



Our Core Mission - Feeding Children



**Children's
Hunger
Alliance**

Annual Report 2020



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School Breakfast

A Message from our CEO

Feeding children has always been at the core of our mission and during COVID-19, a time like no other, our work has become even more critical. From school closures to job losses, the pandemic brought new challenges to Ohioans – many who were already struggling to make ends meet and others who found themselves needing our help for the first time.

To respond to the immediate nutritional needs of children due to the statewide shutdown, we looked for gaps in high-need areas where children’s nutritional needs simply were not being met. We fast-tracked our mobile meal initiative, initially scheduled to be piloted in June, and operated 30 mobile meal stops across Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Canton daily. We met kids in parks, library parking lots and other locations close to their homes. In addition to the mobile stops, we formed many new partnerships providing meals at over 180 sites across Ohio.

Through the many challenges we faced this past year, I am extremely proud of the staff at [Children’s Hunger Alliance](#). Collectively, we stepped up and embraced the changes brought on by the pandemic as we recognized the need to do things outside our normal responsibilities. When there was a shortage of pre-packaged meals, we were faced with the difficult task of telling some partners that we may not be able to meet their needs. Our motto throughout this trying time was, “find a way to say YES” when asked for help. So, we quickly decided to turn our office into a meal packing operation allowing us to continue providing food to all our partners working with us to feed kids. Staff not only ordered food and packed meals, but also became delivery drivers, unloaded and re-loaded trucks, and simply did whatever was needed to ensure food was available.

While staff resiliency was critical, I am extremely grateful for the outpouring of support and generosity of our donors and volunteers. They stepped up to help us improve the lives of hungry children who, through no fault of their own, struggle with hunger. Many long-term supporters immediately committed additional funds and many first-time donors saw the overwhelming need and simply wanted to help. This support is what allowed us to provide over 9.4 million meals across Ohio.

For anyone who truly wants to understand the importance of our mission, all they need to do is join us to pass out meals. I was overwhelmed by the gratitude from the families that waited in line to pick up meals for their children. I saw first-hand many examples of how our community came together to help each other. I will never forget the day a grandmother, with her two young granddaughters, was struggling to carry the meals and safely manage two children. A young lady, who was also picking up meals for her children, saw what she was dealing with and offered her a ride home. This small act of kindness made a huge difference to that grandmother and is just one example of the good deeds we saw on a daily basis.

As our work continues to be critical in the coming year, our core mission of feeding hungry children remains unchanged. We are committed to helping children and together, we are making a difference in their lives!

With gratitude,

Judy Mobley

Judy Mobley,
President and CEO



FEEDING CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC

In mid-March, Governor DeWine announced a state of emergency in response to COVID-19, shutting down schools, in-home childcare providers and childcare centers along with many other businesses. The leadership team at [Children's Hunger Alliance](#) (CHA) had to quickly determine how it was going to continue feeding children during the public health crisis.

With spring break just around the corner, CHA was busy preparing to provide meals to students at eight high-need schools over the break and had just taken delivery of 18,000 grab-and-go meals. Within 24-hours of Governor DeWine's announcement, Judy Mobley, president and CEO of CHA, received a call from the Ohio Community Action Agency asking if we had access to any meals.

"They had 27 Community Action Agencies that had a critical need for food," Mobley said. "This provided us with the perfect opportunity to reallocate the spring break meals to community partners that needed our help. We quickly mobilized and over a few days, distributed all 18,000 grab-and-go meals."

With so many children depending on their schools for food access each day, the closure of schools was a major issue relative to childhood hunger. Many across the state announced they would continue providing meals for their students. As schools planned how they would operate their alternative meal programs, CHA began to look for ways to help in this effort to ensure kids in areas where their needs were not being met still had food.

One answer was mobile meals. In collaboration with the [Columbus Metropolitan Library](#), whose branches were closed, mobile meal routes were established at six branches daily in addition to six other stops throughout Columbus. Other mobile routes included three locations in [Dayton](#), four in [Toledo](#) and 10 in [Canton](#). Partnerships were also developed with St. Stephens Community House in Columbus and with both the Cleveland and Cincinnati Recreation Centers – even though they were also closed – to provide free grab-and-go meals.

Many other initiatives were also underway. A new partnership with [Panera](#) Bread was formed, providing freshly prepared sack lunches at 20 sites across Ohio. In April, a partnership with [Columbus City Schools](#) provided an extra take-home meal at all 15 of their grab-and-go meal locations where students were already receiving free breakfast and lunch each day. The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus also teamed up with CHA at select sites where they were distributing grab-and-go meals. COSI supplemented CHA's meals with "Learning Lunchboxes" filled with hands-on science activities.

As the skyrocketing need for food continued to rise, CHA's vendor had a difficult time keeping up with the demand. Even with the food supply disruption, this obstacle was not going to stop CHA from feeding children during the pandemic. Once more, Mobley and her team had to be creative.

"An additional food source was needed to help fill the gaps, so we began ordering individual meal components in addition to the grab-and-go meals. Our office was transformed into a warehouse/meal production space. Staff's responsibilities shifted to help pack meals alongside many volunteers, all looking for a way to help feed kids during the crisis," Mobley said.

"It really does take a community to help feed children living in poverty and we couldn't have done it alone," Mobley said. "Our work providing children one of their most basic needs, food, has always been critical but never more so than during the pandemic. If we don't provide children the proper nutrition, how can we expect them to succeed in school, become productive adults, and break the cycle of poverty?"



MISSION

Simply put, **our mission is to provide healthy meals to hungry children, advocate for the welfare of Ohio’s youngest citizens and teach nutrition education to those we serve.**

At Children’s Hunger Alliance, we are committed to improving the well-being of the almost half a million children* – or 1 in 5 – throughout the state struggling with hunger.

While there are many food safety net opportunities for families in need – all being important – our work specifically focuses on children’s food insecurity. We work to ensure children have their nutritional needs met by collaborating with numerous community partners. We serve as sponsors of the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program in early childcare settings, such as in-home childcare and daycare centers, as well as afterschool and summer programs. Most recently with the launch of our mobile meal service, we improved access to summer meals in four different cities across the state and plan to expand to additional locations in the future. We also work with schools to increase breakfast participation, and lastly, we teach nutrition education and physical activity to those we serve.

The work we do at Children’s Hunger Alliance to provide our most vulnerable citizens with one of their most basic needs – food – is critical to the future of our children.

**Click here
to help us
feed Ohio’s
children**

**Based on Feeding America Map the Meal data, pre-COVID*

IMPACT

SCHOOL BREAKFASTS	4,500,000
IN-HOME PROVIDER MEALS & SNACKS	2,600,000
SUMMER MEALS	1,200,000
AFTERSCHOOL MEALS & SNACKS	630,000
CHILDCARE CENTER MEALS & SNACKS	500,000
TOTAL SERVED	9,430,000

Knock Out Hunger

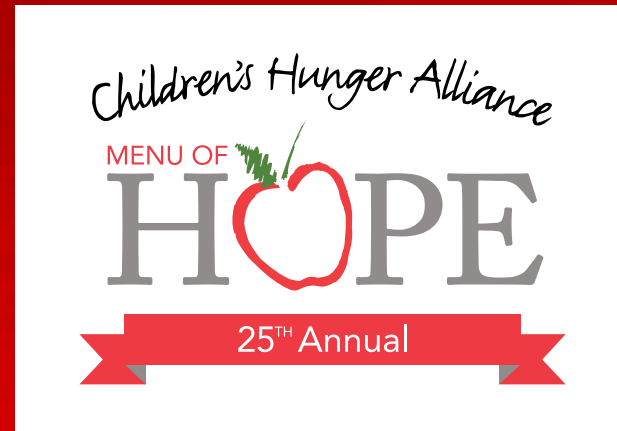
Children's Hunger Alliance celebrated the 25th Annual "Menu of Hope" luncheon on February 28, presented by Nationwide and AEP Foundation.

Several past co-chairs along with current co-chairs – Columbus City Council President Shannon G. Hardin and Dee Haslam, CEO of Haslam Sports Group – helped kick off the ceremony.

Governor [Mike DeWine](#) and First Lady Fran DeWine, addressed the sold-out crowd, emphasizing the importance of CHA's work feeding Ohio's children. Legendary sports icon and Olympic champion Sugar Ray Leonard delivered the keynote speech discussing the importance of keeping kids on the right path.

Thank you to our sponsors, guests, Stacia Naquin and Bob Kendrick of ABC6 and FOX28, and co-chairs – past and present – for helping make this a successful and memorable milestone event.

Judy Mobley, president and CEO of CHA, and Jennifer Allen, CHA Governing Board chair, presented the Program of the Year honorees with awards for their notable work in providing healthy meals and snacks to children in their care.



Bird's eye view of the ballroom

\$400,000
raised through
sponsorships



Emcees ABC6 and FOX28 News co-anchors, Stacia Naquin and Bob Kendrick

\$90,000
raised during the
event to feed
children in Ohio



Judy Mobley, president and CEO of CHA

77
Sponsors



Legendary sports icon and Olympic champion Sugar Ray Leonard

1,000 Guests
400 Donors



Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine



L to R: **School Breakfast Program** - Scott Wolfe, Southern Local School District in Racine; **Daycare Center** - Michelle Beden-Payne, Shell's Learning Center in Shaker Heights; **Afterschool Program** - Florence Plagenz of Columbus State Community College ESL Afterschool Learning Communities; **Summer Meals** - Mary Montgomery, Chillicothe City Schools; **In-Home Childcare Provider** - Nadine Whitten, Dayton (not pictured)

Past and present co-chairs, L to R: Columbus Mayor **Andrew Ginther**; former Columbus Mayor **Greg Lashutka**; **Mark Wood**, president of The Wood Companies; **Tony D'Angelo**, ABC6 and FOX28 vice president and general manager; **Gene Smith**, athletic director of The Ohio State University; **Sue Zazon**, president of Huntington's Central Ohio Region; **Dr. Michael Drake**, former president of The Ohio State University; **Nick Akins**, president and CEO at American Electric Power; **Kirt Walker**, CEO of Nationwide; Columbus City Council President **Shannon G. Hardin**; **Dee Haslam**, CEO of Haslam Sports Group; **Donna James**, Lardon and Associates managing director; **Larry James**, Crabbe Brown and James managing partner; **Mike Curtin**, former editor and associate publisher of the Columbus Dispatch; **Alex Fisher**, CEO of the Columbus Partnership

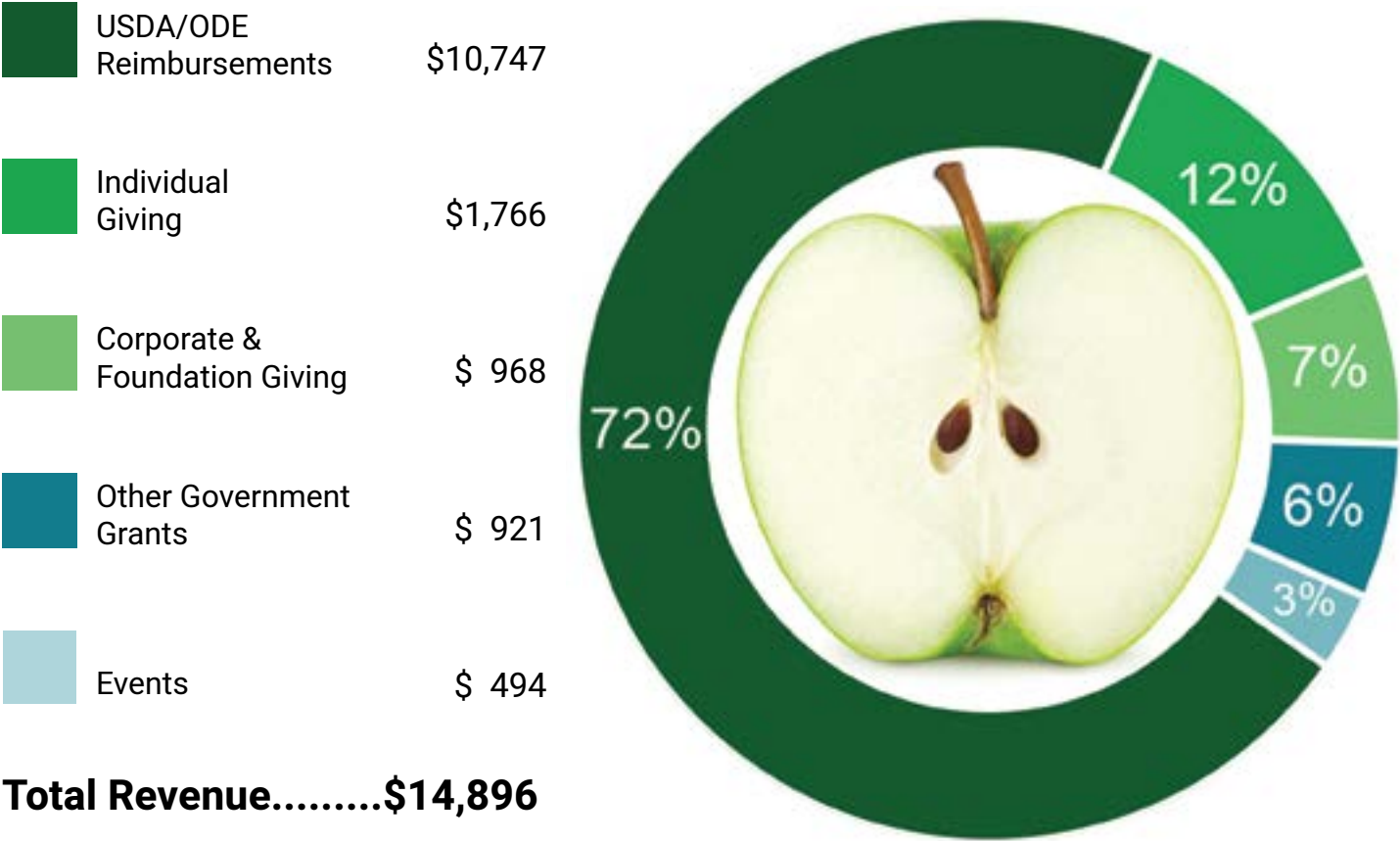
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In fiscal year 2020, [Children’s Hunger Alliance](#) had total revenues of \$14.9 million and total expenses of \$13.6 million.

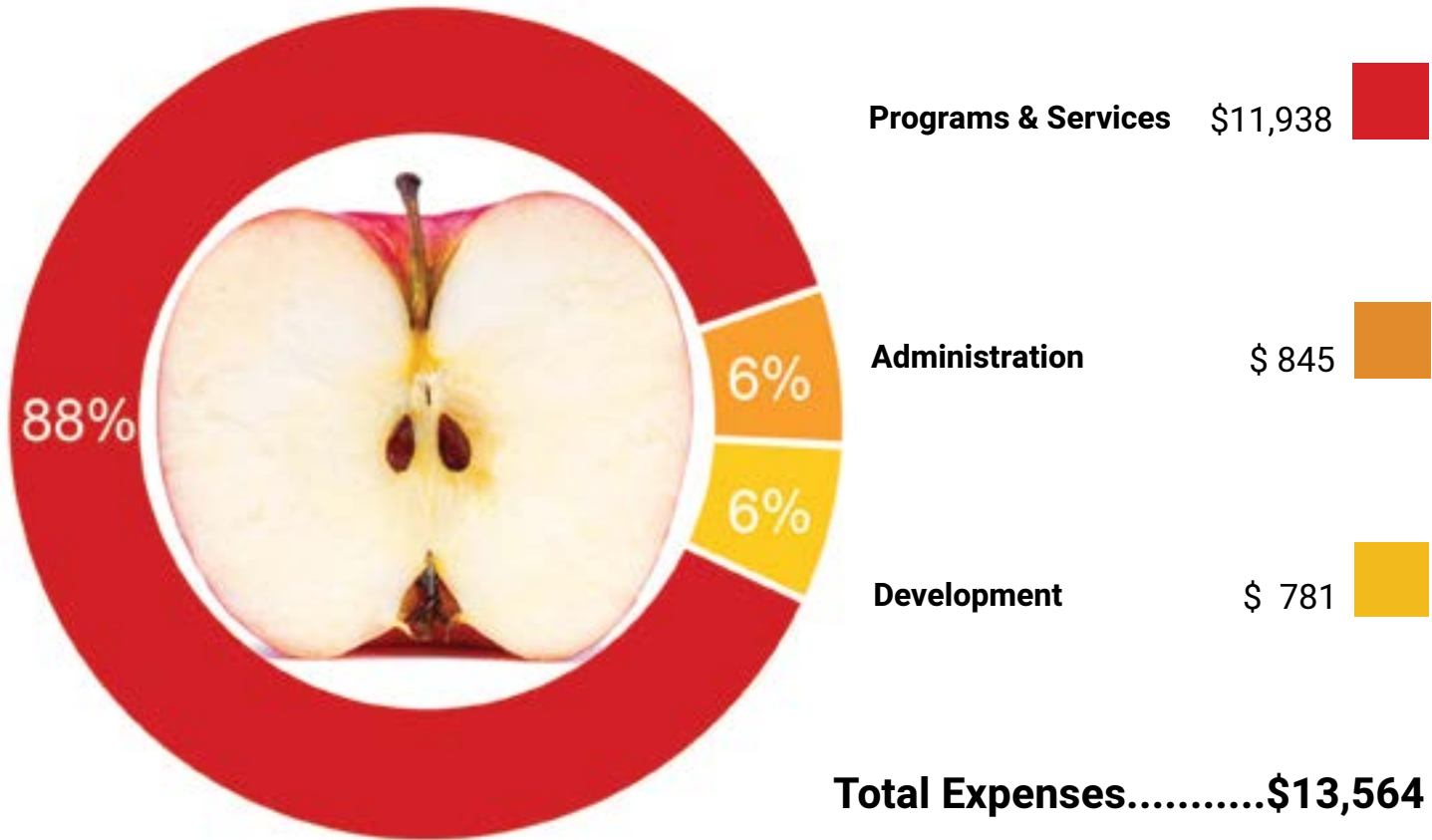
“We want to play an active role in helping improve the social and economic vitality of the communities where we live, work and serve, and no other time is more critical than today. Our priority is helping families struggling financially because of furloughs or job losses due to the pandemic. By supporting organizations like Children’s Hunger Alliance, we know that we are helping address the immediate needs of children during this difficult time.”

- John Ammendola, president and CEO of Grange Insurance

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Note: Dollars in thousands

Year-End Net Assets \$1,683

[Click here to help us feed Ohio’s children](#)

DONOR PROFILE – GRANGE INSURANCE



John Ammendola,
President and CEO



Priscilla Hammonds, AVP of Diversity &
Inclusion and Community Relations

“Providing peace of mind and protection during life’s unexpected events” is a motto [Grange Insurance](#) lives by.

Children’s Hunger Alliance (CHA) can certainly attest to this firsthand. Over the many years, their lifetime gifts of over half a million dollars have helped feed thousands of hungry children throughout Ohio. CHA is grateful for Grange’s longtime support and for most recently, helping feed children impacted by COVID-19.

John Ammendola, president and CEO, and Priscilla Hammonds, assistant vice president of diversity & inclusion and community relations, share more about their philanthropic vision and why CHA’s work is important to them.

Established in 1935, the Columbus-based insurance company provides home, auto, life, and business insurance protection across 13 states through its 3,500 independent agents. Having built a strong corporate citizenship culture, their associates actively participate in their Grange Enterprise Gives campaign and volunteer program. According to Ammendola, they’ve built a solid reputation of being a small, but mighty company when it comes to helping out the community.

Ammendola said, “We want to play an active role in helping improve the social and economic vitality of the communities where we live, work and serve, and no other time is more critical than today. Our priority is helping families struggling financially because of furloughs or job losses due to the pandemic. By supporting organizations like Children’s Hunger Alliance, we know that we are helping address the immediate needs of children during this difficult time.”

One of their core values, “Do the Right Thing,” is about caring for each other, customers, agency partners, and the community. Ammendola said, “When we focus on community relations initiatives, it’s not just to say that we’ve done something. We want to make sure that we’re doing something where it matters the most.”

They certainly did. In May, Grange increased their charitable gifts to \$1 million as a direct result of the pandemic. Many nonprofits focused on addressing poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity – including CHA – benefitted from their generous gifts.

Hammonds said, “The increased financial support is an example of how our company went above and beyond giving back to the community where and when it matters most. While we were able to help many charities, we specifically wanted to provide additional support to Children’s Hunger Alliance to help feed children whose families were facing unexpected needs because of COVID-19.”

Attending the 25th annual Menu of Hope luncheon had a meaningful significance for Hammonds. She recalled how every fifth table setting was adorned with a red napkin instead of a white one; the emcee explained that those with red napkins represented the one in five, or half a million children in Ohio struggling with hunger. “I looked around the entire room and saw the number of people with red napkins. That visual exercise struck a chord with me because this shouldn’t have to happen in our country with so many resources. There should be no reason why one in five children are hungry.”

“We recognize that children have no control over how they live or if they have food to eat,” Hammonds said. “Grange is proud to continually support Children’s Hunger Alliance because we believe that improving access to food for children-in-need has long-lasting benefits for both the children and their communities.”



Afterschool

DONOR PROFILE – OHIO MUTUAL



Mark C. Russell, President and CEO



Mark C. Russell helping distribute meals

In the year marked by the pandemic, [Ohio Mutual Insurance Group](#) became a notable first-time donor, providing a generous gift of [\\$100,000](#) to help feed children-in-need. This remarkable gift is a true testament to the values of the company. Children's Hunger Alliance (CHA) is honored and grateful to Ohio Mutual for uniting to feed children impacted by COVID-19.

Mark C. Russell, president and CEO of Ohio Mutual, explains his thoughts on their philanthropic culture and what inspired him to donate to CHA.

Founded in 1901, Ohio Mutual was formed in Columbus by a group of Ohio farmers interested in sharing the risk of windstorms to their farms. In 1909, the company relocated its headquarters to Bucyrus and has remained there for over a century, maintaining the small-town values upon which it was founded. In 2007, the company began to expand outside of Ohio, and today, it operates in seven states.

According to its Guiding Principles, one of Ohio Mutual's key strategic commitments is focused on contributing positively to its communities.

"It's something we absolutely believe in and it's woven deep into our organizational DNA," said Russell. "As one of the largest employers in Crawford County, we've always believed that we have an obligation to lead philanthropic efforts in our community, and as our business footprint has grown, the opportunities to serve and contribute to additional communities have also grown."

In mid-March, when non-essential businesses and schools shut down to help slow the spread of COVID-19, many Ohioans began to feel the impact of the pandemic and many children lost access to meals on which they depended. Likewise, many human services organizations – including CHA – also began to feel a deep responsibility to meet the skyrocketing needs of the people they serve.

"Within the first two weeks of the pandemic, it was clear that the strain on organizations providing basic human needs was going to be immediate and overwhelming. We always look locally first, and so our first gift was \$50,000 to the neighborhood Salvation Army. Immediately following was our interest in Children's Hunger Alliance, and supporting its vital mission to step into the child nutrition gap created by pandemic-related school closures across the state," Russell said.

Coincidentally, during the check presentation at Columbus Metropolitan Library Barnett branch, Ohio Mutual discovered that CHA sources food from Bucyrus-based, Champion Foods located less than a mile away from Ohio Mutual's home office.

Perhaps it was pure chance that Russell learned about CHA's mission to feed hungry children while serving on the Community Shelter Board with Mary Lou Langenhop, a previous CEO of CHA. However, it was a conscious decision on his part to partner with CHA because the infrastructure was already in place to make an immediate and positive impact.

Russell said, "Since the mission of the Children's Hunger Alliance is to provide healthy food, nutrition education, and physical activity for children, both organizations share an interest in meeting similar needs and were able to partner together to make a significant impact in the lives of children across Ohio."



Daycare Center

DONOR PROFILE – CARESOURCE



Karin VanZant
VP of Integrated Community Partnerships



Jesse Reed,
Director of Life Services

Before the onset of the public health crisis, childhood food insecurity rates in rural Southeast Ohio were already disproportionately higher than in other parts of the state. In mid-March 2020, when schools were mandated to shut down due to COVID-19, the number of children in the region going hungry began to increase as they lost access to school meals. [CareSource](#) quickly reacted to Children’s Hunger Alliance’s (CHA) call for help to meet the skyrocketing need to feed children.

CareSource’s legacy partnership of over 13 years with CHA aligns with their steadfast mission to make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals by improving their health and well-being. CareSource brings its mission to life in supporting the work to end childhood hunger in Ohio. CHA is grateful to CareSource for their continuous support and advocacy over the years!

Established in 1989 in Dayton, CareSource’s founders aspired to address the growing issue of healthcare for uninsured low-income citizens. Today, CareSource is one of the nation’s largest Medicaid managed care plans, and also offers Medicare and Marketplace coverage in addition to other wrap-around services through its Life Services program. With 2 million members across five states, the organization plans to expand into an additional two states within the next year. The CareSource Foundation has provided over \$21 million in grants to thousands of strategic partners who impact children and families in areas that address the social determinants of health for low-income families.

Karin VanZant, VP of Integrated Community Partnerships, and Jesse Reed, Director of Life Services, share more about the mission of CareSource and how their contributions to CHA’s work were especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As our interdisciplinary team worked on an overall crisis response in Ohio, the specific call to action from Children’s Hunger Alliance grabbed our attention. Fortunately, we had some pre-planning work in-place and we were able to act on the request quickly,” said VanZant. “The relationship that we had built with Children’s Hunger Alliance over the years brought it all together. We knew that we wanted to deploy resources but needed to have a good partner that had a solid plan for how to handle logistics.”

Reed added, “As a payer, we look to existing community partners to support our members and mission. Partnerships are the key to regional members, especially with Children’s Hunger Alliance, who can execute meal distributions during a crisis. CareSource might not directly execute the process, but we can support financially and promote the event.”

Through his role at CareSource, Reed has seen firsthand the struggles low-income families experience when it comes to feeding their children. In some cases, all the families need are enough meals to tide them over for a few days.

Reed recalled, “You can see that relief in a parent’s eyes when you’re handing them the weekend meals after waiting in line for over an hour. You can see the kids buckled in the car seats in the back. As a parent, I can empathize with the gratitude of knowing where your child’s next meal is coming from. It’s unspoken and very deep gratitude that says ‘Okay, I’m going to be able to feed my kids this weekend.’”

Partnerships with fellow community stakeholders are key to achieving success. The collaboration between CareSource and Children’s Hunger Alliance brings the mission of making a lasting difference by improving the health and well-being of children to life.

CHA thanks CareSource for their partnership and continuous support of helping end childhood hunger.



Summer Meals

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$100,000+

American Electric Power Foundation
Columbus City Council
Fischer Family Foundation

Franklin County Commissioners
Ohio Mutual Insurance Group

Share Our Strength
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

\$50,000+

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation
Battelle
Herbalife Nutrition Foundation

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Peoples Bank Foundation

The Champion Companies
The Hire Family Foundation

\$25,000+

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Bob Evans Foods, Inc.
CareSource Foundation
Columbia Gas of Ohio
Columbus Blue Jackets
Columbus Crew SC
The Columbus Foundation

CPPS Heritage Mission Fund
Fifth Third Bank Foundation
FIS
General Mills Foundation
Andrew Hawkins
Huntington National Bank
JobsOhio

The Kroger Co.
Lucas County Department of Jobs and
Family Services
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Joe Thomas
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\$5,000+

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United Way of Greater Cleveland
US Bank
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The Wood Companies
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\$1,000+

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FY20 GOVERNING BOARD

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“Within the first two weeks of the pandemic, it was clear that the strain on organizations providing basic human needs was going to be immediate and overwhelming. We always look locally first, and so our first gift was \$50,000 to the neighborhood Salvation Army. Immediately following was our interest in Children’s Hunger Alliance, and supporting its vital mission to step into the child nutrition gap created by pandemic-related school closures across the state,”

- Mark C. Russell, president and CEO of Ohio Mutual



In-Home Childcare

FY20 REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS

CENTRAL OHIO REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

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Reggie Fields		

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“You can see that relief in a parent’s eyes when you’re handing them the weekend meals after waiting in line for over an hour. You can see the kids buckled in the car seats in the back. As a parent, I can empathize with the gratitude of knowing where your child’s next meal is coming from. It’s unspoken and very deep gratitude that says ‘Okay, I’m going to be able to feed my kids this weekend.’”

- Jesse Reed, Director of Life Services of CareSource



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children

Meet Vanessa

When the mandated shutdown happened in mid-March due to COVID-19, the economy took a hit forcing businesses to make adjustments, including downsizing. By April, almost 1 million Ohioans were out of work.

Although Vanessa stayed employed, as a single mother caring for two children, she too felt the economic burden when her hours were cut in half. She had to quickly figure out how to prioritize her expenses, including how to feed her children.

One morning, when she was watching the news, she saw a public service announcement about Children’s Hunger Alliance providing free grab-and-go meals to kids at the neighborhood library.

Having the meal site near her home was very important to Vanessa because she needed to feed her children and the proximity of the library saved her money on gas. She said, “I’ve been coming to the library pretty much every day since the first week the meal service started. It’s a really big help when you go from 40 hours to 20 hours. I’ve been using these meals to get the kids through lunch so I could pay the rent and other bills.”

When asked if she would like to say anything to the CHA staff and their donors, she said, “We’re so grateful and appreciative to have Children’s Hunger Alliance here, willing to hand out these meals to children. It’s more help than anybody really knows at this time. I could almost cry because of how wonderful it has been.”



Children's Hunger Alliance

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