



CONNECTION

News and information for friends of Freestore Foodbank

WINTER 2021

Continuing to respond and meet the need

It's a new year, and the long-term challenges from COVID-19 still loom large for many of our neighbors at risk of hunger. At Freestore Foodbank, we anticipate the need for food will remain high for many months.

We continue to be inspired by the generosity of supporters like you in the tristate area, and all you made possible in 2020. That includes helping neighbors like Gabrielle and Richard, who shared their stories with us.

Read how your support helped Gabrielle, Richard and their families on page 2.



Your support helped Richard and his mother put food on the tables.



Gabrielle lost her job during the pandemic, but your generosity helped her family get by.

“I’m so happy to be able to pick up food. It’s a lifesaver during this rough time for me and my family.” –GABRIELLE

Photos has been changed to protect the privacy of the customers.

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A message from our President & CEO

As we turn the page to 2021, I am deeply grateful for what our community has accomplished together.

Our incredible supporters and volunteers have stepped up in one of the most crucial times we'll ever see. When the number of hungry neighbors skyrocketed due to the pandemic, your generosity was there. It was needed and deeply appreciated.

The Ohio and Kentucky National Guard came in when we couldn't have volunteers, and simply made it possible to continue distributing food to the people who needed it most. You can read more about their mission to help us on page 3. Their help and support is and was immeasurable. Our deepest thanks to our service men and women at the National Guard.

And I want to say a special thanks to our staff. Their highest priority is ensuring hungry neighbors get the food they need, and they went above and beyond in showing that every day. They put in extra time, to say the least, so that when our operations had to change overnight, we didn't skip a beat.

This last year has been difficult, and as many children, families and seniors in the tristate area continue to face challenges due to the pandemic, the need continues to be at historic highs and we anticipate will be the same in the months to come.

Thank you for being a community we can count on, always. Your outpouring of support has helped our neighbors get through, right when they needed it most. Let's continue to partner together to ensure people can put food on the tables for their families.

Kurt Reiber, President & CEO

Continued from cover

Your support matters to our neighbors

Gabrielle joined us at one of our emergency food distributions held in partnership with Xavier University. She had lost her job at a fast-casual restaurant due to COVID-19 and was waiting to hear about receiving unemployment benefits. She's a single mother, living with her two children and sister in Colerain.

"I'm so happy to be able to pick up food," Gabrielle says. "It's a lifesaver during this rough time for me and my family."

Helping families during difficult times

Richard lives in Forest Park and as a barber, was unable to work for several months due to the pandemic. He visited one of the Foodbank's large-scale food distributions downtown to help him get by.

His mother could not risk her health and go out to get food, so we loaded the back of Richard's car with two emergency food boxes—one for him, one for his mother, so they both had access to nutritious meals.

"Thanks for this food," he says. "I'm out of work and disabled and this is such a blessing to all of us in this time."

"It's a lifesaver during this rough time for me and my family."

—GABRIELLE

We are deeply grateful for your generous support to help our neighbors impacted by the pandemic and at risk of hunger. To help even more hungry children, families and seniors, please visit freestorefoodbank.org/donate today. Thank you!



Helping ensure our neighbors have access to fresh food through our drive-thru distributions.



Volunteer Spotlight

Stepping in—and stepping up—to serve



In early March, the warehouse for Freestore Foodbank was averaging 200 volunteers each week to pack food. With COVID-19 beginning to impact the tristate area, the Foodbank was closed to volunteers to ensure their health and safety.

Enter the Ohio National Guard.

In their first five months helping the Foodbank, they packed more than 110,300 emergency food boxes and nearly 72,000 power packs for hungry children. The Kentucky National Guard helped too, working at our warehouse in Wilder.

“It’s really great knowing that we’re actually being able to provide that level of assistance,” 1st LT. Zachary Cook says.

Freestore Foodbank wants to say a special thank you to the Ohio National Guard and Kentucky National Guard. We couldn’t have helped so many hungry neighbors without your incredible hard work and support. Thank you!

“...a lot of our soldiers are going back to their own neighborhoods. This work is on a personal level.”

—1ST LT. COOK

The soldiers did it all, working at distribution events and making local deliveries for people who couldn’t leave their homes.

“We couldn’t have done it without them—we could not have fed all the families that we did,” says Stephenie Hart, manager of distribution center volunteer operations at Freestore Foodbank.

Throughout the mission; the soldiers have been grateful for the opportunity to help close to home.

“From the Foodbank warehouse, about 85% of our soldiers live within 30 miles,” Cook says. “We’re working at mobile distributions, a lot of our soldiers are going back to their own neighborhoods. This work is on a personal level.”



Donor Spotlight

Generations of giving from the Francis family

At Freestore Foodbank, we’re grateful for our numerous dedicated supporters, and lucky to have multi-generational families who invest in us throughout their lives and beyond. Meet the Francis family, who have done just that.

“We started at Christmas time in the late ’90s,” says Bill Francis about his family’s decision. “I suggested that rather than trying to find the perfect gifts for each other, we give to a charity instead. The amount wasn’t as important as the act of giving. I didn’t tell them that it was also because I hate to shop!”

“That started our entire family’s partnership with Freestore,” continues Bill. “I’d vetted a number of charities and Freestore Foodbank rose to the top in terms of their efficiency in converting donations into services.”



Bill was inspired by the generosity of his parents, David and Byllie Francis, pictured above.

Bill continued to learn about Freestore Foodbank’s work and that is when he realized this was also the perfect opportunity to pay tribute to his parents with an estate gift through his trust. “My mom and dad, Byllie and Dave, were two of the kindest, gentlest people I’ve ever known. They were both very generous and passed along that value. I know they would be proud of the impact our family has been able to make through Freestore,” adds Bill.

In addition to this planned gift commitment, giving during match opportunities caught Bill’s eye and now he regularly matches the gifts of others, inspiring new contributors to join us. “I’ve been very lucky in life and feel it’s important to give back, says Bill.” Giving to Freestore Foodbank is an investment with a great return for our community.”

Like the Francis family, you can create a legacy gift through your will, trust or retirement plan and make an impact on future generations. Please contact Mindy Hammer at mhammer@freestorefoodbank.org or 513-482-7099 to learn more. If you’ve already included us in your planning, please let us know so we may thank you.

Many families are still at risk of hunger—you can help today

The pandemic continues to have a lasting impact on the tristate area, and so many people continue to be out of work. Without your help they are unable to afford enough food to provide three meals a day so that their families remain healthy.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, thousands of hungry neighbors were helped last year—many who were coming to receive food from one of our 540 community partners for the first time.

At Freestore Foodbank, we know the need in our community will extend well into 2021. Your support can ensure hungry children, families and seniors in our 20 county service area can continue to have access to nutritious food.

To give today, please return the enclosed reply slip along with your generous gift, or visit freestorefoodbank.org. Remember, every \$1 can help provide 3 nutritious meals to neighbors at risk of hunger in our community.



Thank you for your continued generosity to help children, families and seniors put food on their tables in difficult times.

YOUR LEGACY MAKES A LASTING IMPACT

You can make a lasting impact in the fight against hunger! A gift in your will, trust, or retirement plan is often the easiest way to make a legacy gift and may allow you to make much greater gifts than you could during your lifetime. Please consider Freestore Foodbank as a beneficiary.

For more information, contact Mindy Hammer at mhammer@freestorefoodbank.org or 513-482-7099. You can also visit <https://freestorefoodbank.org/other-ways-to-give/>.



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



Yes, I want to ensure more children, families and seniors in our community have the nutritious food they need each day.

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 _____ 41-98627_1021

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



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