

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 17, 2012

## **Governor Kasich Issues Executive Order to Feed Hungry Children** *Additional \$1 million will provide weekend meals during the summer*

**COLUMBUS** – Governor John R. Kasich issued an Executive Order today that will provide an additional \$1 million to feed hungry children this summer. The funding will provide a weekend's worth of meals to 10,000 Ohio children for 10 weeks.

"We are extremely grateful for Governor Kasich's hard work and support, as well as First Lady Karen Waldbillig Kasich's recognition of the continued increase in demand placed on Ohio's emergency food assistance network," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks.

"Ohio's children deserve a healthy start in life. Preventing hunger and malnutrition supports them in having a healthy childhood and becoming healthy adults," said First Lady Karen Waldbillig Kasich. "Maintaining children's nutrition in the summer months is crucial to their ability to be focused learners when they return to school in the fall. With this executive order, 600,000 additional meals will be served this summer to Ohio children in need."

This is a partnership of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio's foodbanks who will partner with Summer Food Service Program sponsors in targeted areas to distribute the meals from June 15 through August 17.

"Child hunger is a serious problem in Ohio, and this additional \$1 million could not come at a better time," said Hamler-Fugitt. In Ohio, 46 percent of children live in families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced price school meals. The state's network of food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters served **826,815 children** in the last quarter of calendar year 2011, an increase of 17.2 percent over the same quarter in 2009.

"We take pride in this strong public-private partnership with Governor Kasich, the First Lady, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the State of Ohio. Their hard work and continued recognition of the value that access to nutritious food plays in our state's ability to prevent costly healthcare and educational expenses is generous, insightful, and timely," said Hamler-Fugitt.

The full Executive Order can be found on the governor's website [here](#).

### **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 over 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow [@OASHF](#) on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OASHF](http://www.facebook.com/OASHF), and visit OASHF on the web at [www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org).

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