

PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT THE HOMELESS



Kelly Hendershot works as the Peer Recovery Support Specialist for the Warming/Cooling Center at 312 Front Street in Marietta.

One of the rewarding community outreach programs that Harvest of Hope is honored to support are the many community "Hot Meals." These meals, provided by a variety of organizations, are available at various days and times and help provide nutritious meals for many community citizens.

For four years, First Congregational United Church of Christ at 318 Front Street in Marietta has served a hot breakfast "to go" on Saturday mornings. The to-go meals include a sausage/egg sandwich, fruit bar, and applesauce. First Church was able to continue serving breakfasts during the COVID pandemic by offering these to-go bags, and the ready availability through drive-up or walk-up service increased the number of people being served from 40-50 to as many as 144 individuals.

In 2020, the First Congregational breakfast volunteers decided to expand their outreach, and they approached the Washington County Homeless Coalition about operating a warming/cooling center in the vacant parsonage. The church's role was to provide a facility for a reasonable rent. Funding for this drop-in center came from the City of Marietta, Sisters of St. Joseph, and more recently, from the Marietta Community Foundation.

Harvest of Hope, a long-time partner with First Congregational in food recovery and distribution, agreed to share food items as available, and also partnered with the Homeless Coalition to obtain grant funding from FEMA, the Marietta Welfare League, the Marietta Community Foundation, and Walmart.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

Harvest of Hope

SUMMER 2022 Newsletter

Glean. Grow. Give.

Washington County
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This funding not only helps provide protein such as hamburger and chicken for all the county food pantries, but also helps provide ready-to-eat meals for our homeless population.

The drop-in center is open seven days per week, August through May, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the summer. It offers a variety of services in addition to free meals.

Harvest of Hope is honored to partner with First Congregational and the center because not only is food provided, but relationships are built and relationships change lives. Here are just two stories of how supporting individual needs helps our community as well.

A senior citizen (we'll call him Frank) began coming to the Saturday meals four years ago. As volunteers got to know Frank and his life story, they discovered that he was sleeping in a cemetery in an old sleeping bag. As time went on, Frank began to display interpersonal and leadership skills and was asked to help out at the drop-in center. Frank now has a place of his own, has become a member of First Congregational Church and helps others who come to the drop-in center.

Another story is of a man (we'll call him Eddie) who began coming to the drop-in center a few months ago. After building relationships with the Center's staff, Eddie made the decision to enter a therapy and rehab program.

Harvest of Hope looks forward to continuing this partnership with the drop-in center at Marietta First Congregational Church as we look for new ways to assist the food insecure in our community.

GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Inflation has seriously impacted those in our community who are food insecure. Not only have prices gone up but also availability in many areas has decreased.

Harvest of Hope is truly grateful to donors and grantors who have made it possible for us to bridge the gap and support Food Pantries and agencies that feed the hungry in Washington County.

Since January of this year, grantors and individual donors have supported our mission with gifts totaling a significant \$22,500.

- Marietta Welfare League - \$3,000 to purchase ground beef
- Sisters Health Foundation - \$4,500 to purchase chicken and ground beef
- Marietta Community Foundation - \$5,000 to purchase ground beef
- FEMA 39 grant - \$7,500 to support the daily lunch program on Front Street, to feed the homeless and indigent, and to provide food that can be eaten without preparation (peanut butter, crackers, canned meat and spaghetti) to pantries and agencies serving the homeless.
- Two designated gifts - together totaling \$2,500 to purchase eggs. These gifts offset the decrease in available donated food and support enriched nutrition for more than 9,000 local residents.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
JENNIFER FARNSWORTH**



A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER . . .

Jennifer Farnsworth, a Marietta native, has been the energetic and caring director of the Newport Community Food Pantry for ten years. Married with two sons, Jennifer also runs the New Matamoras Library Association for the New Matamoras Public Library.

With all that on her plate, this year she added the Harvest of Hope Board to her busy schedule and has been an active member of the Board and the Fundraising Committee.

“I got involved with Harvest of Hope through the food pantry where we received food donations. I feel strongly about supporting organizations that help combat food insecurity,” she said. Does Harvest of Hope make a difference to her and her clients? “Absolutely!” she says.

“Running the food pantry we can see firsthand the benefits of Harvest of Hope’s food donations as we distribute food to families in our community.”

One of Jennifer’s favorite pantry memories is about a local baker who donated so many homemade pies to the Newport Pantry that she and her helpers were able to give each family a pie for Christmas. “It was such a nice surprise for the clients because our pantry just doesn’t have the resources to do that ourselves.”

Looking to the future, Jennifer sees Harvest of Hope “gaining more interest, involvement, and support from our community.” It is her hope that the Harvest of Hope volunteer base grows and more partnerships with local businesses develop so more food insecure residents can lead a more healthy life.

COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAMS RECEIVE FOOD

Harvest of Hope supports these Community Meal Programs with monthly rescued food deliveries.

- First Tuesday/Month: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 320 2nd St., 5:00-6:00 pm
- Fourth Tuesday/Month: First Presbyterian Church, 501 4th St., 11:30 am-12:30 pm
- Wednesday: St. Mary’s Catholic Women’s Club, K of C Hall, 312 Franklin St., 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- Second Thursday/Month: Tunnel United Methodist Church, Tunnel, Ohio 5:00-6:00 pm
- First Friday/Month: Christ United Methodist Church, 3rd & Wooster, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
- Third Friday/Month: Norwood United Methodist Church, 23 Colegate Dr., 5:00-6:00 pm
- Saturday Mornings: First Congregational Church, 318 Front St., 8:30-10:00 am



OUR WORK AND MISSION CONTINUE. . .

Since 2006, Washington County Harvest of Hope has rescued and redistributed nearly 1.7 million pounds of food to help those who are food insecure in our community.

We need your help to continue this effort. Contact us at 740-538-8811 or email foodrescue@wchoh.org to discover the ways you may support our mission.



COMMUNITY GARDENS IN BLOOM

Despite a cool, wet spring, Harvest of Hope Community Gardens are now rewarding gardeners with fresh, abundant produce.

Washington County Harvest of Hope is a faith-based organization founded in 2005 as a mission of Marietta’s Christ United Methodist Church to help create a community in which no food is wasted and no one goes hungry.



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. Harvest of Hope is a United Way Agency.

