



Harvest of Hope

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2018

Harvest of Hope Surpasses One Million Pounds of Rescued Food

Washington County Harvest of Hope (HoH) celebrated a significant achievement in August when it reached the milestone of one million pounds of food rescued and distributed to numerous area agencies serving the hunger needs of our community.

Each week, the HoH refrigerated truck travels throughout the valley picking up food at grocery stores, farm markets, and businesses. In general, the food is nearing its sell by date or is excess food that may have been produced



O'Neill Senior Nutrition workers Cathy Ryan and Vesta Kidd Hall receive a food delivery from Harvest of Hope volunteer Gary Dodez on August 9. This delivery marked one million pounds of food rescued by Harvest of Hope.

by or delivered to the pick-up locations. That same day, the truck delivers the food to a food

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Glean. Grow. Give

pantry, community meal site, or local agency to be distributed to those in need or served as part of a community meal. HoH works with the United Way and other community agencies and donors to achieve the vision of a hunger-free community.

Harvest of Hope carefully tracks the pounds of food donated and distributed. One million pounds was reached with a delivery to the O'Neill Senior Nutrition Program on August 9. Volunteers Steve Porter and Gary Dodez, regulars on the monthly truck schedule, made the delivery of a variety of foods donated through Witten Farm Market and Giant Eagle. Vesta Kidd Hall, Senior Nutrition Coordinator at the O'Neill Center, said that the HoH deliveries help to lower the expense of operating the senior nutrition program. The variety of foods delivered helps as well. "Our seniors always enjoy the meat, breads, and cookies that are part of the Harvest of Hope delivery."

Established in 2005, originally as an outreach activity of the Christ United Methodist Church in Marietta, HoH has grown in size and scope with more than 100 volunteers now serving 30 agencies in the Mid-Ohio Valley. The HoH mission has also broadened to include community gardens and nutrition education. Today, the organization holds 501(c)(3) status; is governed by a diverse Board of Directors from business, education, and service organizations; and conducts fundraising efforts to keep the food distribution service free for the agencies served.

Make a Difference . . . Become a Harvest of Hope Truck Volunteer!

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you like to help others, and you want to make a positive difference in our community. An easy way to do that is by becoming a truck volunteer for Harvest of Hope. It's easy and enjoyable. Each truck run requires a driver and a helper. The truck runs Monday through Friday, usually leaving by 9 a.m. and completing each run by noon. The driver and helper go to six or seven local stores, pick up donations those locations may have, weigh the items, and then deliver the donations to a food pantry or a community meal site. There is a regular schedule for pick ups and deliveries, so the truck volunteers know where they will be going in advance of each trip. Volunteer schedules are flexible; you can do the same day each month or fill in as needed. Being a volunteer driver is a great way to meet people and learn more about them. "Driving the truck is fun." says volunteer truck driver, Mike Buell. "It's nice to do something worthwhile."

Harvest of Hope is looking for a few good truck volunteers. Will *you* be one of them? Contact Susan Allender at (740) 538-8811 for details.



Dan Avondet has been a Harvest of Hope volunteer since 2012.

Dan Avondet Retires

Dan Avondet worked at Dominion Energy in Cleveland for 28 years before transferring to our local Dominion Energy in 2012. Now he is retiring and moving on to enjoying family, friends, travel, and golf.

His truck partner, Duane Brannan, chatted with him recently about his Harvest of Hope experience. Here's what he learned.

Enjoying volunteering and community service, Dan asked his coworkers at Dominion when he first came to Marietta about charitable activities and organizations in the area. Not only did he want to become involved in the community, but he thought it would be good to get his shop involved in some kind of community service, too. Harvest of Hope was suggested and Dan started volunteering right away, followed a couple years later with a monthly run on the truck rescuing food. Dominion Energy also became a significant and on-going source of support for the organization.

To Dan, Harvest of Hope is "very important". "I enjoy helping the community and doing volunteer work", he said. Rescuing food and serving "those most in need makes me feel good inside. I wish I could have done more. I felt a moment of pride when we reached the million pounds of food mark. It was quite fulfilling."

When asked what he liked most about his work with Harvest of Hope, Dan said, “It feels good to do volunteer work that helps people who can’t help themselves. I like the idea of the gardens and teaching people to grow food.” He likes that Harvest of Hope not only rescues food and meat as an organization, but also teaches others how to help themselves.

Dan’s advice to potential volunteers is to get involved. There is not a lot of time required for a truck run and there are many other volunteer opportunities. Everyone at Harvest of Hope and the food donors are friendly and the people who accept deliveries are very grateful. “It is all very rewarding.” Next on his retirement agenda is a move to Mansfield, Texas, with his wife to be closer to his daughter, son-in-law and baby granddaughter, with frequent trips back to Cleveland to visit his grandson.

Thank you, Dan, for your years of dedication to the mission of Harvest of Hope.

2018 Year-End Appeal

This summer we achieved an awesome milestone. Harvest of Hope has rescued over one million pounds of food since 2006! Without the support of the community, local groceries, farm markets, orchards, businesses, organizations, and volunteers, it could not have happened.

Think of all the hungry people served through the Harvest of Hope mission. More than 6,000 food insecure people in Washington County rely on our volunteer-managed, cost-free deliveries to 24 area agencies, including seven free community meal programs, 12 food pantries, EVE, Washington County Home, the O’Neill Center, House of Hope, and the YMCA as well as other organizations.

Harvest of Hope’s mission to feed the hungry and its vision of a hunger free community needs the support of everyone to be successful. Your year-end gift this year is important to that vision as it will help us:

- ◆ Maintain our current ten-year-old truck and purchase a new, reliable refrigerated truck by 2020. The truck travels to seven or more food donor locations five days each week and delivers to 24 sites each month in Marietta, Belpre, Cutler, Lowell, Lower Salem, New Matamoras, Newport, and Western Washington County.
- ◆ Support three active community gardens in Washington County. Harvest of Hope oversees these gardens and supplies seed, mulch, gardening tools, lawn mowers, tillers, and gardening education to help gardeners produce their own nutritious vegetables. Low income families are encouraged to apply for a garden plot.
- ◆ Purchase a larger refrigerator which will allow us to accept and safely store unexpected donations that come on a weekend or evening.

2018 Farm to Table Dinner & Auction a Success!

The fourth annual Farm to Table Dinner and Auction created a packed house at the Shrine Club in Marietta on Friday, July 27th, as nearly 250 attendees gathered to show their support for Washington County Harvest of Hope.

The evening began with a social hour which included appetizers featuring locally grown ingredients from area farmers served by Harvest of Hope board members. While guests mingled and enjoyed the cash bar, they had the pleasure of listening to wonderful music performed by the Marietta Ukulele Choir, who even wore Hawaiian shirts to complete their look for the evening.

Linda Ankrom kept the evening moving along as she served as the emcee for the event. Dinner featured locally grown ingredients from our partner farmers from the River City Farmers Market. Smokin' Pigs Ash BBQ provided their famous beef brisket and pork loin, while many other local chefs prepared dishes that highlighted local ingredients raised by local farmers. Members of the River City Farmers Market volunteered to help serve the evening buffet meal. The amazing cooks for our local community meal sites once again prepared a variety of delicious desserts topped off with ice cream provided by George and Nancy Broughton.

After dinner, auctioneer Dwight Ullman once again rallied the crowd and encouraged lively and competitive bidding on a variety of fabulous auction items in both a silent and a live auction. Auction items included local shopping sprees, fine art pieces, and even a new kayak. . . there was something to please everyone!



Many volunteers helped make the 2018 Harvest of Hope Farm to Table Dinner a success.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and everyone who attended and participated in this event, Harvest of Hope raised more than \$17,000 in net income from the evening. All funds received are used for programs that feed the hungry and food insecure in Washington County. This successful event would not have been possible without the combined efforts of many individuals who work to eliminate hunger in our communities.

Please join us in recognizing and thanking those who helped make the 2018 Farm to Table Dinner and Auction such a success.

Event Sponsors: Anonymous Donor from the Marietta Community Foundation, Lower Salem United Methodist Women, Peoples Bank Foundation, Kay Callihan, Advantage Real Estate, First Baptist Church Singles & Doubles Class, Edward Jones, Dr. David Kirtland, Kiwanis Club of Marietta, Marden Rehabilitation, Settlers Bank, Ohio Valley Specialty, Tom Webster, and Fields, Dehmlow & Vessels LLC.

Local chefs and restaurants who donated their time and resources to prepare such a delicious meal: Henry Leimkuehler of Smokin Pigs Ash BBQ, Mike Buck of Riviera at the Valley Gem, Nick Pugliese of the Marietta Shrine Club, Jason Ware of River Town Grille, Jason Legraen of Parkhurst Dining at Marietta College, and Terri Paige of Valley Catering.

Special thanks to our local farmers and the River City Farmers Market who donated the local ingredients for the meal and the appetizers: Paul Barth, Tom Fagan of Fagan's Farm LLC, Hartline Valley Farm, Tara Huck of Huck Produce Farm, Randy Montgomery of Randy's Garden, and Mike and Deborah Murphy of Murphy Farms, Gary Smith of Smith's Garden Gatherings, and Witten Farms. Also, to the members who donated handcrafted items for the auction and flowers for the table decorations. Other flowers were provided by Dee Fouss of Hart Street Community Garden, Barb Lowe, and Steve Porter.

Many thanks to the fabulous cooks of our community meal sites who prepared a myriad of delicious desserts: Christ United Methodist Church, Daily Bread Kitchen, Faith United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Unitarian Universalist Society, Norwood United Methodist Church, and Saint Luke's Episcopal Church.

Special thanks to Dwight Ullman Auction & Appraisal for making the auction such a fun and successful event, and to every individual, organization and business that donated items for the auction.

We thank the Marietta Ukulele Choir for their outstanding musical performance and Linda Ankrom for serving as the emcee for the evening.

And finally, special thanks to the Marietta Middle School and Marietta High School Cheerleaders and the countless other volunteers who worked tirelessly before, during and after this event to make it such a success. We are truly grateful for everyone who helped support Harvest of Hope in any way!

Marietta Free Hot Meal Programs

WCHOH provides food to many of these hot meal sites.

1st week each month: St. Luke's Episcopal, Tues. 5:00-6:00 pm;
Daily Bread at Knights of Columbus*, Wed. 11:30-1:00; Christ UMC,
Fri. 11:30-1:00

2nd week each month: Daily Bread at Knights of Columbus*, Wed. 11:30-
1:00; Tunnel UMC, Thurs. 5:00-6:30 pm; and Unitarian Universalist, Fri.
5:00-6:30

3rd week each month: Daily Bread at Knights of Columbus*, Wed. 11:30-
1:00; Norwood UMC, Fri. 5:00-6:00 pm; Faith UMC, Sat. 11:00-1:00

4th week each month: First Presbyterian, Tues. 11:30-1:00; Daily Bread at
Knights of Columbus,* Wed. 11:30-1:00

*Sponsored by Daily Bread Kitchen, Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

We hope you will support the work of Washington County
Harvest of Hope with your financial contribution.

**Please make your check payable to
Washington County Harvest of Hope**
Mail to: Washington County Harvest of Hope
P.O. Box 902, Marietta, OH 45750



WCHOH is an Ohio not-for-profit organization qualified
as tax-exempt under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Gifts to Harvest of Hope
are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Contact us for more information at 740-538-8811
or email us at: info@wchoh.org

Visit us on Facebook or at www.wchoh.org

Washington County Harvest of Hope is supported in part by the
United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED** 

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