



**OHIO ASSOCIATION  
OF SECOND HARVEST  
FOODBANKS**

## **SENIOR HUNGER IN OHIO**

Hunger and malnutrition have devastating effects on our elder's ability to live independently in their homes, increasing the incidence of adverse health conditions, limitations in daily activity and disabilities.

Hunger among older Ohioans is growing and will dramatically affect already-rising health care costs and the safety, health, well-being and dignity of our friends, neighbors, mothers, fathers and grandparents.

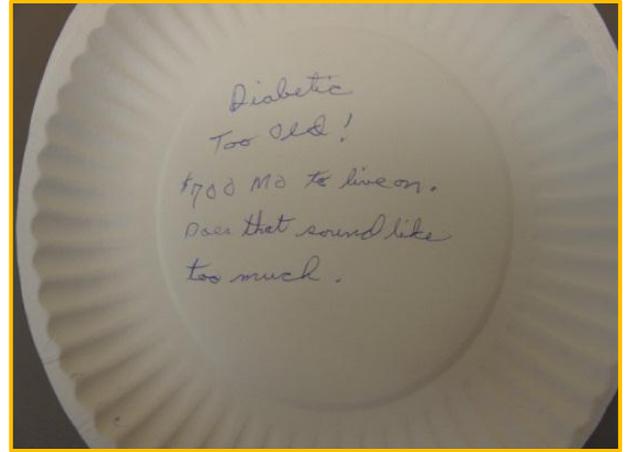
Yet hunger is entirely preventable.

It will take all of us, working together, to solve this damaging condition yet it can, it must and it will be done.

Prepared by  
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## Ohio is an Aging State

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state's working-age population (age 20 to 65) will grow by only 224,000 from 2005 to 2015, *while the population of individuals age 55 and older will grow by more than 540,000.*<sup>1</sup> By 2030, Ohio is projected to see an increase of 56.3% in the number of people over the age of 65.<sup>2</sup>



## Elder Hunger is Expected to Increase Dramatically

Nationally, the number of food insecure seniors is estimated to increase by *50% by the year 2025* (when the youngest of the Baby Boom generation reaches age 60).<sup>3</sup>

## Measures of Older Adult Hunger<sup>4</sup>

### United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Each year the USDA measures food insecurity and very low food security across the United States. In November 2010, the USDA released data on food insecurity for 2009. They found:

#### *Nationally*

- **17.4 million households**, had difficulty providing enough food at some point during the year, due to a lack of resources. This included **50.2 million people** (33 million adults and 17.2 million children).
- An estimated **7.5% of American seniors** (65+) and **7.8% of American seniors who live alone** are at risk of hunger.
- **3,631,000** households with an elderly person were food insecure. **1,710,000** households with an elderly person had *very low* food security.<sup>5</sup>

#### *Ohio*

- **14.8% of Ohioans** (679,172) were food insecure.
- **Ohio's increase of 5.1% led the nation** in the growth of food insecure households since the 1996-1998 measures were taken.
- Ohio was tied with South Dakota for **4th in nation** for increases in the *very low* food insecurity rate increases at 2.6% from 1996-1998.
- Ohio's food insecurity rate is **higher than all surrounding states** and the U.S. average.
- Ohio is tied for **8th in the nation for worst food security rates** (with North Carolina and Maine).

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Job & Family Services. 2008. Graying Labor Force: Aging through 2016. <http://ohiolmi.com/research/2016Graying.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census. U.S. Population Projections. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/projectionsagesex.html>

<sup>3</sup> Ziliak, J., Gunderson, C., Haist, M. 2008. "The causes, consequences and future of Senior Hunger in America."

<sup>4</sup> Hunger is often referred to as "food insecurity." Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain ability to acquire food. A *very low* food secure household is cutting or skipping meals; is hungry and not eating; missed an entire day of meals in the last three months. Typically households with very low food security experienced the condition in 7 months of the year, for a few days in each of those months. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/labels.htm#labels>

<sup>5</sup> USDA. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR108/ERR108.pdf>

### Food Spending Per Person

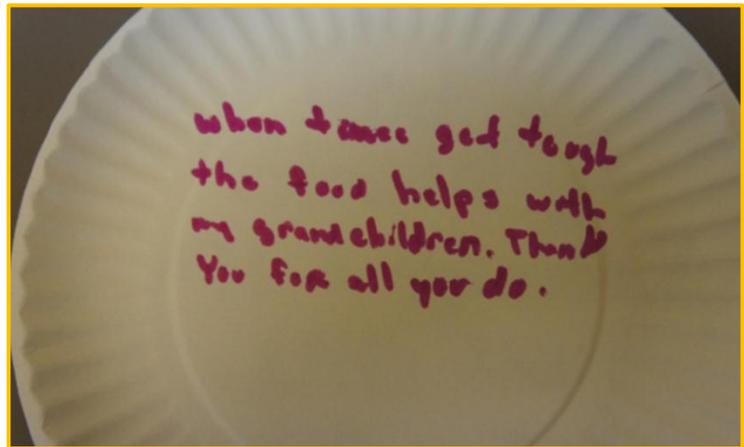
USDA also measured the amount of money spent on food per household relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), the basis for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) allocation. The typical food secure home spends 33% more on food than the typical food-insecure home with the same composition.

- Nationally, older adults (65 +) spent 17% more (\$45.00) than the cost of the TFP for food. Elderly living alone spent 25% more (\$50.00) than the cost of the TFP.
- *Food insecure* elderly spent 0.82% of the TFP and food insecure elderly living alone spent 0.99% of the TFP.

### Food Hardship Ranking:<sup>6</sup>

In December 2010, **19.8%** of Ohioans reported that there had been times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed. The national rate was 18.6%.

Of the 25 metropolitan statistical areas with the worst rates of food hardship, two were in Ohio including the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman area, **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** in the U.S. with a food hardship rate of 24.8% and Dayton with a food hardship rate of 21%, **ranked 15<sup>th</sup>** in the nation.



### U.S. Census<sup>7</sup>

More than **1.7 million Ohioans**, 15.2% lived at or below the federal poverty level, an increase from 2008 of over 217,000 Ohioans.

8.4% of Ohio's adults older than 65 live in poverty and **525,715 Ohio adults older than 55 had income below 150 percent** of the federal poverty level.

### Grandparents raising grandchildren

According to the latest Census results **196,902** Ohio grandparents live with minor children in their homes. **20,000** grandparents raising grandchildren live in homes with incomes below the federal poverty level.

### Disability

**39.8%** of Ohio adults older than 65 lived with a disability in 2006.

<sup>6</sup> *Food Hardship: A Closer Look at Hunger* analyzes survey data that were collected by Gallup and provided to FRAC. The ability to provide such localized data and such up-to-date data comes from Gallup, interviewing 1,000 households per day almost every day since January 2, 2008 for the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project. Through December 2009, more than 650,000 people have been asked a series of questions on a range of topics including emotional health, physical health, healthy behavior, work environment and access to basic services. Specific to this report, more than 530,000 people were asked: "Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" [http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/food\\_hardship\\_report\\_mar2011.pdf](http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/food_hardship_report_mar2011.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census ACS 2005 to 2009 estimates

**Hunger in Ohio, 2010<sup>8</sup>**

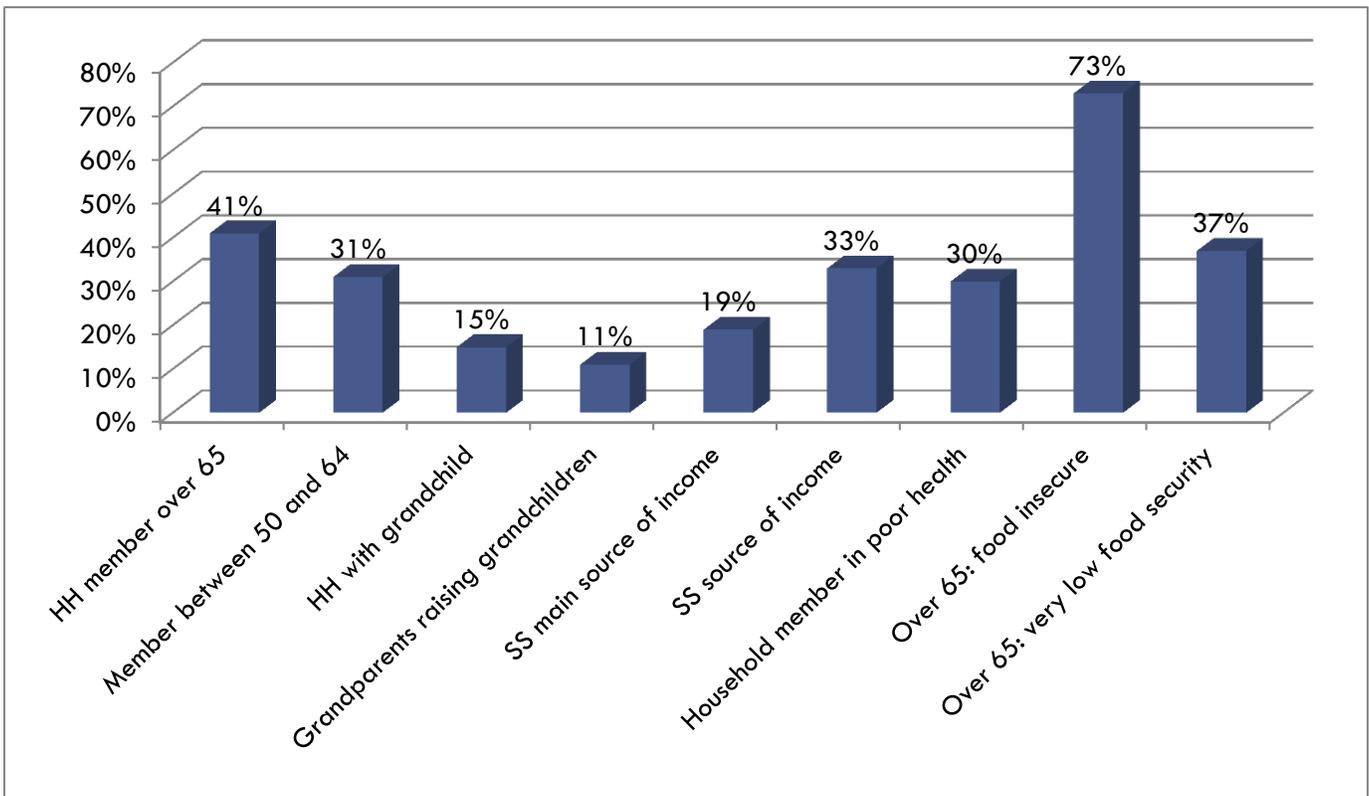
More than **one in six Ohioans** were served by the emergency food assistance network between July and September 2010. Of those, **more than a quarter-million were Ohio elders**, almost 690,000 were children and one in three households had at least one working adult.



Every four years, Mathematica Policy Institute, Inc. in partnership with Feeding America, the nation’s largest organization of emergency food providers, completes a national study on emergency food providers and their clients.

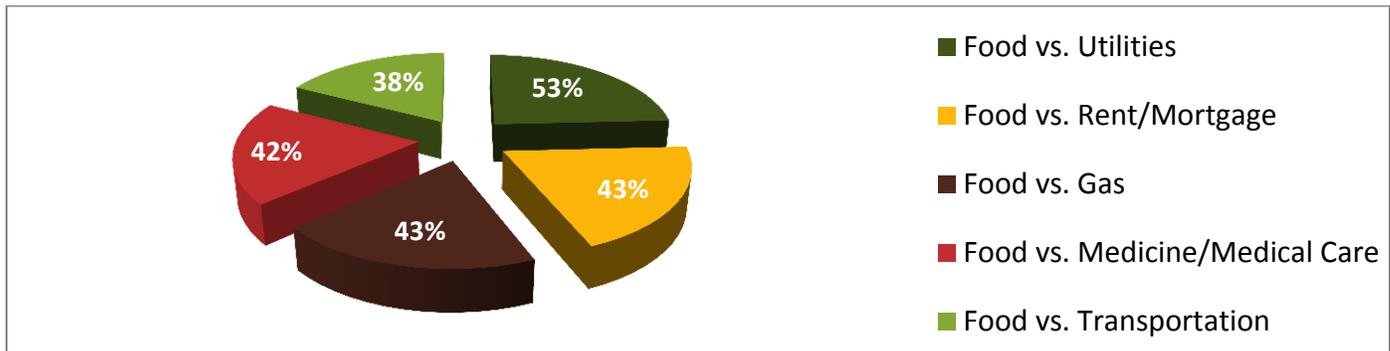
In the last quarter of 2009, **4,092** face-to-face interviews were conducted with Ohioans seeking emergency food. The study found that:

- Among all households served **83% are food insecure** and **44% have very low food security**.
- **23.5%** of client households that visited a food pantry in Ohio during 2009 had a member who was 65 years or older and **16.8%** of visitors to an Ohio soup kitchen during 2009 were 65 years of age or older.
- **31%** of households in Ohio report having at least one household member in poor health.



<sup>8</sup> Hunger in Ohio 2010, Mathematica Policy Institute

Hard choices being made by Ohioans visiting the emergency food assistance network in 2009:



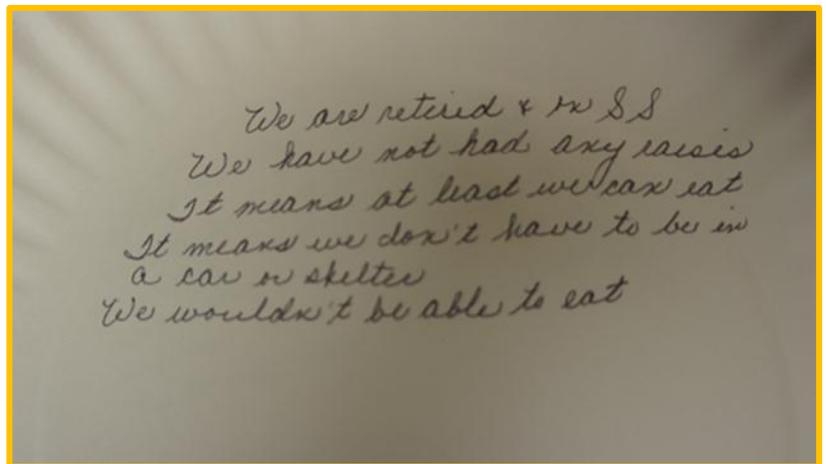
### Other Measures of Poverty

A new supplemental measure of poverty<sup>9</sup>, released by the U.S. Census last year, found that **one in six older Americans were living below the poverty level**, when income, like Social Security, and expenses, like medications and rent, were taken into account.

### Depletion of Resources

Many older adults do have some savings, enough for a rainy day, but not enough to retire. Their assets do not let them qualify for government programs, but they still do not have enough money to meet their needs.

- Workers **retirement funds fell by \$4 trillion dollars** during the economic recession, following the Dow's loss of more than 50% of its value.<sup>10</sup>
- Low and middle income consumers over the age of 65 years carried **\$10,235 in credit card debt** in 2008.
- Since 1991 the **bankruptcy rate doubled** among people age 55 to 64 grew from about 6% to over 15%.
- In 2006, almost 50% of older adults in the lowest third of the income distribution devoted **one-fifth of their annual income to medical costs** including premiums, deductibles and other services not covered by Medicare.
- In 2008, individuals 50+ represented **28% of all foreclosures and delinquencies**.



### Unemployment

- Due to the recession, 44% of workers aged 50 and older have **delayed retirement**.<sup>11</sup>
- The **unemployment rate for age 55+ is at all-time high** (7%) with it taking on average 7 months to secure employment.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census <http://www.census.gov/hhes/povmeas/methodology/supplemental/research.html>

<sup>10</sup> National Council on Aging, July 2010. The Economic Downturn's Effect on Older Adults.

<sup>11</sup> The Urban Institute. Johnson, R., Mommaerts, C. January 2011. Age Differences in Job Loss, Job Search and Reemployment.

## Cost of Older Adult Hunger

Enough food, and health-sustaining food, is important to everyone, but it is especially important when people are particularly vulnerable to disease, or when their life circumstances – such as limited mobility– make obtaining a healthy diet more difficult.

**Food insecure elderly persons have been found to be 2.33 times more likely to report fair or poor health status.** Food insecurity among elders increases disability, decreases resistance to infection, and extends hospital stays. Moreover, many medications need to be taken with food to assure their effectiveness. Too many seniors skip meals in order to purchase medication, only to see the “Take with food” label on the prescription bottle.

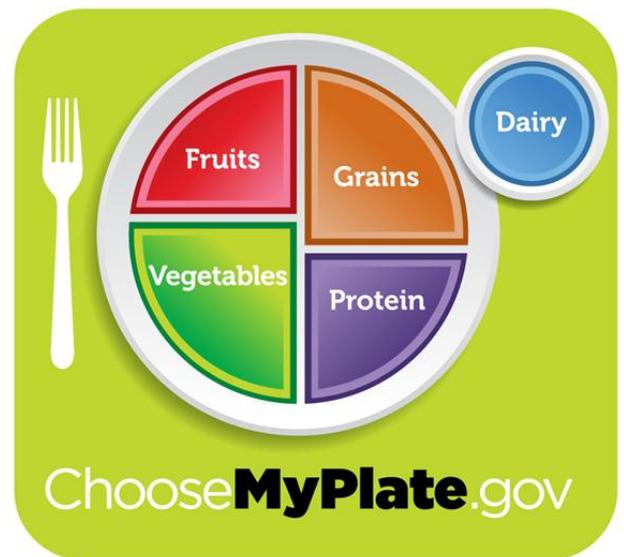
According to the American Diabetes Association and Center for Disease Control, diabetes cost us **\$218 billion in excess medical costs** a year in 2007.<sup>12</sup>

Among U.S. residents aged 65 years and older, 10.9 million, or **26.9% had diabetes in 2010.**<sup>13</sup>

Due in large part to the aging of the population, diabetes rates are predicted to skyrocket, with **one in three** Americans potentially suffering from diabetes by the year 2050.

Food insecurity for older adults results in:<sup>14</sup>

- Poor intakes of energy, protein, carbohydrates, niacin, riboflavin, vitamins B6 and B12, Mg, Fe and Zn
- Poor overall health status
- Compromised ability to resist
- More likely to have ADL limitations (comparable to an adult 14 years older)
- Deteriorating mental and physical health
- Greater incidence of hospitalization
- Extended hospital stays
- Increasing care-giving demands
- Increased national/state health care expenditures



Older Adults have increased need for:

- Low sodium foods to prevent high blood pressure.
- Vitamin B-12 – as we age our stomachs produce less gastric acid, which makes it difficult to absorb this vitamin. B-12 helps maintain blood vessels and nerves.
- Vitamin D – with age, skin is less able to absorb Vitamin D from the sunlight. Vitamin D is essential for calcium absorption.

<sup>12</sup> American Diabetes Association. 2007. <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/diabetes-statistics/>

<sup>13</sup> Center for Disease Control. [http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs\\_2011.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs_2011.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Lee JS, Fischer JG, and Johnson MA. J Nutr Elder 29(2): 116-149, 2010; Torres-Gil. Nutrition Review 54:S7-8, 1996; Ziliak JP et al. The causes, consequences and future of senior hunger in America, 2008.

## Key Partners in Addressing Hunger among Older Ohioans

**State and Local Governments:** State and local governments have critical roles to play in ending hunger. They administer critical federal nutrition programs, support state-funded programs and provide leadership to make ending hunger a priority in the state.

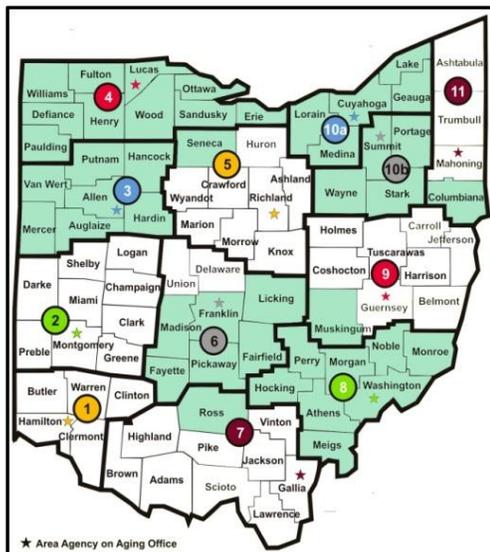
**Businesses Help to Address Hunger:** Private sector partners can help address hunger in myriad ways: contributing in-kind help or technical assistance to anti-hunger groups, donating food, making cash donations, including those to promote enrollment in nutrition safety net programs, and supporting policy improvements.

**Faith-Based Organizations:** Many of Ohio’s food pantries and soup kitchens are sponsored by faith-based organizations. Faith-based groups also connect people with services and promote policies and approaches to aid more people.

**Ohio Department of Aging:** the Ohio Department of Aging seeks to provide leadership for the delivery of services and supports that improve and promote quality of life and personal choice for Ohio elders, adults with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers. They operate a variety of nutrition programs for Ohio elders, including the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, the Congregate Nutrition Program, and Home Delivered Nutrition Program. In addition to these programs, PASSPORT and Choices are Medicaid home and community based waiver programs that provide services to Ohioans aged 60 and older in their own home, including meals.



**The Senior Farmers’ Nutrition Market Program (SFMNP)** is a USDA funded program that provides \$50 worth of coupons to low-income elders for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables and honey. The program operates from May through October during which eligible elders can exchange their coupons at farmers’ markets or farm stands that display a SFMNP sign. The program also includes a nutrition education component which provides participants with information about making healthy choices and the benefits of fruits and vegetables in their diets.



Unfortunately, despite its popularity and benefits to multiple Ohioans, the program is underfunded which limits its availability and reach. Wait lists are prevalent. Current funding of \$1.7 million serves 13 percent of the low income elders (31,784) in the 44 counties served and only 7% of low income elders in the entire state. <http://aging.ohio.gov/services/seniorfarmersmarketnutritionprogram/>

**Contact:** Shari Baker, RD, LD, Nutrition Program Manager Ohio Department of Aging, [sbaker@age.state.oh.us](mailto:sbaker@age.state.oh.us)

**Congregate Nutrition Program and the Home Delivered Nutrition Program:** The Congregate Nutrition Program and the Home Delivered Nutrition Program are funded by the Administration on Aging and state and local dollars for a total of more than \$54 million dollars. Nutrition program services are available to all Ohioans age 60 and older in each of Ohio's 88 counties. However, availability many vary locally and priority is given to frail, homebound or isolated elders.

These nutrition programs offer health-sustaining food and other important benefits. The programs serve elders who may be frail, have multiple chronic diseases and live on marginal incomes. Both programs provide links to other community social services, such as supplemental nutrition assistance program and food pantries. The meal programs screen consumers and refer those at high risk for nutrition-related problems to appropriate resources, including physicians, dietitians and dentists. Consumers and their caregivers learn about good nutrition practices, the need for physical activity and the importance of food safety.

Despite providing nearly 100,000 elders with more than 8.7 million nutritious meals, current programs fall short of meeting the nutritional needs of many older Ohioans.

<http://aging.ohio.gov/information/nutrition/>

**PASSPORT and Choices:** PASSPORT and Choices are Medicaid home & community based waiver programs that provide services to individuals age 60 and older in their own home including meals.

For more information visit:

<http://aging.ohio.gov/home/>



**AARP Ohio:** Founded in 1958, AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50 and over improve the quality of their lives. AARP has offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As a social welfare organization, as well as the nation's largest membership organization for people 50+, AARP is leading a revolution in the way people view and live life.

AARP and the AARP Foundation are engaged nationally and locally in identifying and addressing senior and raising awareness of the growing problem of senior hunger in the United States by engaging members, and sponsoring research and reports, and the Jeff Gordon "Drive to End Hunger" Nascar campaign. AARP Ohio recently sponsored a statewide food and awareness drive of hunger among older adults in Ohio.

**Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks:** The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks represents the 12 Feeding America food banks serving all 88 counties through nearly 3,000 member food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In addition to operating statewide programs like the Ohio Food Purchase and Agricultural Clearance Program and the Ohio Benefit Bank, Ohio food banks distribute CSFP and TEFAP throughout the state in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and provide supplemental programs that address the unique needs of vulnerable populations like older adults and children. According to the USDA's most recent report, more people used the emergency food network in the

Midwest region than in any other region of the United States.<sup>15</sup> **Contact:** Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, [lisa@oashf.org](mailto:lisa@oashf.org) or (614) 221-4336.

### ***The Ohio Food Purchase and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP):***

The OFPACP is a public private partnership that has operated in Ohio for **14 years** with funding provided by the Ohio General Assembly and administered by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. The statewide partnership directs surplus and unmarketable agricultural products from **over 100 Ohio farmers and producers** through the State's network of food banks onto the table of Ohio families, ensuring even our most vulnerable populations have a source of nutritious, Ohio-grown, raised and produced food. The program prevents waste, reduces loss for farmers and growers, is the most nutritious food in the food bank warehouse and, most importantly, provides the most wholesome of food to struggling Ohio families for pennies on the pound.

In State Fiscal year 2010, OASHF member food banks distributed more than 135 million pounds of food and grocery items throughout the State. 25% of this food (more than **34.5 million pounds**) was provided through the OFPACP.



### ***The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)***

TEFAP is a federal funded (USDA) program that provides shelf stable meat, dairy, canned fruits and vegetables, and other food commodities to states, mainly through local food banks. Food banks redistribute the products to faith-based and secular food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters that directly serve the public. TEFAP households, except those receiving prepared meals, must meet the state's income eligibility criteria.

In State Fiscal Year 2010, TEFAP provided 22% of all food distributed through the emergency food assistance network in Ohio. TEFAP is essential resource for the record number of Ohioans standing in food lines. Yet even as the need for emergency food remains high, agricultural markets are currently very strong. As a result, there is little need for USDA to intervene in agricultural markets by purchasing "bonus" TEFAP foods that have helped the emergency food network cope with rising demand over the past three years. Any decrease in TEFAP and bonus commodities will severely impact the amount of food available, including reducing the size of food packages available by 12.5%. State Agency: Ohio Department of Job & Family Services <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ofam/foodstamps.stm>

<sup>15</sup> The exclusion of the homeless and under representation of those who are tenuously housed—bias estimates of emergency kitchen use downward, especially among certain subgroups of the population.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):**

CSFP is a federally-funded USDA program available in 56 Ohio counties that provides a simple, monthly box of food, costing about \$20.00, that contains four cans of vegetables, two jugs of fruit juice, two cans of fruit, a couple of cans of tuna or other protein, three cans of evaporated milk, 2 boxes of cereal, a jar of peanut butter and a two pound block of cheese.

This box of food is not extravagant but it can mean the difference between a life at home or an

expensive hospital or nursing home stay paid for with those same taxpayer’s dollars. The program serves 20,463 Ohioans through the emergency food assistance network; 99% are older adults (age 60 or over). For more information on CSFP in Ohio visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ofam/foodstamps.stm>



**Josephine C., age 77**, and her husband lived a simple life in St. Louis after their marriage. Mr. C. worked maintenance while Josephine was employed by several flower shops before moving on to work in a cafeteria. Their low incomes did not allow for much savings and what little they did have was depleted when Mr. C. was diagnosed with cancer at 62.

Josephine is now 77 and faces constant medical issues -- some of which include special dietary requirements. CSFP helps ensure that she doesn't go without.

<b>Josephine's Financial Snapshot</b>		\$
Monthly Income:		650.00
→ Rent		(89.00)
→ Utilities		(45.00)
→ Telephone		(12.00)
→ Credit cards		(70.00)
→ Total Expenses		(216.00)
<b>Remaining income for food, medical and all other:</b>		<b>\$434.00</b>

**Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB):**

The OBB is an online service that connects Ohioans to much needed federal and state resources to help their family become more economically self-sufficient. The OBB is a public-private partnership between the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and the State of Ohio, including eight state agencies. The OBB consolidates services of **over 20 programs into one electronic access portal** that helps Ohioans to be healthy, remain stable, and retain employment by improving access to benefits and tax credits.



A recent study found that many low-income households were not accessing the benefits that were available to them.

- Many can't afford to take time off work to pick up and complete paperwork.
- Others are overwhelmed by the amount of paperwork required.
- Some don't have transportation to get to the various application offices to apply for assistance.

The OBB provides access to over 20 work support programs and services (including SNAP, Home Energy Assistance Program, Health Care, Medicare Part D Extra Help, Medicare Savings Programs, a wide variety of free tax filing and tax credits, among many more) bringing all of these resources together in one location. The OBB allows Ohioans to complete the necessary application in one location either at home via the internet ([www.ohiobenefits.org](http://www.ohiobenefits.org)) or at a community location with the help of volunteer counselors. Ohioans can access The OBB in all 88 counties through over 4,000 trained counselors in over 1,100 community, faith-based, and public sites. To date, more than 213,972 Ohioans have been served by The OBB.

**Contact:** Maryjo Mace-Woodburn, Director of Work Support Initiatives, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks ([www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org)), (614) 221-4336, ext. 268, [maryjo@oashf.org](mailto:maryjo@oashf.org)

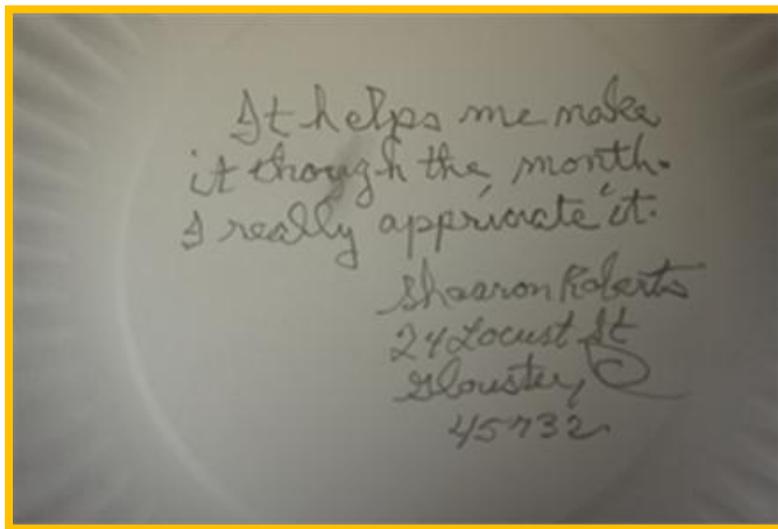
**Privately operated senior hunger relief programs:** Many programs across Ohio secure funding, staff and volunteer resources, develop infrastructure and maximize local collaboration to deliver hunger and poverty relief services to older adults across the State. As the need increases now and in the years ahead older adults will continue to rely on these programs. Recognition of their significant contribution to alleviating hunger and poverty must be made along with inclusion in a comprehensive plan that addresses and solves the senior hunger crisis.

**Volunteer and National Service Organizations:** Volunteers play important roles in addressing senior hunger, from delivering Meals on Wheels and making food donations, to screening seniors for SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) benefits and supporting policies to address the problem. The federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) “improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.”

In 2010-2011<sup>16</sup> FY

- *Senior Corps* provided more than **16,000** seniors in Ohio the opportunity to contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP
- *AmeriCorps* provided more than **1,400** individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across Ohio last year.
- *Learn and Serve America* provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to engage more than **38,000** Ohio students in community service linked to academic learning and the development of civic skills.

**Contacts:** Tina Dunphy, State Director, CNCS State Office, (614) 469-7441, [tdunphy@cns.gov](mailto:tdunphy@cns.gov) and William B. Hall, Executive Director, Ohio Community Service Council, (614) 728-2916, [William.hall@ocsc.state.oh.us](mailto:William.hall@ocsc.state.oh.us)



<sup>16</sup> [http://www.nationalservice.gov/state\\_profiles/pdf/OH\\_OV.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/state_profiles/pdf/OH_OV.pdf)  
[http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role\\_impact/state\\_profiles\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_profiles\\_state=OH](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role_impact/state_profiles_detail.asp?tbl_profiles_state=OH)

## Maximizing Federal Nutrition Programs

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** The Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP), known as **Food Assistance** in Ohio and formerly known as food stamps, provides low-income people with benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card that they can use to obtain food at most grocery stores and other food outlets. The federal government funds 100 percent of SNAP benefits and provides approximately half of a state's costs to administer the program.

### How many eligible seniors participate in Ohio?

USDA SNAP participation rates by age group currently are available only at the national, but not at the state level. Nationally, in 2007, only 32 percent of seniors eligible for SNAP participated, compared with 66 percent of SNAP eligible people overall.<sup>17</sup>

In 2009 in Ohio, **7 percent** of all SNAP recipients were elderly (94,000).<sup>18</sup> Of Ohio *households* participating in SNAP, **14.4 percent** held an elderly person.

### Who can get SNAP in Ohio?

Income tests largely determine Ohioan's SNAP eligibility. *Asset tests were eliminated for all Ohio households starting in 2008*, which can significantly affect an older adult's participation in programs. Ohio seniors *who are 60 or older* may be income eligible regardless of gross income if their net income, after subtracting gross income certain expenses (such as housing and medical costs, child care, and eldercare), is at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty line. There are no work requirements for people age 60 or older.

### Why should we care?

The minimum SNAP benefit is \$16.00 a month. **The average SNAP benefit for older Americans is \$91.00 a month.** Ensuring that older Ohioans are aware of and able to easily access SNAP will not only draw down federal dollars into the State's economy, it will decrease food insecurity and the damaging effects of hunger on one of our most vulnerable populations.

### How do we increase SNAP participation among elderly Ohioans?

- Increase awareness of SNAP eligibility and benefit levels where older adults, caregivers and family members are already accessing services.
- Increase EBT use at Farmer's Markets in conjunction with the SFMNP.
- Simplify application and recertification processes for older adults by
  - Providing seamless enrollment across programs older adults already participate in.
  - Raising income eligibility levels so that an older adult participating in the Home Energy Assistance Program, SFMNP, CSFP, for example, could be automatically eligible for SNAP.
  - Minimizing documentation requirements and using all available data sources as "back door" verification.

SNAP is administered by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.

For more information on SNAP visit: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/factsheets/foodassistance.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Participation Rates: 2000 to 2007. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/Trends2000-2007.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households, Fiscal Year 2009 Summary. October 2010.