



Then And Now

A SPECIAL EDITION OF SECOND HELPINGS,
A PUBLICATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

A Legacy of Service

In celebration of 25 years of leadership, Mike Iberis is honored for his vision, dedication, and the enduring impact he has made on Second Harvest and the Mahoning Valley.

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A Life of Giving

Michael Heinzer honors his late wife, Cass, with a \$100,000 donation to Second Harvest, celebrating their decades of service to families in need and inspiring others to give with love.

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It Started with a Fifth Grader

The Boardman Center Intermediate School Pantry, started because of a fifth grader in 2016, teaches students compassion, leadership, and the importance of helping families in need.

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Steel City Massive



Armstrong



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR MISSION

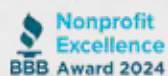
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley's mission is to solicit, store, and distribute food to hunger-relief organizations feeding people in Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties; and to provide education and advocacy.

OUR VISION

Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley believes that no one should go hungry and is dedicated to building a community that makes food accessible to all people.

CHARITY RATING

The Food Bank holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. A 4-star rating is Charity Navigator's highest rating.



This edition covers the time period of September through October 2025.



Second Harvest Food Bank

of the Mahoning Valley



LOOKING BACK WHILE MOVING FORWARD

from Michael Iberis, Executive Director

As I reflect on the last 25 years, one truth shines brighter than ever: the Mahoning Valley always shows up for one another. What began as a small but mighty effort has grown, thanks to you, into a network that today supports more than 160 partner agencies across our community.

In the early days, our food bank was little more than a handful of passionate people with a vision. With few employees and limited resources, everything depended on the determination and kindness of those who believed in the mission. Even then, the Valley rallied, proving that when our neighbors are in need, this community answers the call.

Today, that seed of an idea has blossomed into an organization with a dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers who give their time and talent every year. The work looks different now with more agencies, more families served, more programs reaching deeper into the community, but the heart behind it remains the same.

We are still neighbors helping neighbors, only now with the ability to serve on a larger scale than anyone could have imagined 25 years ago. As we look to the future, I am reminded that while circumstances may change, one thing never does: the Mahoning Valley's commitment to standing together. With your continued support, we will keep evolving to ensure no one faces hunger alone.

With Gratitude,
Mike

WAYS TO DONATE

Make a safe, secure monetary donation to help feed hungry families in our community by visiting mahoningvalleysecondharvest.org or scanning the QR code at right with your smart phone camera.

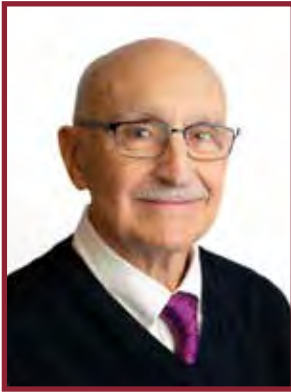
Make a food donation. The food bank is always in need of peanut butter, cereal, tuna fish, canned fruit and vegetables, dry pasta, and more.



It is the policy of Second Harvest Food Bank to maintain the highest level of confidentiality with respect to donor information. We will not share donor names, addresses, or fund-related financial information with organizations outside of the Food Bank. From time to time, donor names may be listed in Food Bank publications, but only after written notification is provided. In all cases, donors are given the option of remaining anonymous.

A Legacy Of Service

MIKE REFLECTS ON 25 YEARS WITH SECOND HARVEST



recognition was unanimously approved by the organization's Board of Directors in September.

"Today marks a very special moment in the history of Second Harvest Food Bank as we name one of our buildings in honor of our Executive Director, Michael Iberis," said Dominic Mararri, president of the Board of Directors. "Mike's leadership has been a guiding light for this organization. Through his vision, compassion, and relentless dedication, Second Harvest has grown stronger, expanded its reach, and deepened its impact across our communities. His work has not only filled shelves and plates, it has filled hearts with hope. Naming this building after Mike is a small way to honor the enormous difference he has made."

"When I started, I never imagined how far we would come," Mike said. "I feel incredibly grateful for the privilege of serving this community for the past 25 years."

Mike joined Second Harvest in 2000, when it was located on Midlothian Boulevard. In early 2003, he helped secure a donation of a warehouse on Salt Springs Road, the organization's current home.

Becoming executive director was a second career for Mike, who had retired after 23 years as the community relations director for AT&T. Before that, the Struthers native attended Youngstown State University, where he later served as president and board member of the alumni association. "When this opportunity came, I couldn't say no," Mike said. "I can honestly say my theory for success is to keep it simple, stay true to the mission, focus on people, and never lose sight of why you started."

Mike's impact has extended far beyond the walls of the food bank. Under his leadership, Second Harvest has strengthened its mission to fight hunger and feed hope, expanding its outreach, partnerships, and programs to serve more families than ever before. His unwavering commitment to compassion, collaboration, and community has left an enduring mark on Second Harvest and those it serves.

Rebecca Martinez, who had worked for the Food Bank of North Carolina in Raleigh before relocating to Youngstown, joined Mike early in his tenure as the Development Director. "It is not hyperbole to say that there would be no Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley without the leadership of Mike Iberis," she said. "It wasn't always easy, but he never wavered. He has the respect of the community, his staff, the Feeding America national office, and other food bank directors. We're all grateful for his tenacity, leadership, toughness when required, and fairness. My journey with Mike to provide the most basic of human needs to others was a gift I cherish."

Many of Second Harvest's partners share that admiration. "Mike is wonderful and is a good leader," said several of the organization's partner pantries. Chef Farah of Antonine Village added, "Mike does an amazing job, and without Second Harvest Food Bank, we cannot

Continued on next page >>





Second Harvest Food Bank Staff



Nick Santucci & Mike Iberis



Mike, Glenn & Friends



Mike Iberis & Family



Second Harvest Food Bank Staff



survive.” Chef Farah prepares an average of 300 meals each day between the senior residents and adult day care participants at Antonine Village, many of whom rely on food provided through the food bank.

Over the years, Mike’s steady guidance has also helped bring national recognition to the Mahoning Valley. One highlight was securing the Walmart Room, a significant expansion of the food bank’s facility that was awarded after a national voting event through Feeding America. Out of 200 food banks across the country, the Mahoning Valley swept the tally, beating out large operations from New York City, Seattle, and Los Angeles. “A counterpart called from the West Coast and asked, ‘Mike, where is Youngstown?’” Mike said, laughing.

As Second Harvest celebrates his 25-year commitment to helping those in need, Mike’s legacy will continue to shape its mission and impact for years to come. His leadership transformed the food bank into a cornerstone of support for thousands of neighbors, and the foundation he built continues to empower the entire Second Harvest team to carry that mission forward: feeding hope, fostering compassion, and strengthening the Mahoning Valley, one meal at a time.



Together, We've Grown

FROM 2000 TO PRESENT DAY

From distributing 3 million pounds of food to adding a 10,000-square-foot warehouse and earning the BBB Torch Award, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley has spent 25 years expanding programs, facilities, and support to serve children, seniors, and families. These milestones reflect how, together, we continue building a stronger, healthier Valley.

FUN FACTS

One of our oldest pantries is Zion Lutheran Church in Cornersburg

Just 1 dime provides half of a meal at Second Harvest

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar, and \$1 provides 5 meals

Won Walmart's Fighting Hunger Together initiative, & added more warehouse space

Backpack program began at some local school districts

3 million pounds distributed to 80 pantries

2020

Office space addition, & MacKenzie Scott donation of \$3 million

2017

CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) room added

2012

2024

10,000-square-foot warehouse space & garage added

Earned BBB Torch Award for Nonprofit Excellence

2018

Ranked 4th best food bank in the country

2016

1st school pantry at Boardman Center Intermediate School

Earned and continues to hold a 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

2011

Repack room added

2007

2003

16,000-square-foot warehouse donated on Salt Springs Road

2000



A Life of Giving

HONORING CASS HEINZER

When I was in my early twenties, God impressed upon my heart a desire to help others in need. You see, my wife and I had two very young children and were struggling financially to make ends meet. I needed a raise, but the economy dictated otherwise. Due to economic conditions at the time, companies started freezing wages, and I was notified that I would not receive a raise.

I was extremely upset about going home and telling my wife the bad news. But God had other plans for me. On my way home, I noticed a gentleman who appeared to have been living on the street for some time. I thought to myself, "There is someone who is worse off than I." So I went to the convenience store just down the street and bought a bag of groceries. I gave it to him and saw an appreciative smile on his face. I continued home, feeling much happier about how my day was going that I forgot all my troubles.

When I got home, I ran into the house and told my wife everything that had happened to me. I was so excited that I decided when I retired, I would find a way to help others in need. I felt in my heart that God had told me that this is what He wanted me to do. Cass was happy for me and supportive of what I felt was God's influence on me.

When I retired in 2001, I joined the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, and it was the beginning of the happiest time of my life because I was having a positive impact on people's lives. After about a year I was put in the position to manage the food pantry. Cass joined me at the food pantry, and God led us to succeed in growing the pantry to support 130 plus families in the Hubbard area. God blessed the food pantry and it grew. We served God and the neighboring community

for 15 years. It was a blessing for me to see Cass connect with so many people from the community and touch their lives with so much love. We had nearly 30 people from the church community join us in this endeavor.

After turning over the responsibility of the food pantry to others due to our age, Cass and I continued to monetarily support Second Harvest Food Bank, whose mission is to gather food for over 160 food pantries in the tri-county area.

Today, I am here in memory of Cass, to show appreciation for her efforts to serve this community with such devoted love for God's children. Cass had a special gift when spending time with children who came to the food pantry. She seemed to know just how to get into their hearts and make them smile. It brought her so much joy to welcome them with candy when they visited. Frequently, when we would see them out in the community, the children would yell to their moms, "Mom, look, it's the Candy Lady!" Cass would always give the children a hug and tell them to come and visit her at the food pantry and she would have a surprise for them. This little response from the children filled her heart full of love for the people she was helping. Cass and I told our helpers, "If it makes you feel good to give someone a little extra, go ahead and do it because it is why God put us here."

I am making a donation of \$100,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank in Cass's memory. It is my wish that this may inspire others to get involved and make a difference wherever God leads them. No matter where you are or what you are doing when you are dealing with others, do it with LOVE in your heart, and you will find it very rewarding.

Michael Heinzer

Thank You

TO OUR HUNGER CHAMPIONS

FOOD & FUNDS DRIVES

With gratitude, we thank those who contribute to helping us feed hungry families in Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties.

American Financial's Client Appreciation Event
\$1530 and 1437 pounds of food

Armstrong's Avenge Hunger
\$100 and 4406 pounds of food

Burger King, Austintown
364 pounds of food

Fairway Ford's Fill A Ford
600 pounds of food

Mahoning County Jr. Fair Board's Stock the Trailer
1088 pounds of food

Poland Youth Soccer Picture Day Collection
918 pounds of food

Sheetz, Columbiana Grand Opening
\$46 and 254 pounds of food

Steel City Massive
125 pounds of food

GRANTS

Costco Wholesale Corporation
\$25,000 for food

CVS
\$1542.91 for general operating

Enbridge Gas Ohio
\$15,000 for mobile pantry program

FirstEnergy Foundation
\$50,000 for food

J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation
\$20,595 for equipment

Spark Good, Austintown Walmart
\$500 for food

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

We are grateful not only to our regular, weekly volunteers, but to our volunteer groups that came in to lend a hand.

Armstrong
218 CSFP senior boxes; 1504 cans labeled and boxed

FirstEnergy Corp.
1440 cans labeled and boxed

Gateways Industries
1032 cans labeled and boxed

LB Foster
900 bags of pasta

Mahoning Valley Corvette Club
2520 cans labeled and boxed

Men's Bible Study Group
990 bags of pasta

Middlefield Bank
1065 cans labeled and boxed

ViaQuest
320 cans labeled and boxed; 520 cans labeled and boxed

WFMJ
helped sort & box salvage on Hunger Action Day

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the companies that contribute in-kind services. Your efforts are truly appreciated and are making a difference to those without enough food to eat.





Fairway Ford's Fill A Ford



FirstEnergy Corp.



Men's Bible Study Group



WFMJ



Gateways Industries



Mahoning Co. Jr. Fair Board



FirstEnergy Foundation



LB Foster



Armstrong



Poland Youth Soccer



Middlefield Bank



Zion Lutheran Church

SERVING FAMILIES WITH FAITH, DEDICATION, AND HOPE SINCE 1987

The Zion Lutheran Church Pantry, located at 3300 Canfield Rd. in Youngstown, serves residents living in the 44509, 44511, and 44515 zip codes. The pantry began in June 1987, originally helping just 30–40 families. Over the years, it has grown to serve 110–120 families each month, reaching more than 3,000 individuals in 2024.

Recently, the pantry has seen a noticeable rise in both the number of families and the size of those families, as well as more seniors turning to the pantry for help. This was especially evident on Saturday, October 18, when the pantry served 147 families—its highest number to date.

The Zion Church Pantry distributes food on the third Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. By 7:00 a.m., people are already lined up for the drive-through distribution—some even walking over from nearby apartments with carts. Among those waiting was Selena, who began using food pantries after a fall left her without income for over six months. “If it weren’t for the food pantries,” she said, “I don’t know where I’d be today.”

Pam Raeburn has led the pantry for more than 25 years, stepping in after the previous coordinator passed away unexpectedly. “I’m here to serve the community,” Pam shared. “The people we meet—our hearts go out to them—and they have done more for me than I have done for them.”

Many visitors express deep gratitude for the help they receive.

Margaret, a regular pantry guest, said she started coming when her mother entered hospice care. “The bills aren’t always covered,” she explained. With teenage boys at home, she struggles to keep food on the table. “When I shop, I only get the necessities—usually while the kids are in school.”

Others, like Diana, use the pantry not only to meet their own needs but also to help others. Living nearby in Brandywine Apartments, she visits whenever she can. “What I can’t use, I give to my elderly neighbors who can’t make it here,” she said. “Some are on oxygen and just can’t get out, so I love that I can also help them.” Since her food stamps were cut, she’s relied on the pantry even more.

Pastor Duane Jesse, along with Pam and their many volunteers, hopes the pantry will soon become a Hunger Center—a permanent site that can expand to meet growing demand and serve as a stronger resource for the community. Their goal is to eventually open twice a week, offering emergency food for nearby neighborhoods.

To make this possible, they need to repair or rebuild their storage areas to handle a greater food volume and add more temperature-controlled storage. Currently, one room barely holds three pallets with limited space to move, while another section operates out of a garage.

When asked about her wish list, Pam said a large cooler and a small walk-in freezer would allow them to store more fresh produce, meat, milk, and eggs when available. She also noted that more volunteers are always welcome—whether on pre-packing day (the Tuesday before distribution) or on distribution day itself.

For nearly four decades, the Zion Lutheran Church Pantry has stood as a testament to what faith and service can do. And with the continued dedication of leaders like Pam and Pastor Duane—and the gratitude of neighbors like Selena, Margaret, and Diana—it remains a vital source of hope in the heart of Youngstown.



When making a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank, you can request that your gift support a specific pantry—including school pantries!





It Started with a Fifth Grader

ONE STUDENT'S VISION SPARKED A MOVEMENT OF CARE

The Boardman Center Intermediate School Pantry began in 2016 in a unique and inspiring way: it was student-driven. School Guidance Counselor Mindy DePietro explained, "A little fifth grader came to me and was talking about the need for food for some of the kids in the school." When she asked the student if they should start the same backpack food program used at Market Street Elementary School, the student replied, "No, we don't want backpacks! We need something where kids can come and get food every day and put it in our own backpacks, so people don't need to know we're getting it."

Former BCIS Principal Randy Ebie reached out to Mike Iberis and Second Harvest Food Bank, and then to the Boardman Lions Club, to help launch the program. The Lions Club continues to sponsor the school pantry today. Reflecting on the pantry's beginnings, Ebie shared, "It is teaching our kids how to be good stewards, how to not be ashamed to get help if necessary, and how to act on an opportunity to pay it forward to those in need." Each year, BCIS students hold a large fall food drive to restock the pantry and continue paying it forward. Since 2016, hundreds of families have received help, and thousands of students have demonstrated compassion, generosity, and leadership, all thanks to one fifth grader's simple yet powerful idea.

IT IS TEACHING OUR KIDS HOW TO BE GOOD STEWARDS, HOW TO NOT BE ASHAMED TO GET HELP IF NECESSARY, AND HOW TO ACT ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAY IT FORWARD TO THOSE IN NEED.

ROTINI & COTTAGE CHEESE (HALUSHKY)

FROM LORETTA

"My family loves this dish! It is an American version of our grandmother's Slovak recipe. It is a quick, inexpensive, but delicious meal, or can be used as a side dish."

HAVE AN EASY, NO-FAIL, FAVORITE RECIPE? SHARE IT WITH US! EMAIL SECOND HARVEST'S DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, RENEE FULLER, AT RFULLER@SHFBMV.ORG.

Ingredients

1 box (16 oz.) rotini or your favorite pasta
16 oz. small curd cottage cheese
1 1/2 stick of butter
2 medium onions, diced

Directions

1. Put water on to boil for the pasta
2. In a medium sized skillet, melt 1/2 stick of butter on medium high heat and add in the onions. Cook until browned.
3. While onions are browning, boil the pasta and drain, then place back in the emptied saucepan.
4. Add the remaining butter and cooked onions to the pasta, mix well.
5. Add the cottage cheese to pasta and butter, warm if needed.
6. Serve and enjoy!





WHERE THE FOOD COMES FROM

- Growers
- Manufacturers
- Community Food Drives
- Distributors
- Retailers



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Storehouse of food for our friends and neighbors facing hunger.



FOOD IS DISTRIBUTED

- Food Pantries
- Meal Sites
- Homeless Shelters
- Senior Programs
- Youth Programs
- Residential Programs



FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER

- Families with Low Incomes
- Elderly
- Homeless
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Children
- People with Disabilities
- Veterans

Call the Food Bank at 330.792.5522, or visit our website at mahoningvalleysecondharvest.org for additional information.

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**Second Harvest
Food Bank**

of the Mahoning Valley

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AMERICA**

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HELP FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE IN COLUMBIANA,
MAHONING, AND TRUMBULL COUNTIES



- 1** **conduct a food drive**
at your office, place of worship, school, or neighborhood
- 2** **support food drives & fundraisers**
call us or visit our website for information
- 3** **make a monetary donation**
donate online or use the envelope attached
- 4** **volunteer**
call Penny for more information 330.792.5522 ext 102



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