP outreach activities. The Ohio Benefits Bank received \$643,963 and six foodbanks shared \$273,043.

Impact of ARRA Money in Ohio

Through ARRA funds Ohio's food banks will be able to purchase about 2.8 million additional pounds of food. The act also gives Ohio an additional \$998,000 in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 and approximately the same amount for FFY 2010 to store and distribute this food. In Cleveland, we actually will receive a total of \$439,320 in storage and distribution money, and 631,430 lbs. of food (which is the equivalent of \$876,433 or 15 loads of product).

Background on the Cleveland Foodbank, Inc

Founded in 1979, a group of civic-minded individuals joined together to create the Cleveland Foodbank. In the Foodbank's first year of operation, the organization distributed 400,000 pounds of food to 100 local hunger relief organizations. The Cleveland Foodbank provides food and critical nonfood products to local nonprofit agencies which serve hungry individuals across northeast Ohio, 31 percent of them being children. In 2008, it distributed 21.7 million pounds of food to 451 local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other agencies such as child-care centers and homes for the elderly in six counties including Cuyahoga, Ashland, Richland, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, serving more than 16 million meals for individuals in need in our community.

In March of 2001, after years of collaboration, the Cleveland Foodbank merged with Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio, another local nonprofit food distributor. Since its founding, the Foodbank had primarily focused on the distribution of nonperishable food, while Food Rescue of Northeast Ohio had focused on providing fresh, frozen and prepared food. The Foodbank is now able to provide local hunger centers with access to a wider variety of nutritious food for their clients. In July of 2003, the Cleveland Foodbank merged with the Greater Cleveland Committee on Hunger, the organization that ran the Harvest for Hunger food and funds drive. The Harvest for Hunger Campaign is now under the Foodbank roof and the efficiencies from the merger are being seen.

Background on the Ohio Benefits Bank

The Ohio Benefits Bank is offered through a public-private partnership between the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and more than 900 faith-based, non-profit, governmental and private-sector partners.

More than 4000 trained counselors are currently staffing hundreds of Benefit Bank sites and clinics in 87 of Ohio's 88 counties to help prepare and file federal and Ohio income tax returns at no cost to eligible Ohioans. Free income tax assistance is also available through an online, self-service program. Ohioans can also check potential eligibility for other work support benefits such as health care coverage, home energy assistance, child care subsidies, and food stamps at an Ohio Benefit Bank site or online.

Since beginning operations, the Benefit Bank has helped more than 70,000 Ohioans access more than \$120 million in tax credits and other work supports. However, more than \$1.6 billion in tax credits and other supports go unclaimed by eligible Ohioans who do not apply.