



FOOD PANTRY OF LICKING COUNTY
Network News

**Help Us Fight Hunger with the
 34th Annual Operation Feed
 of Licking County**

The 34th annual Operation Feed of Licking County kicks off on March 1, 2024 and will continue all month long through March 31, 2024. We invite you to join us in this community-wide effort to raise 35% of the food and funding needed annually to feed Licking County neighbors who struggle to put food on the table. The Food Pantry Network has asked Rob Montagnese, Licking Memorial Health Systems President & CEO, to serve as the 2024 Operation Feed Chair. “Hunger is a symptom of poverty which, unfortunately, exists in our community,” said Rob. “I am proud to be part of this annual campaign to end hunger in our community and help create a healthier Licking County. Operation Feed provides individuals and organizations with an opportunity to support the efforts of the Food Pantry Network and make a tremendous difference for our neighbors who experience food insecurity and hunger.”



Robert A. Montagnese,
 2024 Operations Feed Chair

Please join this year’s Operation Feed campaign, saying no to hunger and yes to feeding families in Licking County, support from the community is vital for our success during this campaign. For more information about how to support the Operation Feed campaign, contact the Food Pantry Network of Licking County at (740) 344-7401.

**Food Pantry Network of
 Licking County Board of Directors**

Chairperson: Mike Birkmeyer
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Vice-Chair Operations: Leslie Yurocko
Vice-Chair Resources: Holly Slaughter
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 Jennifer Roberts
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 Jay Young

WAYS TO GIVE

The largest support of the Food Pantry Network of Licking County comes from community support through donations and food drives. Let’s turn Hunger into Hope: here’s how you can help!



Donate Today!

1. GIVE FUNDS

Your support helps feed neighbors who face hunger. Choose to make a one-time donation or commit to fighting hunger through a monthly donation, make a gift that’s meaningful to you. We have the power to stretch your dollar, for every \$1 donated, we can provide up to \$11 worth of groceries.

2. GIVE FOOD

While we encourage monetary donations, we accept non-perishable food donations and we are grateful to those who advocate and create hunger awareness through community drives. By giving food or organizing a food drive, you are making a difference in eliminating hunger in Licking County.

3. GIVE TIME

Our volunteers help us distribute millions of pounds of food each year throughout Licking County. We will continue to need more volunteers to help with food distributions as the rise for food assistance grows in 2024. We are so grateful for the time and talent that our volunteers give to keep our operations running smoothly.

A Letter from the Executive Director

For the last twenty years, the community of Licking County has entrusted me with the responsibility of leading the Food Pantry Network of Licking County to provide access to food for our neighbors experiencing hunger. In my time here, we have worked to be on the leading edge of our industry, ensuring our community has access to nourishing foods.

Looking back, we have had significant moments of change that have better served our customers and increased access to food. I am delighted that this organization has 18 partner pantries, 7 produce pop up distribution sites, and 16 meal programs. In the last twenty years, food distribution has grown from 650,000 pounds each year to over 4.2 million pounds in 2023. As we ring in 2024, I am excited to be part of what I believe to be the most impactful change to our community yet, the implementation of the FPN Markets, a collaboration with Licking Memorial Hospital, and changes in policies to focus on a more customer-centric approach to our services.

Our goal is to make nutritious foods more accessible to our neighbors and that means having food available when they need it the most. I believe the changes this organization is making in this next year will serve our customers better, offering them the dignity of having more access to the right food, at the right time and at the right place.

The food distribution in Licking County and the changes to improve access to food would not be possible without the support of the community. Thank you for your support over the years and allowing us to continue to improve our services to ensure no one in Licking County goes hungry!

Graciously,



Chuck Moore
Executive Director

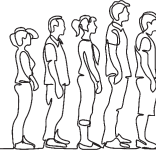


Hunger in Licking County

We exist because of our customers and that means that food insecurity exists in our communities. We remain diligent in serving our neighbors to ensure they have a steady source of food.



At any given time, **1 in 5** of our customers visit us for the first time.



2023 had an increase of **28% more customer visits** compared to the year before.

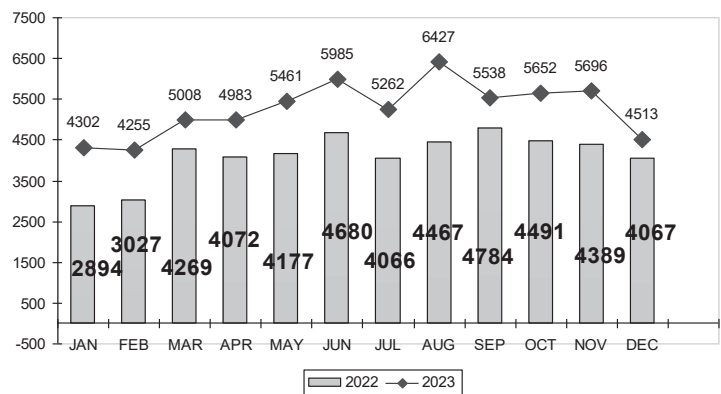


65% of our households have at least one child or senior in the home.



Our customers visit us on average **8 times a year**, when they need us the most.

Requests for Emergency Food Assistance



The above graph compares the number of households served within our Network over the last two years. In 2023, we provided **over 63,000 households** with food and fresh produce and distributed **4.25 million pounds of food** throughout Licking County.

In need of food assistance? Call 740-344-7401.



OUR NETWORK IS HERE TO HELP

The Food Pantry Network of Licking County was established in 1981 to coordinate the acquisition and distribution of emergency food supplies throughout Licking County. At different times in the history of our organization, we have made changes to move in the direction of the food bank industry using the resources and strategies we had available. Our goal remains the same as when we started, helping people who need food, get food.

As we move into 2024, The Network is implementing a new program that we believe will create a more customer-centric approach, making food available when they need it most. A newly created program, the **FPN Market** is designed to offer a grocery-store experience, allowing the customers to shop at no-cost with an open selection of grocery items, produce, meat and dairy that they need to supplement their food at home. Our new markets will have extended hours, making it easier for our customers to stop in and shop regularly on a weekly basis, at a time that is most convenient to their schedule.

We continue to partner with agencies throughout Licking County to host choice pantries, produce pop-up distribution sites, and other meal and snack programs. The Food Pantry Network of Licking County serves the Licking County community with income of 200% or below the federal poverty guidelines. All customers must provide proof of residency and a photo ID. If you or someone you know are in need of food assistance, **please contact us at 740-344-7401 and we can connect you with these programs.**

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME		
	YEAR	MONTH	WEEK
1	\$29,160	\$2,430	\$561
2	\$39,440	\$3,287	\$758
3	\$49,720	\$4,144	\$957
4	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$1,154
5	\$70,280	\$5,857	\$1,352
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ADD	\$10,280	\$857	\$198

(Rev 7/2023)



In need of food assistance? Visit www.foodpantrynetwork.net.

Food Pantry Network of Licking County
 1035 Brice Street
 Newark, Ohio 43055

Phone: (740) 344-7401
 www.foodpantrynetwork.net

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**Say No to
 Local Hunger
 by supporting
 Operation Feed
 of Licking County**

*To a valued Food Pantry Network of
 Licking County Supporter...*

- @FoodPantryNetworkofLC
- @FoodPantryNetworkofLC
- @foodpantrynetworkoflc
- @foodpantrynetworkofLC

How Can I Help?

Food insecurity is rising in Licking County, with a 28% increase of households served over the last year. It takes a lot of resources to feed so many people and we are grateful for those who donate their time and money to ensure we can get the job done! Your support ensures that our neighbors, friends, and coworkers will feel some relief when they need support in finding food. Every donation makes a big difference.



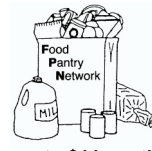
SCAN ME

Whether you commit to fight hunger through a monthly donation or a one-time donation, your support is making a big impact in our community!

Every Donation Makes a Big Impact Your Dollars in Action



=



up to \$11 worth
 of groceries

\$7/month
 (23¢ a day)



will feed three
 seniors for an
 entire month

\$20/month
 (67¢ a day)



will distribute
 1,200 boxes of
 cereal

\$27/month
 (90¢ a day)



runs our
 produce market
 for a day