

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Executive Order by Governor John Kasich provides \$2.3 million toward summer food for children and their families

Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“Governor Kasich’s commitment to ensuring that all Ohio children have adequate nutrition to learn and grow properly is unprecedented, and with this Executive Order he has once again demonstrated that commitment. We are thrilled to once again be able to provide nutritious, kid-friendly food to thousands of at-risk children this summer, in addition to providing fresh produce and protein items to families with children through mobile farmers markets.

“Without access to free and reduced-price school meals during the summer months, children experience not only nutrition setbacks, but also learning losses in the following school year. We are so grateful that Governor Kasich, First Lady Karen Kasich and the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives acknowledge the urgent issue of childhood hunger in Ohio and continue to take action with us against it. We look forward to again partnering with the Ohio Department of Education to surpass last summer’s incredible successes.

“The Executive Order will provide about \$2.3 million to continue the success of last summer’s weekend meals backpack program for at-risk children, to implement innovative meal delivery programs for children in rural, high poverty areas and to provide fresh, Ohio-grown produce to families with children through mobile farmers markets.

“Last year, Governor Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich’s summer weekend backpack program for children allowed our association, in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Department of Education and 29 Summer Food Service Program sponsors, to distribute 100,000 backpacks—or 600,000 weekend meals—to hungry children. Last summer was also the first time we piloted the innovative meal delivery program, which provided 11 kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals to about 1,700 at-risk children each week. We also distributed more than 1.3 million pounds of fruits, vegetables and protein items through the Governor’s mobile farmers market distributions last summer.

“We are honored to have the support of Governor Kasich and the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to continue this work to feed Ohio’s children this summer. We thank Governor Kasich and his administration for their innovative efforts to address this critical issue.”

About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks 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 2013, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 173 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#), and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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