

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES OASHF AS A CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH *Ceremony Brings Together Champions from Throughout Ohio*

COLUMBUS – As Ohio’s first and only accredited school of public health, Ohio State’s College of Public Health carries a great responsibility on its shoulders. From teaching students how to prevent cancer to the staff tracking emerging infectious diseases and partnering with nonprofit, as well as government agencies to protect the public’s health, the College of Public Health helps Ohio State fulfill its land-grant mission of outreach and public service.

On October 14, 2011 at the rededication of Cunz Hall, the new home of the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University, public health officials were joined by friends and colleagues, as Ohio State University presented the 2011 Champions of Public Health awards. The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF) was recognized as the winner of the 2011 Organizational Champion of Public Health. Presenting the award to OASHF was Gayle Channing-Tenenbaum, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and longtime advocate for low- and moderate-income Ohioans.

In her remarks regarding the selection of OASHF as the recipient of the 2011 Organizational Champion of Public Health, Channing-Tenenbaum expressed that, “[OASHF has] done everything that they possibly can to make certain that families get wholesome and nutritious food ... they also work so closely with the people they serve so that they can become advocates for themselves and know that there are programs available to help them in their time of need. If that is not public health, I do not know what is.”

Accepting the award on behalf of OASHF was Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, OASHF executive director. After thanking The Ohio State University for this prestigious award, along with The Columbus Foundation and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services whom submitted letters of support in the award nomination process, Hamler-Fugitt addressed those in attendance regarding the great work that the emergency food assistance network in Ohio has done and the monumental work that lies ahead of those involved in the fight against hunger. “Sadly, recently released statistics and reports paint a grim landscape for the State of Ohio, including the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, which shows that the number of Ohioans living in poverty is at a 30 year high and AARP’s Food Insecurity Among Older Americans report, which shows that Ohio ranks 10th in the nation for the percentage individuals aged 50-59 who are at risk of hunger. These statistics shows that we still have a lot of work to do, but we know that through partnerships and the dedication of our network that we will continue to help our hungry friends and neighbors.”

Along with the Organizational Champion of Public Health award that was presented to OASHF, Ohio State’s School of Public Health also presented the Community Leader Champion of Public Health award to Karen Butler, director of Cleveland’s Department of Public Health and the Public Health Practitioner Champion of Public Health award to Matthew Stefanak, health commissioner for Mahoning County.

To learn more about the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks visit www.oashf.org or call 614.221.4336.

About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2011, OASHF and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow @OASHF on Twitter and stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oashf.

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