Working together to FEED OHIO’S KIDS
We just wanted to thank you for your continued partnership with our school. Your weekly food boxes have been incredibly helpful to so many of our students and our families. We truly appreciate all that your organization does for our community.

Herbert Mills Elementary, Reynoldsburg

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Children's Hunger Alliance has been working to help food insecure children for over 50 years and while our work has always been important, never more so than over these last few years. Simply put, our mission is to make sure children who don't have enough food to live a healthy life have access to nutritious meals. In Ohio, over 400,000 children live in food insecure homes - a number that was over 700,000 at the height of the pandemic - these children do not know when they will have their next meal. For many children living in poverty, they wake up with no breakfast, they come home from school to no dinner and go to bed hungry.

Studies show that children struggling with hunger face higher risks of poor health and are more likely to struggle academically. Across the state, we feed children in collaboration with childcare centers, in-home family childcare providers, afterschool programs and at summer meal sites. We also work with schools to increase breakfast participation and provide weekend meals because we all know hunger doesn't take a break when kids aren't in school.

The work we do at Children's Hunger Alliance to provide our youngest and most vulnerable citizens with one of their most basic needs - food - is critical to so many children living in poverty. Having consistent access to food gives children the best opportunity to do well in school, become a productive adult and help break the cycle of poverty.

We cannot do this important work alone. It takes partners all over the state working together to feed children in need. We know children experiencing food insecurity are particularly vulnerable when they are not in school, where they have regular access to healthy meals. To combat this problem, we piloted the Adopt-A-School program during the 2021-2022 school year. This program provides weekend meal boxes to students in high-need schools. Children's Hunger Alliance is happy to announce that it has expanded the program to six schools in the 2022-2023 school year.

The children we are helping, find themselves in a food insecure situation through no fault of their own. They deserve to have access to enough food to live a healthy life and we intend to continue looking for ways to fill those gaps and looking for supporters that want to come alongside us in this important work. Together we can make a difference in the lives of food insecure children across the state of Ohio.

With gratitude,

Judy Mobley, President and CEO

"Our families were very grateful to have the opportunity to receive meals at the library during the summer. Both sites were able to help the community in ways that wouldn't have been possible if we didn't receive the meals."

Youth Program Coordinator,
MidPointe Library
Monroe & MidPointe Library West Chester
2022 Agency Statistics

9 MILLION MEALS
PROVIDED WITH OUR PARTNERS

+1,400 PARTNER SITES

Working together to FEED OHIO’S KIDS
High Demand for CHA’s Weekend Meals

With 1 in 5 Ohio children experiencing food insecurity, the need becomes even more critical when they are not in school and have access to nutritious meals. Children in need experience health impacts to their growing bodies, but also may experience a stigma related to food insecurity, which can lead to emotional health concerns. These children are especially at-risk for hunger when school closes on the weekend, for holiday breaks, and during summer recess. The Children’s Hunger Alliance Weekend Meals program helps fill the gap with food for so many children.

Most children are excited for the weekend, but if they are living in a home without food, they are not looking forward to being away from school. To alleviate this stress, the Weekend Meals program provides ready-to-serve meals, which are intended to fill the nutrition gap. Weekend meal boxes include pre-packaged breakfast and pre-packaged lunch/dinner meals.

Our community partners, along with families of the children who receive the meal boxes, tell us how important these meals are to the children and how everyone looks forward to them. With the rise in the cost of food, many families are relying on the Weekend Meals to assist with food for their children. There is currently such a high demand for the Weekend Meals program, that CHA has unfortunately had to start a wait list. This is why we need the financial support of our funders to help CHA provide food to more children. It takes all of us Working together to FEED OHIO’S KIDS.

Summer Meal Changes Presented Challenges & Opportunities

Only one in ten children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year have access to summer meal programs. Summer break increases food insecurity and can lead to learning loss in low-income children. Summer nutrition programs serve as a bridge to fill the meal gap that so many children face each summer. As part of its effort to ensure kids have access to healthy meals during the summer, Children’s Hunger Alliance participates as a sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) funded by the USDA. Meals are provided to all children without charge at various sites throughout Ohio.

CHA was able to serve approximately 80,000 meals to over 3,000 children at nearly 140 sites from June through August. As part of the COVID-19 pandemic relief legislation, federal requirements that meals be served in group settings were waived, along with allowing more flexibility in how meals were distributed. While the USDA did not allow these waivers to expire, the decision to continue them was after most summer meal programs in 2022 had begun. Thankfully, CHA was able to secure funding through both public and private sources to assist with summer meals. This ensured meals could be donated to sites that didn’t qualify through the USDA program, making sure those locations still had the meals they needed to reach Ohio’s food insecure children.

CHA will be advocating to keep the USDA waivers in place, along with other legislation to assist with providing more meals to more children. The summer can be one of the hungriest times of the year for children, which is why summer meal programs are so important.
The 27th Annual Menu of Hope event, held as a live stream on February 22, 2022, raised more than $450,000 to help feed Ohio’s hungry children. The proceeds from Menu of Hope help Children’s Hunger Alliance provide millions of meals each year to children statewide.

This year in lieu of a keynote speaker a panel discussion took place. The panelists included Erica C. Crawley, President of the Franklin County Commissioners, who struggled with food insecurity as a single mother; Steve Denny, Executive Director of Business Affairs at Winton Woods City Schools, an educator on the frontlines everyday ensuring kids get enough food to be ready to learn; and Elizabeth Zmuda, D.O., Director of Medical Education - Doctor’s Hospital at Ohio Health, a pediatrician who spoke about the health effects of hunger on children.

Once again, this year’s event was emceed by ABC6/FOX28 Columbus’ Stacia Naquin and Bob Kendrick. There were remarks from Children’s Hunger Alliance CEO, Judy Mobley; Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine; CHA Board Chair, Melissa McHenry; and American Electric Power Chairman, President and CEO Nick Akins. Mr. Akins also made the exciting announcement that AEP was renewing their three-year $375,000 commitment to Children’s Hunger Alliance. A very moving story about growing up with childhood hunger was shared by State Representative Dontavius Jarrells, who is a supporter of CHA and our programs.
In the spring of 2019, with the help of our School Nutrition Team, they received a grant from a national anti-hunger organization, Share Our Strength, to help implement a breakfast program throughout their district. For elementary and middle school students, breakfast is delivered to the classroom, which is a best practice. The high school operates a grab and go meal model, which works well for older students. Regardless of need, all kids have access to a healthy breakfast and start their day ready to learn.

French City Academy in Gallia County
Childcare Center of the Year

One of the few sites in their area to remain open throughout the pandemic and continuously serve the families of essential workers. They are committed to giving their 88 children access to healthy, well-balanced meals and snacks and have partnered with CHA since April 2020.

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Hope Williams in Cuyahoga County
In-Home Childcare Provider of the Year

She has partnered with Children’s Hunger Alliance since 2014 and has gone above and beyond to help her families and their children in her care. She planted a garden to provide them with fresh fruits and vegetables and additionally, she distributes canned goods and bread donated by her church. Her compassion and concern extend beyond the typical home childcare setting.

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Dayton Metro Library in Montgomery County
Afterschool Program of the Year

Began partnering with CHA beginning in March 2020 and have grown their afterschool meal program to now include all 18 branches. They operate under a grab and go model providing children a bag of ready-to-serve meals one day a week. In the 2021-2022 school year they served more than 124,000 afterschool meals and an additional 60,000 meals this past summer.

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Groveport Madison Schools in Franklin County
School Breakfast Program of the Year

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Youngstown Department of Parks and Recreation in Mahoning County
Summer Program of the Year

First partnered with CHA in the summer of 2020 and expanded to serve children at 8 sites daily. They offered meals at summer camps at non-camp locations throughout the park system. Running a meal program in a park can be challenging for many reasons, but they did an outstanding job and ensured many children were fed each day.

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Thank you to those that attended GAME ON, a fundraiser benefiting Children’s Hunger Alliance and Cleveland area children. CHA was grateful for those who were able to join us for a night of fun and games for a good cause.
The youth were very happy to receive the meals. The smiles on their faces as they received the lunches brightened our hearts knowing our youth appreciated the meals during the summer. Speaking to several parents, they stated that this assisted them in ensuring their kids had something to eat and put less burden on them to find a meal.

Alla Baba Temple #53, Prince Hall Shriners, Columbus
Children experiencing food insecurity are particularly vulnerable during non-school hours when they may not have access to the food they need to lead a healthy life.

This never became more apparent than during the pandemic. CHA knew developing a program to support high-need schools and provide food to all students was necessary, but needed additional private funding to accomplish this.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, CHA piloted the Adopt-A-School program with Moler Elementary, a school within the Columbus City Schools district, and it was met with great success. The program began in mid-November and ran through the remainder of the school year. During that time approximately 25,500 weekend meals were given to over 300 students, all thanks to the generous support of The Champion Companies.

During the annual Menu of Hope event in February of 2022, CHA President and CEO Judy Mobley challenged other business leaders to come forward and join us to impact the lives of Ohio’s children by becoming an Adopt-A-School partner. CHA is happy to announce that in less than a year the program has expanded to six schools throughout the State of Ohio.

Other Program Partners are:

- Mercy Health
  Adopted Leipsic Elementary in Leipsic, Putnam County

- Raymond Charitable Foundation
  Adopted Clark Elementary and Memorial Elementary in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County

- Sutton Bank
  Adopted John Sherman Elementary School in Mansfield, Richland County

- UnitedHealth Care
  Adopted West Mound Elementary School in Columbus, Franklin County

Children’s Hunger Alliance thanks these partners for seeing a need and picking up the mantel to help children struggling with food insecurity throughout Ohio.

A special thank you to The Champion Companies for their willingness to pilot this program—proving the concept could work—allowing us to reach more children with more food each year.
Thank You to Our Donors

$100,000 +

American Electric Power Foundation
Columbia Gas/NIsource Charitable Foundation
Fischer Family Foundation
The Ronald and Paula Raymond Foundation
Share Our Strength

$50,000 +

Bath & Body Works Foundation
The Champion Companies
Elevation Health Foundation
FirstEnergy Foundation
Honda of America Mfg., Inc.
Huntington National Bank
L&L Nippert Foundation
Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc
Nationale
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
The Reinerberger Foundation
Sutton Bank
UnitedHealthcare Services Inc of Ohio
Worthington Industries, Inc.

InKind
97.1 The Fan (WBNS-FM)
Sinclair Broadcast Group

$25,000 +

Battelle
Bob Evans Foods, Inc.
Cleveland Cavaliers
Community Foundation Designetics, Inc.
Discover Financial Services, Inc
General Mills Foundation
Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation
Herbalife Nutrition Foundation
The Kroger Company
Harry C. Moores Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Ohio Mutual Insurance Group
SC Ministry Foundation

$10,000 +

AES Foundation
Anthem, Inc.
Children's Practicing Pediatricians
Cincinnati Bengals
Community Health Foundation
Grief, Inc.
Happy Daz Charities
Hexion Inc.
The Hire Family Foundation
Hyundai Motor America
Ingram-White Castle Foundation
Johnson Charitable Gift Fund
Kettering Family Foundation
Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical Center LLC
Ohio Children's Foundation

$1,000 +

Masa Abdelhadi
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Ryan C. Stewart
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tap packaging + design
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Sian Watkins
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Wright-Patt Credit Union, Inc.
Tonya Zeigler
Until joining the Central Regional Board, Mr. Kemelgor didn’t know how big an issue childhood food insecurity was in Ohio. He enjoyed learning about the meaningful work CHA was doing and was impressed that there was a strategy to help children. In 2016, Mr. Kemelgor was asked to join the Governing Board, of which he remained until 2022, and served as Governing Board chair from 2020 to 2021. The programs that Mr. Kemelgor saw grow during his tenure with CHA’s boards are the summer meal program and increased breakfast participation. He likes knowing that CHA works to provide meals without bias.

What impressed Mr. Kemelgor the most is how CHA responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by finding ways to feed more children during such a critical time. Through the mobile feeding sites and sourcing ready-to-eat meals, Children’s Hunger Alliance saw the challenges the pandemic presented and found the solutions to get food to those that needed it the most. He was proud of how the entire CHA team rose to the occasion and did not slow down.

Mr. Kemelgor’s advice to board members, future and present, is to see CHA’s programs in action. A person can’t help but get more involved when connecting with the end results of the work. It is a challenge to find the time to get hands on, but by assisting with meal packing or visiting a meal site a board member gains appreciation for being part of an organization with such an important mission.

Columbus feels like home for Mr. Kemelgor, and he still plans to stay engaged with Children’s Hunger Alliance. For anyone who is looking to get more involved with CHA, Mr. Kemelgor wants them to know that the organization is at its most stable, has an excellent executive team, and has a good future.

Everyone at Children’s Hunger Alliance thanks Mr. Kemelgor for his time and dedication to the organization, and for supporting the critical work of feeding Ohio’s children.
FY22 Governing Board

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American Electric Power

Troy Kemelgor (Past Chair)
Northwestern Mutual

John Kompa (Vice Chair)
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Steve Bennett (Treasurer)
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Aaron Ockerman (Secretary)
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EY

Kelli Berner
The Champion Companies

Jeff Burt
Eclipse Creative

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Ohio Department of Commerce

Jon Jasper
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Theresa Olson
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Steve Rigdon
KPMG US

Ryan Singer
Crowe

Gary Sorrell
Nationwide Insurance

Bob Stallman
Miami Valley Lighting, LLC

Ryen Stewart
Huntington National Bank

Ellen Berndt (Advisory Member)
Community Member

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Mike Walter
Ann Whisler

Northeast
Machele Merriweather, Chair
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Nora Cook
Jill McFarland
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Meliss Klorer, Chair
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David Kontur
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Bob Stallman, Chair
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Sister Barbara Davis
Steve Denny
Sister Karen Elliott
Brenda Lemon
Paula Nyika-Makore
Cathy Ponitz
Elysia Taylor
Who We Are

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger. 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. Children's Hunger Alliance has a team of 50 professionals throughout the state who are passionate about helping kids in all of Ohio's 88 counties.

What We Do

We partner with organizations throughout Ohio to provide nutritious meals to at-risk children who need them most. We work with in-home childcare providers, childcare centers, afterschool and summer programs, provide weekend meals, and work with schools to increase breakfast participation.

We serve as sponsors of the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. These programs are administered in early childcare settings as well as afterschool and summer sites to provide children with food.

Why We're Important

Over 400,000 children across Ohio live in food insecure households. That means 1 in 5 children are unsure of their next meal. The work we do at Children's Hunger Alliance is to provide one of the most basic needs – food – to our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. Having consistent access to food gives children the best opportunity to do well in school, become productive adults and break the cycle of poverty. Our work is vital to the children in Ohio that simply do not have enough food to sustain a healthy life.

How We Impact the Community

Through our partnerships, we help Ohio's children receive healthy meals. Children's Hunger Alliance assists in-home childcare providers and childcare centers serve more nutritious food, and create healthier child care environments. While many food-insecure children receive free or reduced-priced meals at school, they often go without healthy meals when school is out. Afterschool and summer programs are one of the most effective strategies for reaching children with nutritious food, as meals are delivered to sites where children already congregate. Along with this, our weekend meal boxes also help fill the meal gap many children experience.

childrenshungeralliance.org

EMAIL

4kids@childrenshungeralliance.org
development@childrenshungeralliance.org
The meals helped to fill a gap we had within our organization of being able to provide healthy meals to a community who has a high child poverty rate. Parents, caregivers, and children often showed their appreciation for meals and explained that the meals helped to make money available for other basic necessities such as gas, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, as well as food and shelter cost. 

Community Coordinator, Greater Stark County Urban League

Students and families look forward to the weekend boxes. One student shared that she was glad we had food at school because, they didn't have any at home.

Moler Elementary, Columbus