

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

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Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks Joins No Kid Hungry Ally Program

Partnership with Share Our Strength Aims to End Childhood Hunger By Utilizing Existing Nutrition Programs and Focusing on Strengthening Ohio's Safety Net for Children

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks is honored to join the No Kid Hungry® Ally Program and partner with [Share Our Strength](#)®, the national nonprofit ending childhood hunger in America. Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Allies Program provides resources to nonprofit organizations leading the fight to end childhood hunger in their communities. No Kid Hungry Allies are organizations that have the desire and capacity to end childhood hunger in their community and have a long-range plan that aims to increase participation in federal food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

"We are excited to be a part of the No Kid Hungry Ally Program," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "By joining Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign we will be able to share our local organization's strengths, not only with our state, but with efforts across the country to end childhood hunger."

A recent [report](#) ranks Ohio as a national leader for child food insecurity, with more than 693,000 children in the state at risk of hunger. Another new [report](#) by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that about 1.78 million people in Ohio are living in poverty.

Federal food and nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Summer Food Service Program provide kids with access to healthy foods where they live, learn and play. For many reasons, these programs are not always easy for children to access and utilize. For example, only 79 percent of eligible children participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and just 10.6 percent of eligible children participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

"Our focus is on long-term change, the difference between feeding a child today and making sure no child in the U.S. ever goes hungry again," said Bill Shore, chairman and CEO of Share Our Strength. "We are pleased to be working with the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, welcome them to the No Kid Hungry Allies program and believe that together we can end childhood hunger here in Ohio and nationwide."

As a No Kid Hungry Ally, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks will receive \$25,000 to increase participation of eligible children in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Summer Food Service Program. The association's work will involve continued expansion of The Ohio Benefit Bank™ through education and outreach. It will also include, thanks to the support of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a 174-member AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate program, working to reach more children through the Summer Food Service Program in Ohio.

The association is also excited to be providing 600,000 summer meals this year through a Summer Weekend Backpack Meals program, thanks to the support of Governor John R. Kasich, First Lady Karen Waldbillig Kasich, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Ohio Department of Education.

Share Our Strength supports No Kid Hungry partnerships in 30 states across the country. Share Our Strength's national No Kid Hungry efforts are supported by core partners ConAgra Foods Foundation, Food Network and the

Walmart Foundation. Visit www.strength.org to learn more about Share Our Strength and www.oashf.org to learn more about the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks.

About Share Our Strength

Share Our Strength®, a national nonprofit, is ending childhood hunger in America by connecting children with the nutritious food they need to lead healthy, active lives. Through its No Kid Hungry® campaign—a national effort to end childhood hunger in America—Share Our Strength ensures children in need are enrolled in effective federal nutrition programs; invests in community organizations fighting hunger; teaches families how to cook healthy, affordable meals; and builds public-private partnerships to end childhood hunger, at the state and city level. Working closely with the culinary industry and relying on the strength of its volunteers, Share Our Strength hosts innovative culinary fundraising events and develops pioneering cause marketing campaigns that support No Kid Hungry. Visit Strength.org to get involved.

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](https://twitter.com/OASHF) on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OASHF, and visit OASHF on the web at www.oashf.org.

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