

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 29, 2013

Executive Order by Governor John Kasich provides up to \$1.5 million toward summer food for children

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

“With this Executive Order, Governor Kasich continues to demonstrate his incredible leadership and his commitment to making strategic investments in our children and their ability to learn and grow. These funds will allow our association to provide nutritious, kid-friendly food to thousands of at-risk children this summer.

“Even one experience with hunger has a negative impact on the health of children up to 10 to 15 years later.* Childhood hunger can lead to higher rates of diabetes and other chronic conditions, lower math scores, and increased likelihood of needing to repeat a grade at school. Ultimately, the loss of free and reduced-price school meals during the summer months for nearly half of school-aged children in Ohio not only leads to nutrition setbacks, but also to learning losses in the following school year.

“The Executive Order will provide up to \$1.5 million to continue the success of last summer’s weekend meals backpack program for children in need. We are grateful and humbled that Governor Kasich, along with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI), acknowledges the urgent issue of childhood hunger in our state and continues to partner with us to take action to address it.

“Last year, Governor Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich’s summer weekend backpack program for children allowed our association, in partnership with GOFBCI, the Ohio Department of Education and 31 Summer Food Service Program sponsors that operate 265 sites statewide, to distribute 100,141 backpacks—or 600,846 weekend meals—to hungry children in 27 counties.

“We are honored to have the support of Governor Kasich and GOFBCI to continue this work to feed Ohio’s children this summer. We applaud Governor Kasich’s commitment to our children, which has placed Ohio at the forefront of the fight against childhood hunger in our nation. We thank Governor Kasich and his administration for their innovative efforts to address this critical issue.”

*Kirkpatrick, S., McIntyre, L., Potestio, M. (2010) “Child Hunger and Long-term Adverse Consequences for Health,” *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine* 2010

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 2012, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 164 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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