



**Second
HARVEST
FOOD BANKS**

51 North High Street
Suite 761
Columbus, Ohio
43215
614-221-4336
Fax 614-221-4338
www.oashf.org

USDA Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Recommendations

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to offer comments today on the reauthorization of Child Nutrition programs in 2009. My name is Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF), Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger. OASHF represents 12 foodbanks, which distribute food to more than 3,300 member charities, including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and supplemental food assistance organizations, located across Ohio in all 88 counties. In state fiscal year 2008, OASHF distributed more than 95 million pounds of food and grocery items through the Ohio foodbank network. Statewide the number of people served by our food pantries continues to increase, year upon year and month after month.

In June alone, we served over 1.5 million households.

The mission of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks is to assist Second Harvest Foodbanks in Ohio in providing food and other resources to people in need and to pursue areas of common interest for the benefit of people in need.

OASHF recognizes that hunger is merely a symptom of poverty. For this reason, OASHF has lead research, outreach and education initiatives beyond the scope of traditional food programs. OASHF is the lead agency implementing the Ohio Food Stamp Outreach Plan in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and supported by USDA Food and Nutrition Service. In addition, OASHF leads the Ohio Benefit Bank, a public-private partnership that simplifies the application process for work support programs such as Food Stamps, child nutrition programs, health care and tax credits.

Foodbanks have expanded our services well beyond what we had envisioned just a few short years ago. USDA reports the number of children served free and reduced price lunch has increased every year for the past 10 years. In fact, nearly half of those we feed are children. To respond to the growing childhood hunger problem our Foodbanks began and are operating over one hundred Kids' Cafes and Back Pack programs geared toward children's nutritional and developmental needs. Back Pack programs provide kid friendly take home groceries to make sure they have something to eat over the weekend during school breaks. Kids Café programs are operated at Boys & Girls Clubs, in churches and community centers by volunteers who offer educational and recreational activities along with an evening meal and after school snack. Many of our Foodbanks and agencies operate mobile food pantries that reach needy citizens who have no transportation. Currently more than 100 schools, churches, cities (community centers) and non-profits are on a waiting list to begin these programs.

Nearly 90% of low-income children in Ohio who receive free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch know that when summer vacation arrives so does hunger. Last year saw unprecedented demand and this year brought another record breaker as more families were forced to visit soup kitchens in order to feed their children this summer.

We believe the upcoming reauthorization of the child nutrition programs and WIC should provide the opportunity to improve access, meal quality and nutrition in the

school breakfast and lunch, summer nutrition, afterschool and child and adult care food programs, and WIC. These programs are profoundly important to millions of low-income children and the communities struggling to combat childhood hunger and improve children's health in Ohio and across the Midwest.

Far too many Ohioans lack the resources to consistently and adequately feed their families. Indeed, the most recent Census Bureau figures documents that nearly 1.5 million Ohioans were living in poverty, up from about 1.2 million in 1999. At 13.3% of state's population, this was the largest proportion to be considered poor since the 1960's War on Poverty. The poverty level alone does not illustrate the full extent to which Ohioans are experiencing economic hardship. In 2006, the Census Bureau's poverty threshold for the U.S. was \$20,444 for a 2-adult, 2-child family. However, self-sufficiency measures produce income thresholds from 200% to 250% of the federal poverty level. In 2007, 30.6% of Ohioans—3.4 million people—had incomes below 200% of poverty.

The majority of Ohio families in poverty are employed. Among married couples in poverty, two-thirds held a job, while 62% of poor, single, female-headed families and 46% of poor individuals were employed. Many working Ohioans, however, cannot rise above poverty because they are in low-wage jobs. In 2007, 1.1 million Ohioans over the age of 18, a quarter of the state's labor force, earned less than \$10 an hour.

It is absolutely essential that the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act improve child nutrition programs which provide a consistent source of adequate nutrition for low-income Ohio families.

A strong Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act is an investment in our children and in our state and nation. Numerous studies have documented the benefits of school meal programs on indicators such as child health status, school performance, and behavioral problems. Infants enrolled in the WIC program benefit in terms of weight, length and caregiver-perceived health. Studies indicate that federally reimbursable meals served in childcare are of better nutritional quality than those brought from home, and that the summer food programs provide an anchor for many summer enrichment programs which help maintain academic performance throughout the summer months. Together, the child nutrition programs provide a wide range of health and developmental benefits and comprise an essential safety-net for low-income families.

Despite documented benefits, these programs require updating and improvement. The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks has identified several recurrent themes among their list of policy and regulatory recommendations. Those themes include:

- ✓ Expanding access to nutrition programs through pilot programs
- ✓ Increasing reimbursement rates to reflect the rising costs of quality nutrition
- ✓ Creating more categorical eligibility
- ✓ Reducing administrative burdens

Expansion and Categorical Eligibility

The trend over the past two decades has been to limit program eligibility only to children in poverty. An unintended consequence of this change has been to increase the stigma associated with free meals and make it more difficult for schools and service providers to run nutrition programs at all. Good school nutrition is essential to health, school improvement and to students' educational success. Numerous studies show hunger's detrimental effect on a child's ability to learn and thrive in school. Correspondingly, a wide range of studies find that WIC children enter school ready to learn and show better cognitive performance; and that school breakfast improves classroom behavior, test scores, grades and school attendance.

We can meet more of the nation's education goals and do so more rapidly and cost-effectively if we insure that many more children benefit from key nutrition supports through:

- Implementing Universal Free Breakfast Program.
- Eliminating the Reduced Price meal charge and raising eligibility to 200% Federal Poverty level for all programs.
- Providing start-up grants for school districts to cover initial, one-time equipment costs for breakfast programs.
- Expanding the Child and Adult Care Food Program to permit reimbursements for take home food programs for children, including Back Pack and out of time school programs.

Reimbursement Rates

As the prices of food – and especially healthy food – increases, program sponsors struggle to operate financially solvent programs and provide good nutritional meals. Increasing reimbursement rates will help program sponsors invest in quality nutrition which helps to reduce rates of obesity and diabetes. Recommendations to do so include:

- Enhancing and expanding child nutrition program reimbursements to support all school and community-based providers, including Back Pack and Kid's Café Programs, summer, afterschool and child care providers and sponsors in their efforts to provide healthy meals and snacks. Given the inadequacy of the current reimbursement rates and the impact of rising food costs our schools and community organizations are struggling to serve nutritional food to the growing number of children in need.
- Improve meal quality by updating the child care and school nutrition meal patterns and the WIC food package at regular intervals to insure they follow current nutritional science and best practice.

If Congress is serious about using these programs to fight obesity and improve health, then they must appropriate significant new resources to increase reimbursement rates.

Administrative Burdens

Reducing the amount of staff time needed for paperwork allows increased resources to be invested in improving program quality. Less red tape and better coordination will let more hungry children have access to the programs which provide them with the nutritious food they need. Unnecessary paperwork, administrative requirements and cost barriers for the working poor often keep potential afterschool, summer and child

care providers and sponsors, schools and families from participating fully in the programs. The programs should be made administratively easier for sponsors to operate and for parents to access. Important recommendations include:

- Improving direct certification for school meals through state data matching systems including S-CHIP and Medicaid;
- Expanding pilot programs that eliminate or reduce paper applications and rely more on electronic applications and on alternative means (such as the use of neighborhood or district-wide census data) to determine reimbursement for schools and other providers;
- Streamlining program operations, increasing flexibility, and maximizing technology and innovation to allow sponsoring organizations and providers to operate most effectively;
- Restoring advance funds for sponsors and child care centers to cover program costs upfront; and
- Easing the administrative burdens on organizations that operate multiple child nutrition programs.

We appreciate USDA's commitment to these programs and its work in holding these listening sessions, as well as soliciting public comments. We look forward to working in partnership with USDA and our local and state partners to make these recommendations a reality.

Thank you.

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

September 2008
Survey of Child Nutrition Programs at
Ohio's Second Harvest Foodbanks

Summary of Responses:

Statewide, Ohio's Second Harvest Foodbanks operate 58 Backpack, Summer Feedings and Kids Café programs at over 208 sites serving over 14,000 children each year.

All food banks identified increased funding to maintain their child nutrition programs at their current level of participation. Other needs include staffing: increase in volunteers or strong site support. Several of the food banks received funding from private grants to expand their programs over the past year increasing their number of sites and number of children served. Other food banks must focus on sustaining their current programs or are seeking start-up funds for new programs. Food banks determine where to create a Backpack/Kids Café site based on several criteria including determined need, proximity to the food bank and school and site support. Many of the food banks do not keep waiting lists, although they report they are regularly contacted regarding expansion. Of the food banks that do keep a waiting list an estimated 2,000 more children would be served each year if expansion of their current programs were funded. Depending on their size and type, expansion of child nutrition programs is estimated to be from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a site. Programs are funded with a combination of private grant support, individual and corporate donations, and/or state and county support. Four food banks fund their programs with food bank dollars. Several of the food banks were able to start their programs with funding from the Charity Projects Entertainment Fund, money secured by America's Second Harvest from the [American] "Idol Gives Back" project. This money is expected to remain secure throughout the current school year, at which time food banks will have to seek additional sources of revenue to continue feeding children after school hours. The percentage of food donated and in use at Backpack/Kids Café programs ranges from none to over 50%. The amount of donated food used in Backpack/Kids Café programs is limited by its nutritional quality/child friendliness. The equivalent dollars of donated food in use ranges from \$10,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Most of the programs rely heavily on volunteers to pack, cook, and mentor or tutor. These volunteers save the food banks from hiring anywhere from one to four full time staff, depending on the size of the food bank's programs. Without these volunteers many of the food banks would not be able to run the programs as the cost of hiring additional staff would take funding away from the very programs that food banks are seeking additional funding to stabilize or increase.

Providing meals is a way of showing children that they are valuable and works to build the trusting relationship necessary to identify and address barriers to their success. In working with community and faith-based providers to extend learning opportunities beyond the school day, children are provided with a structure within which they have the opportunity to succeed. Far too many children leave at the end of the school day or year and are thrust into a culture which denigrates their ambitions and goals and provides ample encouragement and opportunities for giving up. Kids Café, Backpack and Summer Feeding programs offer children a safe environment, mentoring opportunities and homework help in addition to a meal they may not otherwise have. Children who participate in these programs show improvement in attitude and school performance; staff at these programs are able to gain the trust of children and their families and build the strong connections necessary to understand and work to address other barriers to success that children and families may have.

Submitted by:

Nora Nees, MSW,

Director of Senior & Child Nutrition

Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

51 North High Street, Suite 761, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 221-4336; (614) 940-4604 (cell)

1. *How many child nutrition programs do you operate?*

Statewide, Ohio's Second Harvest Foodbanks operate 58 Backpack, Summer Feedings and Kids Café programs.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** Backpack, Summer Feeding, Alexander Preschool.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** Backpack in 9 school districts, 54 schools in Butler County.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** 6 Kids Cafes and 9 Backpacks.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** KidsCafe in Erie County (1 site), Lorain County (1 site) and Huron County (1 site); Backpack Programs in Lorain County (16 sites), Erie County (1 site) and Huron County (2 sites) serving an estimated 750 backpacks per week for 2008/09 school year.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** 1 Backpack.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** 1: Week-end Take Home Groceries.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** Kids Café – 1; Backpack for Kids – 2.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** 2 backpack sites, 1 in Warren, 1 in Campbell.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** None, would like to start.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** 1 KidsCafe, 1 Backpack.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** 11 Kids Cafes – 7 Backpack programs.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank: Freestore:** KidsCafe in Hamilton and Kenton Counties; Backpack (kids' focus group renamed it Power Pack) in Hamilton, Pike, Campbell Counties.

2. *How many sites in your service area operate these programs?*

Ohio's Second Harvest Foodbanks operate Backpack, Summer Feeding and Kids Café programs at over 208 sites.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** 2 sites - (Back Pack – Green Elementary School - Hocking county and Nelsonville-York Elementary - Athens county.) Summer Feeding - 11 sites; Alexander Pre-School Program – 1 site.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** In 9 school districts, 54 elementary schools only, in Butler County
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** 6 Kids Cafe sites and 23 Backpack sites.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** 6 school districts, 3 summer food service programs, 8 Kids Café sites.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** 4 schools. (3 elementary, 1 alternative high school). 5 elementary schools in Lima City School District.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** 22 afterschool sites.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** 3 sites.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** 2 schools in Warren, 1 school in Campbell.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** Two agencies operate three programs.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** (1) James C. Caldwell Community Center.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** 18.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe in 12 sites; Power Pack in 8.

3. *How many children do you serve with these programs every year?*

Ohio's Second Harvest Foodbanks serve over 14,000 children with these programs each year.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** 370 children – Back Pack- Nelsonville, 125 – Green Elementary (estimate) 34 children - Alexander Pre-School, 1200 children – Summer Feeding.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** Ended 2007/2008 school year serving 1,361 kids a week, overall average of 971 kids per week. We are projecting up to 2,000 kids per week during 2008/2009 school year.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Kids Cafes-around 280 kids a day and backpacks- 825 kids a week.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** Over 1,000.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** 157 children receive a backpack each week. 250 children for the '07-08 school year, projecting 500 for 08-09 school year.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** Our 22 Week-end Take Home Groceries sites currently serve approximately 600 families.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** Kids Café – 776, Backpack for Kids – 150 approximately.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** 300 total.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** possibly more.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** We estimate an average of 35-40 children for the Kids Cafe program and an average of 20-25 children for the Backpack program.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** 176,104 (estimate) meals/snacks at Kids Cafes - from September-March 30, 2008 – 17,500 BackPacks distributed. Over 1,000 children are enrolled in our BackPack program.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Approximately 1400 children served through Kids Cafe and 260 served through Power Pack.

4. *What do you need to be able to maintain these programs at their current level of participation?*

All food banks identified increased funding to maintain their child nutrition programs at their current level of participation. Other needs include staffing: increase in volunteers or strong site support.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** More funding – We lost our funding through Athens JFS going into 2008-09 school year.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** A source of main meal food, either donated or money to purchase.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Money to sustain and grow the programs.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** Funding, food, and volunteers.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** Funding—the cost of providing these programs has gone through the roof. We're nowhere near meeting the level of need in our community. We have had strong support from local family and corporate foundations but as job-losses hit these corporations and investments by foundations suffer in the current economic climate we cannot rely on the generosity of the private sector alone. We've had several companies who have made donations in the past lay off workers and are fearful that the funds available in the future will not sustain our programs.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** Funding from grants or individual donors.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** To operate this current program of 300 children at 3 locations costs approximately \$60,000 per year so continued funding is needed. Volunteers and school administrators are in place.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** Funding and people.

- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe: need good community partners to provide programming, FSFB community kitchen capacity for meal prep, financial resources for product and program costs. Backpack: need community partners (schools primarily with strong principal support and strong site coordinator potential); need funding for product (we purchase nearly 100%) and program costs.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** funding

5. *Have you requested an expansion of these programs? If so, at what stage are you in your proposed expansion?*

Several of the food banks received funding from private grants to expand their programs over the past year increasing their number of sites and number of children served. Other food banks must focus on sustainability of their current programs or are seeking start-up funds for new programs.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** We got a small grant from A2H-CEFP to start the Backpack Program in Hocking Co. We are also going to try to continue our Nelsonville BK program with a \$10,000 from the Nelsonville Catholic Parish. Summer Feeding – picked up one additional site from last year.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** We started in 4 school districts in 2006/2007 school year, increased to 6 districts in 2007/2008 school year, and are increasing to 9 schools districts in 2008/2009. That leaves one school district and one elementary school unserved in Butler County. Our plan is to include them next school year and begin adding school districts in Warren County. We will need to hire a staff person to manage the program at that point.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Yes, we are expanding these programs. Kids Cafes- 2 new sites in the fall. Backpacks- 1 new program and 3 new sites of current programs.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** The Lorain County program has increased from 160 per week in 2006 to over 575 per week for the 2008/09 school year. We're fortunate to have a local foundation fund this program. The problem with foundation support is that it isn't what it was. The mission of the particular company funding the Lorain County site is that they donate a percentage of their profits each year, yet they just laid off 30 workers. The program is in jeopardy. We'd also love to do a Summer Food Service Program but would need to hire a staff person to administer it.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** Executive Director has requested additional funding from local UW to allow expansion to serve 1,000 children each week. Experience Works, VISTA and food bank staff are preparing pamphlets, direct mailing, etc. to prepare to serve 500 children in 08-09.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** We hope to expand the program as soon as feasible. No formal requests or proposals are pending. Any expansion would also depend on how many children would be served at prospective site(s).
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** We have not requested an expansion. We have requested sustainability of these programs.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** There are no definitive plans to expand the program at this time. We are gathering information and receiving input from area schools who wish to implement the program. The internal capacity is lacking in some of the schools that have the greatest need. Conversation is ongoing with local grantor to help increase capacity at these schools.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** No.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** Yes, we have expanded the Kids Café program from 5 days to 6 days per week.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** Yes, grants pending at various foundations.

- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** We are expanding both programs: Kids Cafe is expected to increase by adding 4 or 5 new sites; we are working to increase capacity of our community kitchen to prepare these hot meals and to increase funding with combination of private funding, other grant support, and CACFP. FSFB is committed to expanding in three priority school districts including Newport Independent (KY), Covington Independent (KY), and Cincinnati Public Schools, working with ~35-40 new schools; developing sustainable program was a Leadership Cincinnati project during 2008-2009, and will continue for Class XXXI alumni; we are one of 5 finalists for an Impact 100 grant (\$100 K), have received new local support from P & G (\$45 K) and are working to develop strong local donor base through online bigg's grocery customer support and other local contributions.

6. *Who has contacted you regarding expansion? Do you have a waiting list and how many children would this expansion serve?*

Many of the food banks do not keep waiting lists, although they report they are regularly contacted regarding expansion. Of the food banks that do keep a waiting list an estimated 2,000 more children each year if expansion of their current programs were funded.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** We have a waiting list in that there are many other elementary schools who qualify for the Back-Pack if funding were available. We will serve an estimated 125 more children this year by serving Green Elementary.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** No waiting list for students in participating schools. We do the contacting as we are ready to expand, not the other way around.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Some of our member agencies have contacted us regarding these programs. Children's Hunger Alliance has given us a large list of potential Kids Cafe sites (around 30). We are always getting inquiries from Cleveland Schools to participate in the Backpack program.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** There is a great deal of interest from agencies on expanding these programs at new sites – funding is the key issue in starting additional sites. We also need to focus on sustaining the programs that we have. We are contacted frequently about expanding the programs but must also use food bank resources to meet the increasing demand of our 107 agencies.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** The two other elementary schools in town have contacted WOFB asking to be added when expansion is available. Two other communities have contacted WOFB about starting a backpack program in their schools. The staff (teachers, principals, counselors) at the schools have asked about the expansion and are certain we can serve 500 children, plus more are eligible if we can expand even more.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** We are asked about expansion regularly, two or three times per month, usually in conversation.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** N/A.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** We have a waiting list of schools requesting program but will not release that information without authorization from schools and/or contacts.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** N/A.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** The Leadership Toledo program has made inquiries regarding the Backpack program. At this time there is no waiting list. There are 5 schools targeted for expansion, the total number of children is to be determined.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** Kettering Schools 75 kids – Dayton Public Schools – 310 kids – Kids Cafes – 370 kids (requests for Backpack program).

- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe: Boys and Girls Clubs, Urban Leagues, Families Forward (and other non-profits active in public schools), Housing Authority; yes we have waiting list ; not certain number of unduplicated children to be served at this time, but expansion will increase meals provided from 85,000 to ~130,000 during FY09.
Power Pack: because our preferred sites are public schools, serving children with high percentages of children receiving free/reduced meals, many schools desire coming on board, yes we have waiting list; our commitment is to work through list by adding 1,000 more children for SY08-09.

7. *What would the expansion of these programs cost?*

Depending on their size and type, expansion of child nutrition programs is estimated to be from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a site.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** Back Pack \$10,000 at each new school location.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** Currently, we are spending about \$2.54 per child per weekend which covers the cost of the food and supplies for 31 weekends, the cost is \$ 157,480 just for the food this line item, add \$0.15 per back pack carrier per weekend for administration brings this years budget to \$166,780 for 62,000 projected service units. We are currently conducting this program with existing staff and volunteers – as we expand into other counties we would need to hire a full time program manager – total compensation package of \$48,500.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** The cost of a Kids Cafe varies depending on sites needs. We will write grants to cover any equipment or educational costs. We receive CACFP reimbursements to sustain the meal portion of the Kids Cafes. With backpacks, it is around \$3.00 a week for each child- this does not include the cost of the backpack and other supplies-just food.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** We estimate it would cost \$50,000 to start Backpack Programs in three counties. It costs the food bank \$85,000 a year to run these programs. Administration for the programs are also rolled into our regular operations.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** While I cannot give an exact figure until such an act is done, our pilot year of the backpack program is not even completed, it will be extraordinary. WOFB would have to look into purchasing product instead of just relying on the donated product that comes into the warehouse. The amount of supplies would multiply 10 times whether it is plastic bags or backpacks. Again, many factors play into to the cost. We are fortunate enough to have the program run by an Experience Works volunteer, so there is minimal fb staff cost. Most of the food is from the donations we receive, so most of the cost of this program is in the purchased food. If we are able to put \$1 of purchased food into the bags (we usually buy the food on sale at 10/\$10) each week it would cost \$20,000.00/yr. in just food alone.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** We would prepare a budget for any prospective expansion if there were any prospect of funding.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** N/A.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** The cost of providing backpacks to 150 children is approximately \$30000 per year.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** We have not put any figures together.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** Expansion costs have not been determined.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** \$329,931.00.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Increasing number of Kids Cafe meals by 45,000 will add approximately \$100 K in expenses.

Expanding Power Pack program by serving 1,000 more children over 40 week school year will cost ~ \$221 K/year; this factors in product and all other program costs.

8. *How did you determine where to create a Backpack/Kids Café site?*

Food banks determine where to create a Backpack/Kids Café site based on several criteria including determined need, its proximity to the food bank, and school and site support.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** The determination was based on logistics, close proximity to the Foodbank, Schools with high percentages of free and reduced school lunch participants.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** When we receive an inquiry about one of these programs we send out an application to gather some information about the potential site. Once we receive the application we look at location, the MR-81 data on free and reduced percentages, and the sites capacity and ability to sustain the program.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** We have approached every elementary school, starting with the districts having the highest free breakfast/lunch participation rates.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** We wanted a back pack program and since the Lima City Schools superintendent is on our board, it was easy to get things started. Our first year we started with the 3 elementary schools which had the highest level of poverty (according to superintendent). But after many calls from parents and school staff from the other 2 schools, we decided to expand into them our 2nd year.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** We concentrate on the highest need areas and sites with strong, existing programs to ensure they have the fortitude to keep the programs running.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** The sites were based on need and the support of school administrators.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Although this selection is difficult, our best Kids Cafe partners have been selected from among traditionally strong groups such as B & GC, Urban League, Families Forward. Power Pack partners are selected from among public schools based on five criteria: (1) participation in free/reduced meal programs (*priority groups are (1) $\geq 85\%$ participation, (2) 70 – 85 % participation, and (3) 60 – 70 % participation*); (2) strong principal support, (3) site coordinator to implement program; (4) storage for product security; (5) geographic location.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** geographic on the Backpack program based on free meal numbers and zip codes with large amounts of poverty. Kids Cafes were selected partners that have strong history of youth outreach in their communities.

9. *How are you funding these programs and when does the funding end from these sources?*

Most of the food banks fund their programs with a combination of private grant support, individual and corporate donations, and/or state and county support. Four food banks fund their programs with food bank dollars. Several of the food banks were able to start their programs with funding from the Charity Projects Entertainment Fund, money secured by America's Second Harvest from the "American Idol Gives Back" project. This money is expected to remain secure throughout the current school year, at which time food banks will have to seek additional sources of revenue to continue feeding children after school hours.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** Athens Jobs & Family Services –ended June 2008, Second Harvest-CEFP funds –ends March 2009, State Dept. of Education,-annual funding thru Summer Feeding, Alexander Pre-School – new contract through June 2009.

- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** We contract with Butler County Success (a program of the butler county educational services center) for about a 1/3, United Way contributes about ¼, foundations are ¼, and the rest is from individuals and corporations. We utilize a team of volunteers to pack the bags each week and to deliver the bags to the schools.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Our development department is writing grants for these programs through our Children’s Nutrition Initiative.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:**
 - Kids Cafe in Erie County – ConAgra Feeding Children Better Foundation (100%)—this is the final year of the grant for this program. A local foundation has funded the balance for the year but if funding decreases or ceases next year 400 (unduplicated) children will need to find another place to eat.
 - Huron County & Lorain County sites are agency funded
 - Backpack Program (Lorain Cty) – Nordson Corporation Foundation (86%), Local Donations (7%) & Elyria City Schools (7%)
 - Backpack Program (Erie Cty) – Murray & Murray Charitable Foundation (100%)
 - Backpack Program (Huron County) – CPEF/ American Idol Grant (100%).
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** The current backpack program is funded through the local UW, a grant from Honda of America, and a monetary donation from our local Sam’s Club. Local UW, Idol Gives Back Grant, Ronald McDonald Grant, and a local direct mailing.
- **Mid-Ohio Food Bank:** Grants assist with administrative and transportation costs. Food distributed through Week-end Take Home Groceries is a combination of regular donated product and items provided by Operation Feed.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** Kids Café Program was funded by a ConAgra Grant, Orrville United Way and ACRF. The ConAgra funding has expired and the Foodbank provides some program support. Backpack for Kids Programs are funded by Akron Community Foundation and individual donors.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** The current programs are funded by local foundations, individuals and funds received via American Idol CFEF. Funding is secure through the 2008-2009 school year.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.’s:** The current programs are funded by the organizations operating the programs.
- **Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.:** The Backpack program is funded through Grants, The Kids Cafe program is funded through T.N.W.O.F.B, United Way and A2H
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** Foodbank wholesale food purchase monies.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe is funded with grants, individual donations, one special event fundraiser, as well as through sponsorship with generous local donor, Primerica. Funding cycles vary but lead local donor’s commitment is expected to continue. Currently, the Backpack Program is funded strictly through grant awards and public support; funds from current WalMart grants and anonymous local granter extend through SY09. Sustainable program funding is being sought through combination of large (foundational) to small gifts including online funding.

10. *What percentage of food used in your Backpack/Kids Café program is donated? What is the dollar amount (or equivalent dollars) of donations of food that are used for these programs?*

The percentage of food donated and in use at Backpack/Kids Café programs ranges from none to over 50%. The amount of donated food used in Backpack/Kids Café programs is limited by its nutritional quality/child friendliness. The equivalent dollars of donated food in use ranges from \$10,000.00 to \$30,000.00

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** I'd estimate that approximately 40% of all food used in our BackPack program is donated. The limitation of the use of donated food is based on nutritional quality of what is available; we don't want to use too many cookies and candies. In our total program, the annual donations range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 equivalent.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** Below is a sample back pack menu, pretty standard. All of the items that are highlighted we normally purchase, the rest normally comes in donations. So it is about 50/50. But the items we purchase make the meals, provide dairy and fruit, the rest is the junk food kids love to eat! The value of the donated food used last program year was \$27,175, while we spent another \$69,023 buying food.

Typical Back Pack Menu

Product	Size	Items per
SHELF STABLE		
Chef Boyardee	7 oz. can	2/bag
Beanie & Weenies	7 oz. can	1/bag
BBQ, Tuna & Ham Salad	3 oz. can	1/bag
Tuna Salad mix	3 oz. can	1/bag
Ham Salad & crackers	3 oz. can	1/bag
Pudding Cups	3.5 oz. cup	2/bag
Fruit Cups/Apple Sauce	3 oz. cup	2/bag
Cereal Bowl	4 oz bowl	2/bag
Crunch Cereal Bars	1 oz. bar	2/bag
Almonds/Nuts	1.5 oz pk	2/bag
Variety Snack Crackers	1.3 oz. pk.	2/bag
Softbatch Cookies	1/ 2.12 oz. pk	1/bag
J.R Dipper Snacks w/Cheese.	1/3.75 oz	1/bag
Pringles	1.75 oz.	1/bag
Gripz Chips Deluxe Cookies	1.75 oz. pk	2/bag
Pita Chips	1/5 oz. bag	1/bag
Fruit Juice Drink	6.75 oz.	2/bag

- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** As the programs grow the percent of donated food we use had decreased because we do not always receive the volume need to make 825 bags a week. For backpacks- I would estimate about 30 % of the food used is donated. With the Kids Cafe-due to the nutritional components that must be met to get reimbursed we are always purchasing milk, juice, fruit and vegetables on a regular basis- I would estimate about 20% of the food used is donated.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** We try to use as much donated food as possible but practically speaking can use very little as it is often not conducive to use by children or is of low nutritional value.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** 57.6%, we like to use donated as much as possible to keep the food supply 'handy' and to keep costs down.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** None donated.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe meals are prepared using 30 – 40 % donated food; this is relatively small due to larger scale meal production by our Cincinnati COOKS! community

kitchen students; equivalent cost is \$1.80 per meal. Food to be included in Power Pack is nearly 100% purchased; makes sense for quality, consistency, and packing logistics.

- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** We purchase all products for the Backpack program. Kids Cafes shop the regular Foodbank inventory.

11. *How large of a role do volunteers play in your Backpack/Kids Café program? How many hours do volunteers work each week on your Backpack/Kids Café programs? What would it cost your foodbank if you had to hire an employee(s) to do the work of the volunteers?*

Most of the programs rely heavily on volunteers to pack, cook, and mentor or tutor. These volunteers save the food banks from hiring anywhere from one to four full time staff, depending on the size of the food bank's programs. Without these volunteers many of the food banks would not be able to run the programs as the cost of hiring additional staff would take funding away from the very programs that food banks are seeking funding to stabilize or increase.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** We work with our pantry volunteers and Foodbank volunteers in support of our Back Pack Program. At \$7.00 an hour it would cost us the equivalence of 1 full time staff - \$14,560.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** We couldn't do this without volunteers. Chuck organizes teams of volunteers 15 or so each three hour work session to assemble bags with 4 work sessions per week = 5,580 hours (15x3x4x31 weeks). Then there are teams of volunteers 5 or so that give 12 hours a week preparing the food to be assembled and packing the assembled carriers into orders by school, another 1860 hours (5x12x31 weeks). Then there are the 7 or so volunteers who deliver the orders to the schools, at about 3 hours per week is another 651 hours (7x3x31 weeks). So we estimate the total volunteer hours spent on this project is about 8100 hours annually between September and May or the equivalent of 4 full time staff, at \$11/hour, with benefits and payroll taxes would cost about \$162,000.
- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** Volunteers play a HUGE role in both programs. They are the ones who make the bags every week. Volunteers spend 10-15 hours a week making the bags that are delivered to the sites. For the Kids Cafe program, we regularly have volunteers in our kitchen (that is where all the kids' cafe meals are prepared). And for the entire kitchen program we are able to save from hiring 3 full time staff.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** Volunteer Relations Coordinator oversees packing of 70% of the 575 backpacks each week with a group of 5-10 volunteers in our warehouse taking 3-4 hours.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** We strictly use volunteers currently. If we did hire a part-time employee (10 hrs for back pack 10 hrs. for customer service) it would cost \$4,160 just in salary.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley:** Volunteers are vital to the success of the program. Volunteers work approximately 25 hours per week on the Back Pack program.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe- receive some relatively small amount of volunteer assistance at various sites mostly in way of serving food, help with homework club, mentoring. Estimated cost per year is \$40,000 if paying staff to do this work. Volunteers already play important role in carrying our Power Pack program, primarily helping with packing the Power Pack carriers at warehouse, estimated cost now for paid employees = \$7 K and after adding 1,000 kids = \$30 K annually.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** Kids Cafes utilize volunteers for meal service, tutoring, etc. We have two school groups of volunteers that pack our backpacks every week. The two groups spend about three hours per week.

12. *If you operate a mobile food pantry, please provide the above information about that program as well.*

Five food banks operate a mobile food pantry, one of which is a Kids Café program, and all of which provide food to families, children and individuals that they might not otherwise be able to access.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** St. Francis Center, in Mac Arthur operates a mobile pantry.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** We operate one mobile pantry.
 - Three rural apartment complexes in Butler County operate these programs.
 - We serve families – in 2007: 424 families, 25 adults 60+ years, 601 adults 18-59 yrs, 1,358 children birth – 17 yrs.
 - A supplemental box of food and non food items averages \$15.36.
 - Currently, United Way is finding the mobile pantry.
- **West Ohio Food Bank:** has had a Mobile Pantry since 2003.
 - 15 different organizations have used the mobile pantry to help the hungry.
 - Mobile Pantries are not ‘regular’ programs, meaning they are by request of the organizations. So, WOFB may have a MP each week or may not have one for a month and a half. I am stating this to say that the number of people/families served each year will vary.
 - WOFB would like to expand the Mobile Pantry program, it is a good way for non-profit organizations (which don’t have room for a pantry) to serve the hungry. We like to see each of our 11 counties have at least 2 MPs per year.
 - The expansion costs would be the extra fuel costs, driver time, food from the warehouse, promotion of the program.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** We operate one Mobile Food Pantry Program
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** One of the above Kids Cafes is mobile. They are also a BackPack program partner.

13. *What impact do these programs have on your community? What would happen if these programs were to cease operating?*

Providing meals is a way of showing children that they are valuable and works to build the trusting relationship necessary to identify and address barriers to their success. In working with community and faith-based providers to extend learning opportunities beyond the school day, children are provided with a structure within which they have the opportunity to succeed. Far too many children leave at the end of the school day or year and are thrust into a culture which denigrates their ambitions and goals and provides ample encouragement and opportunities for giving up. Kids Café, BackPack and Summer Feeding programs offer children a safe environment, mentoring opportunities and homework help in addition to a meal they may not otherwise have. Children who participate in these programs show improvement in attitude and school performance; staff at these programs are able to gain the trust of children and their families and build the strong connections necessary to understand and work to address other barriers to success that children and families may have.

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southeastern Ohio:** The impact on the community is reflective of helping children have the advantage of a healthy nutritional diet in order to help them flourish and achieve in their development and learning. The lack of this contributes to the inability for them to grow up to be productive citizens making a viable contribution to their communities.
- **Shared Harvest Foodbank:** Miami University conducts an annual independent evaluation of our back pack program as part of an overall evaluation of the Butler County Success Program. MU conducts pre and post surveys of the participating students, their families and teachers. We have

three food questions for parents in the survey and their results from 2007/2008 school year, which is interpreted as 'trending toward significance':

- "I believe that my child has enough healthy food to eat everyday" (increased).
- "I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more" (decreased).
- "Some days I have trouble providing enough food for my child" (decreased).
- Teachers reported improved math and reading scores, as well as improved attendance and classroom behavior (again, trending toward significance)
- Students reported relief at not worrying about having enough food and feeling better, especially on Monday mornings. They reported that it was easier to pay attention in class and they felt more like participating in classroom activities (again trending towards significance)

The mobile pantry targets families with elementary school children in areas of Butler County that have few if any food pantries. These families depend on the supplemental food they receive from our mobile pantry to make ends meet each month. The apartment managers have reported that the families participating in our mobile pantry are less transient than other tenants.

- **West Ohio Food Bank:** There would be many people who would be very unhappy. They would not only be hungry, but a bit mistrustful of the food bank. The people who use these programs are often mistrustful anyway, they are used to having things taken away from them.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** In Lorain County, in particular, without these programs a lot of these kids and their families would lose hope. It's not just food, it's showing these children and families that they are valued. They get help with homework, volunteers who listen on a daily basis, provide mentoring and nutritional education. Kids are really excited about the backpacks; they walk down the hallways and whip out the food, comparing what they got.
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** The impact would be children who don't have food over the weekend or nutritious snacks to eat during the Kids Café program.
- **The Freestore/Foodbank:** Kids Cafe makes big difference in keeping kids in safe after school environment and provides evening meal they may not otherwise have. Sites say it has made big difference in attitude. Power Pack provides meal that many will not have over weekend; we have heard of children who gorge on Fridays at school and then are ill on Monday because they haven't eaten since Friday. School nurses and teachers have told us how the children now "feel loved because we care they get to eat," how providing this food allows staff to have the opportunity to gain the trust of the children and the families and learn about other issues that may be creating barriers in these children's lives. We hear how their attitudes and performance have improved. Without this program many more children would again suffer from hunger over weekends and holidays and the strong connections we are helping to build in the school communities would be destroyed.
- **The Foodbank, Inc.:** The Backpack partners at Dayton Public Schools are extremely pleased with the program. The bigger issue is that we are only able to work with three schools while many more could benefit from the program, which goes back to the funding issue. Through the Kids Cafes and Backpack programs we are reaching thousands of kids each month.

14. Additional comments...

- **The Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.:** The most challenging part of our Kids Cafe program is the paperwork requirements to receive CACFP reimbursements. For every child we claim a reimbursement for we must have:
 - An income form on file- with parent SS# , parents income, everyone in the family and address and race information

- Children are categorized into 3 different groups= different reimbursement amounts
 - Track the age (if they turn 13 they can no longer receive the full reimbursement)
 - Track if they ate a meal for that month
 - All this must be updated every year

This is a lot of staff time. Many parents are very unwilling to give such personal information. It would be great if an area of need could qualify for these reimbursements instead of each child having to prove they are income eligible for one hot meal.

- **West Ohio Food Bank:** Currently when WOFB staff or volunteer give talks or tours about the food bank, MP and Backpack are always brought up. You never know who will be listening. They may want to fund or volunteer for the program, or even hold a MP in their town.
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign & Logan Co.'s:** There is a great need in our 3-county region for nutritional programs to assist children. According to the Ohio Dept of Education's MR81 report for October 2007 Clark County served 47.84% of their students free or reduced priced meals, Champaign County's numbers were 40.68% and Logan County's were 46.99%. Clearly our Foodbank should be doing more the question is, with limited resources and manpower – how?
- **Second Harvest Foodbank of North Central Ohio:** Elyria City Schools partially funds their own Backpack program and we work with Sodexo whose employees deliver the backpacks. Each week they are faced with a school full of kids who need a backpack. Almost all of the children are on free or reduced price school meals. The Sodexo employees have to make the decision of which 10 or 15 kids will get a backpack out of a school full of kids who could use the help.

A woman in Huron started a program last year by herself. She had a food pantry and kids were coming up to her asking how much cereal she had and if they could take some home. She decided then that she needed to start a Backpack program, Kids Café and community center for kids. She raised money to buy and renovate a building; what is now called the Hope Center. Every month the number of children coming to the center increases. One night they had the Kids Café and after it was over they held a community meeting for adults. Two elementary-age kids arrived at the meeting and sat through the entire 3 hours—even the adults were yawning. At the end of the meeting the kids walked up to Miss Nicole and asked if they could have dinner. These kids didn't live close and had walked there on foot.

There is a tremendous need in our area for these programs and for the emergency food assistance network. We can't rely on private and corporate foundations for the sustainability of these programs, particularly in the current economic climate. We need federal funding reimbursements for these programs and start up funds to be able to even scratch the surface of the need. The alternative is that kids and families will go hungry; that they will lose hope.