



## Richland County Convening Meeting Report

### Overview

As part of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2018 Strategic Plan, staff will convene meetings with hunger relief agencies, community leaders and community organizations in ten communities. The purpose of the meetings is to review existing services, discuss community needs and explore ways to connect food insecure residents to programs and services that will help them become more self-sufficient. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce long-term reliance on charitable food assistance and to shorten the line at local hunger programs.

The convening meeting in Richland County took place on May 9, 2017. The meeting was co-hosted with the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center (BNOC), which is the Food Bank's Food Resource Center in Richland County. Contacts at BNOC and Mayor Brenkus from Bellville were instrumental in connecting the Food Bank with groups in Richland County who were already collaborating across numerous topical areas. The Richland Community Development Group and Catholic Charities of Toledo - Mansfield were also incredibly helpful inviting people to the convening meeting.

### Background Information

Richland County is the 23rd largest county in the state of Ohio, with 122,312 residents. Mansfield is the largest community in the county, with nearly 40% of the county's total population (46,998 residents). An estimated 22% of Richland County residents are under the age of 18, 60% are between the ages of 18 and 64, and 18% of the population is age 65 and older (2011 - 2015 American Community Survey Estimates).

Richland County had a median household income of \$41,877, which ranked 68<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 88 Ohio counties. Nearly 20% of Richland County residents (19,504 people) lived below the poverty line, which is an annual income up to \$24,600 for a family of 4. Nearly 45,000 people in Richland County (39%) lived below 200% of poverty (an annual income up to \$49,199 for a family of 4) (2011 - 2015 American Community Survey). People can earn up to 200% of poverty to be eligible for emergency food assistance.

Of these 44,768 people who lived below 200% of poverty, 18,872 fell above 125% of the poverty line, meaning they were not eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, (formerly Food Stamps) benefits. If these residents were to find themselves in need of food assistance, they will need to rely on the network of emergency food assistance programs serving the county.

In Richland County, more than one in four children (27%) lived below the poverty line. An estimated 13,800 people under age 18 lived below 200% of poverty, meaning that more than half (53%) of the county's children were eligible for food assistance (2011 - 2015 American Community Survey).

A map of Greater Cleveland Food Bank partner agencies and food assistance eligibility in Richland County is included in the Appendix (Appendix Map 1). As of May, there were 43 programs in the county that partner with the Food Bank to provide food assistance (Appendix Table 1).



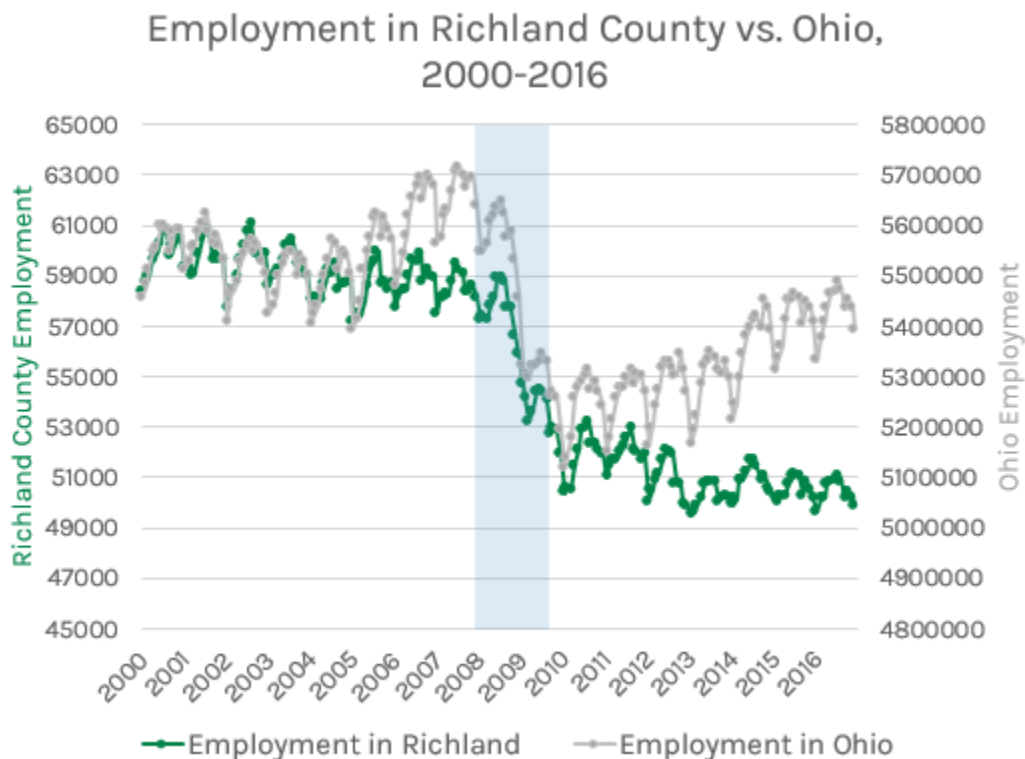
Selected Data

*Employment*

As of March 2017, 50,100 Richland County residents were employed, and the unemployment rate was at 5.7% (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Office and administrative support occupations were the most common among Richland County residents, with 7,132 people employed in that area at a median wage of \$24,601 (2011-2015 American Community Survey). The second most common occupation for Richland County residents was production, with 6,921 employed at a median wage of \$31,616, which was 155% of the federal poverty guideline for a family of three.

The chart below shows employment in Richland County between 2000 and 2016, compared to employment in Ohio. While employment in Richland County peaked in 2002 at 61,084, Ohio saw its peak employment numbers in 2007 at 5,717,863. Richland County saw a decline in population between 2000 and 2016, dropping from 128,797 to 121,107. As of December 2016, employment had dropped to 49,857. The steepest decline in employment came during the recession, when employment in Richland County fell from 58,117 in December 2007 to 54,513 in June 2009. The chart illustrates this fluctuation in employment numbers.

As of 2015, Richland County's largest employers were MedCentral Health Systems, Richland County, and Gorman-Rupp.





### Health

When it comes to health and well-being, Richland County ranked 54<sup>th</sup> out of Ohio's 88 counties for positive health outcomes (2017 County Health Rankings). Seventeen percent of Richland County residents were in poor or fair health, compared to sixteen percent of Ohioans. The County Health Rankings provide information on various measures related to health. Below are the Richland County rankings for selected areas:

- 9<sup>th</sup> highest in teen birth rates;
- 18<sup>th</sup> highest in drug overdose deaths;
- 28<sup>th</sup> highest in limited access to healthy foods;
- 47<sup>th</sup> highest in adult obesity;
- 54<sup>th</sup> highest in diabetes prevalence.

More information for Ohio can be found on the website for the [County Health Rankings](#) .

### Housing

Based on 2011 - 2015 American Community Survey data, Richland County had 54,353 housing units. Of these, 48,103 (89%) were occupied units. Among the occupied housing units, two-thirds were owner-occupied and one-third were renter-occupied. In more than 6,500 renter-occupied housing units (43%), the housing costs comprise 30% or more of the household income; this is defined as a cost burden for the household. In 21% of owner-occupied housing units, there is a housing cost burden. If a household is experiencing a housing cost burden, there are likely other items the household does not have the money to purchase; it is possible that food is one of those items.

### Resources

During 2017, the *Richland Source* is publishing a series of stories that address [Hunger in the Heartland](#), which focus on food insecurity in Richland County. A summary of the convening meeting is among the stories that have been published so far. The agenda from the convening meeting can be found in the Appendix, along with the presentation slides and list of attendees.

After multiple staff presented information about the Food Bank and its strategic plan, Terry Carter from First Call 211 spoke about the need in Richland County. Last year, 26,000 calls were made to 2-1-1. Several hundred callers a month were looking for information about who was serving food that day.

Common unmet needs of Richland County residents included transportation, including gasoline, and utilities. Addiction is also having an impact on households. Tiffany Montgomery from Love, Inc. mentioned furniture as a need, and Catholic Charities' staff added rent to the discussion. Matt Merendino from the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center spoke about the needs around temporary housing.

Terry Carter also mentioned that training funds are a challenge and that a variety of other little gaps exist throughout the county. There are also some geographic distribution issues around resources. Terry reminded everyone to keep in mind the coordinated system of resources available. To that point, there are about 20 collaborative meeting groups in the county, and Terry is in the process of compiling a list of these. Matt Merendino commented that BNOC would love to collaborate. Terry



also wondered if it would be possible for there to be one Greater Cleveland Food Bank point person for Richland County.

Meeting attendees seemed very familiar with each other and the types of services that each organization provides. A list of meeting attendees and emails is included in the Appendix. For example, Catholic Charities can help with medical bills and prescriptions, Community Action can assist with the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Plus, and the Clearfork Unit of the Salvation Army can also help with utilities.

For more information about resources available to Richland County residents, contact First Call 211 at 2-1-1 or at 419-522-4636 or at 877-795-2111. First Call 211 of Richland County also has walk-in hours on Mondays - Fridays from 9:00 - 4:00. Their office is located at 36 West Third Street in Mansfield. The Help Center at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank can also assist people in accessing SNAP, and other various benefits, as well as direct people to nearby food assistance programs. The Help Center is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 5:00 and can be reached at 216-738-2067 or at 1-855-738-2067.

#### Next Steps

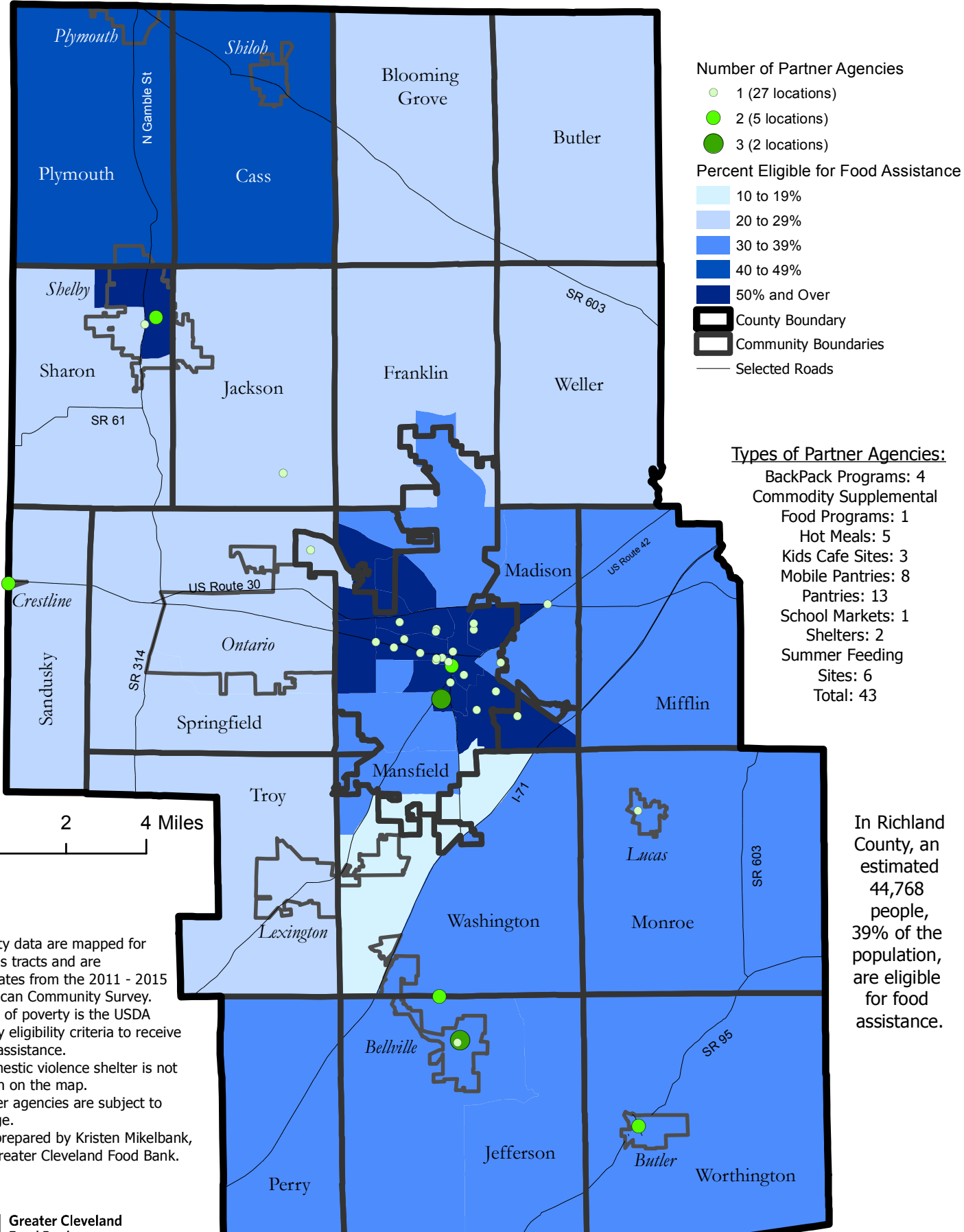
While the convening meeting reviewed existing services, discussed community needs and explored ways to help food insecure clients increase self-sufficiency, questions remain about what to do next. The Food Bank will ensure that its network of partner agencies is aware of existing resources and knows how to refer clients to those resources. In addition, the Food Bank will work with other organizations to explore gaps in services in the county, especially in the more rural areas.

The meeting helped to demonstrate the great spirit of collaboration already present in the county. It will be important for everyone to stay informed about these collaborative efforts and continue to work to increase the self-sufficiency of the county's residents. As reporter Emily Dech stated in her June 9, 2017 *Richland Source* article, "...one thing's for sure: we aren't going to get far without helping our neighbors in need if we aren't all on the same page and working collaboratively."



## Appendix

# Appendix Map 1. Greater Cleveland Food Bank Partner Agencies & Food Assistance Eligibility in Richland County



**Notes:**

- Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are estimates from the 2011 - 2015 American Community Survey.
- 200% of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria to receive food assistance.
- A domestic violence shelter is not shown on the map.
- Partner agencies are subject to change.
- Map prepared by Kristen Mikelbank, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

<b>Table 1. Greater Cleveland Food Bank Partner Agencies in Richland County</b>				
(sorted by Community & Partner Agency)				
<b>Partner Agency</b>	<b>Type(s)</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center	BackPack Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program & Pantry	84 Main Street	Bellville	419-886-8395
Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center	Mobile Pantry	104 Bell Street	Bellville	419-886-8395
Clear Fork Christian Preschool & Learning Center	Kids Cafe Site & Summer Feeding Site	115 Main Street	Butler	419-565-2309
New Life Christian Center Church of God	Mobile Pantry & Pantry	1341 County Line Road	Crestline	419-683-1238
Journey Life Center	Mobile Pantry	2578 State Road 39 North	Jackson Township	419-747-2404
Bellville First Baptist Church	Hot Meal & Pantry	4534 Spayde Road	Jefferson Township	419-886-2271
Lucas Area Helping Hands	Pantry	252 West Main Street	Lucas	419-892-2023
Madison South Elementary School	BackPack Program	700 South Illinois Avenue	Madison Township	419-522-4319
St. Timothy Lutheran Church	Pantry	1262 Ashland Road	Madison Township	419-589-5252
Catholic Charities of Toledo - Mansfield	Pantry	523 Park Avenue East	Mansfield	419-524-0733
Children's Cupboard	Kids Cafe Site	176 Hedges Street	Mansfield	419-522-5322
First Abundant Life Fellowship	BackPack Program & Kids Cafe Site	105 Reba Avenue	Mansfield	419-522-0908
First English Lutheran Church	Mobile Pantry	53 Park Avenue West	Mansfield	419-522-0662
Gateway Resource Center	Pantry	486 Springmill Street	Mansfield	419-709-8216
Grace Episcopal Church	Pantry	41 Bowman Street	Mansfield	419-524-2661
Harmony House	Shelter	124 West Third Street	Mansfield	419-522-2283
Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church	Hot Meal	105 Reba Avenue	Mansfield	419-522-0908

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<i>(sorted by Community &amp; Partner Agency)</i>				
<b>Partner Agency</b>	<b>Type(s)</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Mansfield Elective Academy	BackPack Program	445 Bowman Street	Mansfield	567-247-4475
Mansfield Foursquare Church (EFC)	Mobile Pantry	383 Davidson Street	Mansfield	419-524-1603
Mansfield Senior High School	School Market	124 North Linden Road	Mansfield	419-525-6369
Mansfield UMADAOP	Summer Feeding Site	215 Trimble Road	Mansfield	567-307-7299
Mount Sinai Baptist Church	Pantry	275 Grace Street	Mansfield	419-526-3871
New Jerusalem Progressive Church Of God in Christ	Mobile Pantry	709 Burns Street	Mansfield	419-522-0652
New Life International Outreach (New Life International Deliverance Ministries)	Mobile Pantry	426 Sherman Place	Mansfield	844-440-2400
North Central State College Summer Camps	Summer Feeding Site	2441 Kenwood Circle	Mansfield	419-755-9021
North Central State College Urban Center	Summer Feeding Site	134 North Main Street	Mansfield	419-755-9021
Richland Outreach Center (at North Lake Park)	Summer Feeding Site	270 Westbrook Avenue	Mansfield	419-520-7467
Salvation Army - Mansfield	Hot Meal & Pantry	47 South Main Street	Mansfield	419-525-2912
St. Luke's Point of Grace	Hot Meal	2 Marion Avenue	Mansfield	419-522-0943
Teach Me Preschool and Child Care Center	Summer Feeding Site	530 Pearl Street	Mansfield	419-526-9646
V.O.A. Mansfield - Pantry	Pantry	280 North Main Street	Mansfield	419-525-4589
Woodville Grace Brethren Church	Pantry	580 Woodville Road	Mansfield	419-524-8552
Domestic Violence Shelter	Shelter	Not Available	Not Available	419-774-5840
Christian Outreach Free Meal	Hot Meal	18 South Gamble Street	Shelby	419-347-5073
First Lutheran Church	Mobile Pantry & Pantry	33 Broadway Street	Shelby	419-347-7675
<b>Contact the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Help Center toll free at 855-738-2067 or at 216-738-2067 for the most current partner agencies and distribution hours.</b>				
<b>First Call 211 can be reached at 2-1-1 or 419-522-4636 to obtain information on a variety of available services.</b>				





Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank

## A Conversation on Hunger and Community Needs in Richland County

- A. Welcome: Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center**
- B. What Brings Us Here: Kristin Warzocha, Jessica Morgan, and Tiffany Scruggs**
- C. The Need in Richland County: Terry Carter, First Call 211**
- D. What We See in the Data: Kristen Mikelbank and Kimberly LoVano**
- E. Discussion: Moderated by Mary O'Shea**
  - Topics:
    - a. What community resources are you connecting people to most often?
    - b. Are additional resources needed?
      - i. If so, what types of resources and in which communities?
    - c. How could we be helpful to you?
- F. Action Steps and Follow-Up**



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank

## ***A Discussion on Community Needs in Richland County***

May 9, 2017

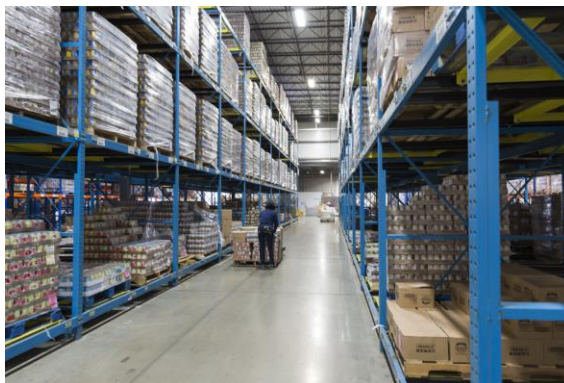


**Welcome**

*Bellville Neighborhood  
Outreach Center*

## Where Are We Going?

Kristin Warzocha  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank



## Our History & Mission

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank was founded in 1979. We work to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day.

## How Will We Address Hunger Every Day?



### Provide More Nutritious Meals

We will provide more nutritious meals **today** through our network of member agencies, program sites, and new nontraditional partners, as well as by enrolling more clients in the SNAP program

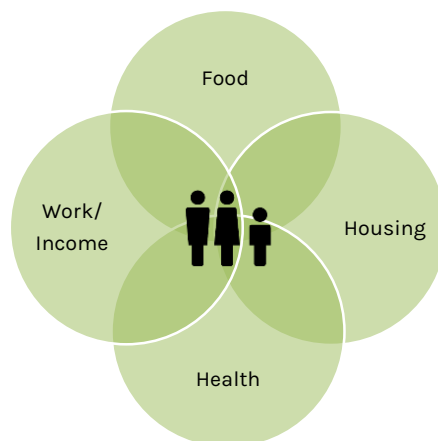


### Connect Clients to Other Services

We will connect food insecure clients with community partners who specialize in housing, employment training, and medical care (the three biggest drivers of food insecurity), as well as other public benefits to help them become self-sufficient, reducing food insecurity **tomorrow**

***Ultimately, as a community, we can reduce long term reliance on charitable food and shorten the line at local hunger programs.***

## Needs Don't Exist in Isolation



Increasing food security among clients is not just a matter of providing additional meals (short-term solution), but also **reducing the difficult choices** that contribute to client household instability (long-term solution)

## What Will We Accomplish?



Increase meals made possible in our community, from 47 million to 58 million



Provide 25,000 more senior citizens, children, and clients with health challenges with nutritious meals through GCFB programs



Connect more than 100,000 clients to public benefits and key nonprofit partners focused on employment, housing, and health



## How Will We Do This?

### Convene communities

- Convene meetings in ten key communities with hunger relief agencies, community leaders, and community organizations that serve low-income clients

### Establish food resource centers

- Identify and/or establish ten food resource centers throughout our service area with the capacity to offer significantly more nutritious perishable food to their clients and provide employment, housing, and health care resources to clients on site by working with community partners.



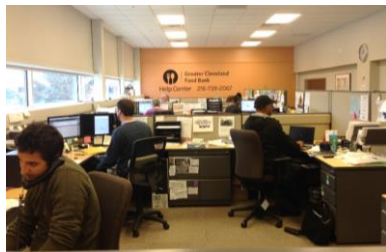
## How Will We Do This?

### Develop additional meal types

- Develop additional meal types for clients, including children, seniors, and those with health issues
- Increase the capacity of our in-house Community Kitchen

### Increase distribution of nutritious, perishable food

- Increase distribution of perishable food, including fresh produce, from 24.9 million to 30.9 million pounds
- Provide equipment to Food Resource Centers to build their capacity to distribute more perishable food



## Our Help Center

- Our Help Center, located at the Food Bank, can assist clients in applying for SNAP as well as 20 other assistance programs over the phone or in our office
- Help Center staff can assist seniors in applying for help with Medicare expenses (QMB, SLMB, QI-1)

**Need Help?  
Call Our Help Center  
216-738-2067**

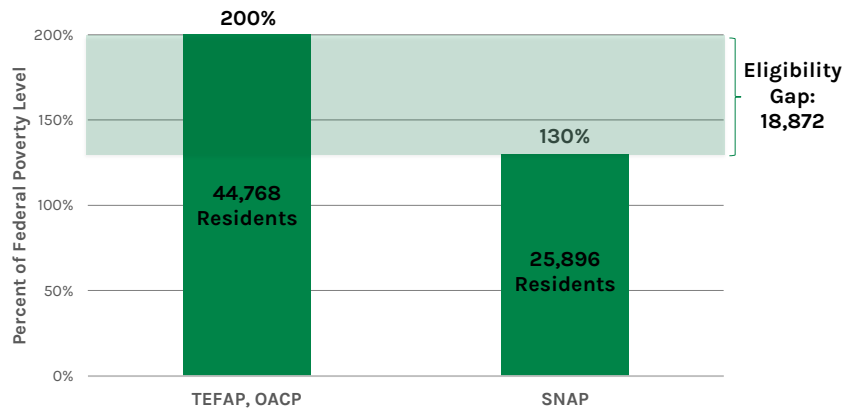


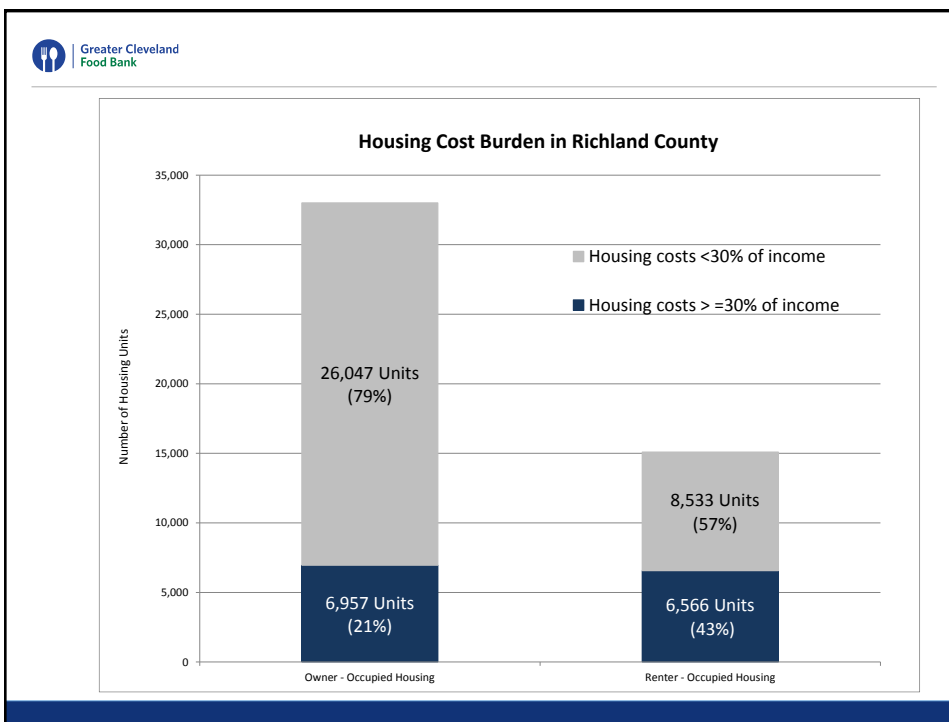
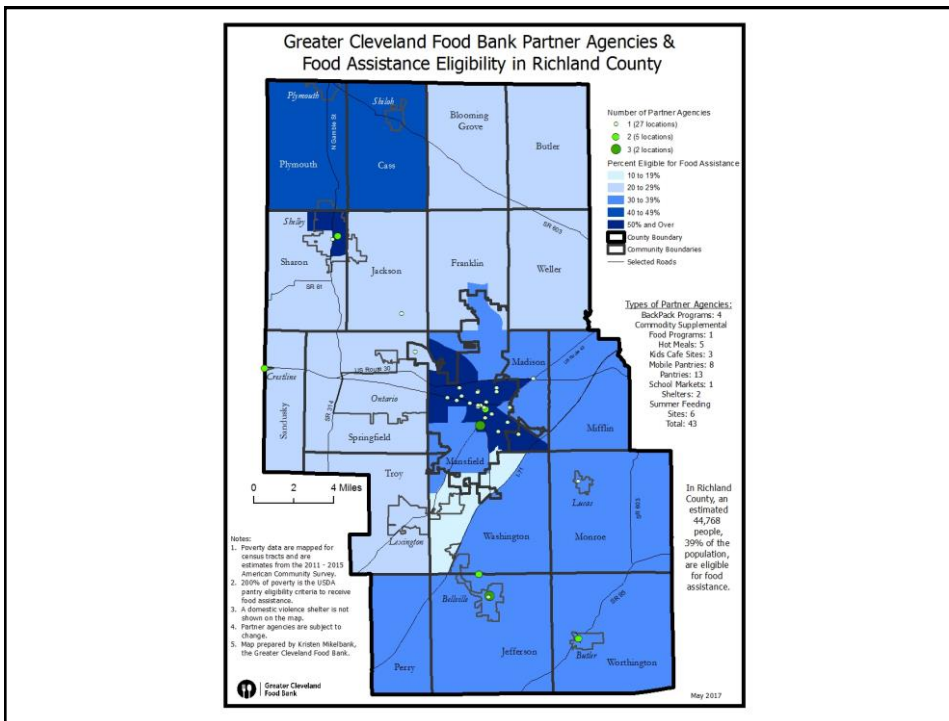
## What the Data Tell Us

Kristen Mikelbank & Kimmy LoVano  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank



### Federal Nutrition Program Eligibility in Richland County









### Current Employment Situation in Richland County

Unemployment rate:

**5.7%**

Employment:

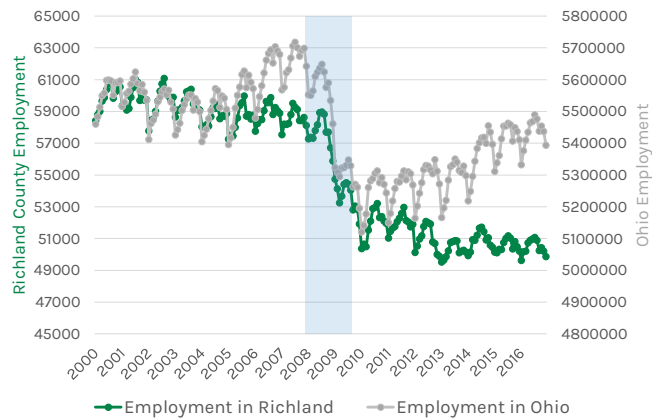
**50,100**

Largest Occupation Groups (and their median wage) in Richland County:

**Office and Administrative Support (\$24,601)**  
**&**  
**Production (\$31,616)**



Employment in Richland County vs. Ohio, 2000-2016



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Only two of Ohio's thirteen largest occupations had an income that kept a family of three above 200% of the poverty line in 2015.

Occupation	Number	Median Income	% of Poverty
<b>Combined Food Prep, Serving, Fast Food</b>	<b>170,620</b>	<b>\$18,600</b>	<b>93%</b>
Retail Sales	162,130	\$20,640	103%
<b>Registered Nurses</b>	<b>126,270</b>	<b>\$61,280</b>	<b>305%</b>
<b>Cashiers</b>	<b>118,300</b>	<b>\$18,990</b>	<b>95%</b>
Laborers, Freight Stock, Material Movers	103,990	\$24,370	121%
Office Clerks	95,280	\$28,950	142%
<b>Waiters and Waitresses</b>	<b>91,640</b>	<b>\$18,660</b>	<b>93%</b>
Janitors & Cleaners	85,300	\$22,310	111%
Customer Service Representatives	85,050	\$30,510	152%
Stock Clerks	80,000	\$23,410	117%
Secretaries/Administrative Assistants	75,460	\$32,620	162%
<b>Truck Drivers</b>	<b>71,710</b>	<b>\$40,860</b>	<b>203%</b>
Nursing Assistants	67,900	\$24,150	120%

Source: Policy Matters Ohio, analysis of Occupational Employment Statistics  
Poverty data was calculated using the 2015 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of 3 (\$20,090)



## Where Does Richland County Rank?

Among Ohio's 88 counties, Richland County ranks...

- **9<sup>th</sup> highest** in teen birth rates (47.7)
- **14<sup>th</sup> highest** in the percent with fair or poor health (17.7%)
- **18<sup>th</sup> highest** in drug overdose deaths (25.7)
- **28<sup>th</sup> highest** in limited access to healthy foods (6.2%)
- **54<sup>th</sup> highest** in diabetes prevalence (11.9%)

## Questions?

## Discussion

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1. What community resources are you connecting people to most often?
2. Are additional resources needed? If so, what types of resources and in which communities?
3. How could we be helpful to you?

**Table 2. Attendees at the Richland County Convening Meeting, May 9, 2017**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Nicole Cassidy	Atrium Centers	ncassidy@atriumlivingcenters.com
Carol Hoeflich	BNOC	carol.hoeflich@bnoc.org
Jacob Hamilton	BNOC	jacob.hamilton@bnoc.org
Matt Merendino	BNOC	mmerendino@aol.com
Ken Richmond	Buckeye Health Plan	krichmond@centene.com
Rebecca Owens	Catholic Charities	rowens@toldeodiocese.org
Susan Dyson	Catholic Charities	sdyson@toldeodiocese.org
Jenni Paramore	Directions Credit Union	jparamore@directionscu.org
Terry Carter	First Call 211	tcarter@mrcpl.org
Daniel Orr	Grace Episcopal Church	danielorr@zoho.com
Paige Waeiss	Grace Episcopal Church	Paige1932@aol.com
Veronna Drane	Habitat for Humanity	rchfh@richnet.net
Mary Lacey	Harmony House	hhouse@neo.rr.com
Jacques Leverette	Lexington Court Care Center	63-admin@atriumlivingcenters.com
Jen Lacy	Lexington Court Care Center	63-admin@atriumlivingcenters.com
Tiffany Montgomery	Love Inc.	execdireclinc@gmail.com
Janet Grubaugh	Lucas Area Food Pantry	gizmo760@embarqmail.com
Janet McGugin	Lucas Area Food Pantry	gmcgugin@aol.com
Darla Walker	Mechanics Bank	dwalker@mymechanics.com
Candace Harrell	NECIC	candace@necic-ohio.org
Mary Bolin	NECIC / Temp 2 Higher	mary@temp2higher.org
Jennifer Alt	OhioHealth	jennifer.alt@ohiohealth.com
Bart Hamilton	Richland County / LandBank	bhamilton@richlandcountyoh.us
Allie Watson	Richland County Foundation	awatson@rcfoundation.org
Jone Watson	Richland County JFS	jone.watson@jfsOhio.org
Bethany Haring	Richland County WIC Program	bharing@richlandhealth.org
Ellen Claiborne	Richland Public Health	eclaiborne@richlandhealth.org
Emily Dech	Richland Source	emily@richlandsource.com
Marie Holbrook	Third Street	Holbrookm@tsfhs.org
Mayor Susan Brenkus	Village of Bellville	mayor@bellvilleohio.net