



209 Center Street, Chardon, Ohio 44024 - 440.285.2261

2022

Dear UTUIA,

I know you have heard of the **Geauga Hunger Task Force** since you were such a generous contributor last year, and in years past. I am here to remind you of what your donations have done in the past, and what they will do this year again. Here are the latest statistics and facts:

- Due to the pandemic, food, rent, and utility aid are the top requests for assistance.
- Each month Geauga food pantries serve about 400 households, averaging 1000 individuals monthly.
- Total visits to the pantries in 2021 was 10,172. That is *not* 10,172 total people – that is visits.
- All dollars raised in Geauga County stay in Geauga County.
- The task force provides support for 5 food pantries in Geauga County.
- GHTF continues to provide financial support to: NeXT Step, senior meals at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center, home-delivered meals for those under 60 or disabled, the Veterans Pantry, Women Safe, Claridon Community Helps for summer lunches to students, and local churches providing holiday meals.
- Aldi gift cards for students at Kent State University.
- Aldi gift cards to the pantries totaling \$12,500.

My 4-H club, Greener Fields, once again teamed up with Dr. Augustine Kellis to raise money and food for the Geauga Hunger Task Force (GHTF) – a 501(C)(3) organization. This is my third year of heading up the 4-H side, but our club's 7th year. In the last 7 years, the food drive (donations plus the match) has raised close to \$210,000 for people in need throughout Geauga County.

Last year, once again during covid, we were able to raise close to \$42,000 including the match by reaching out to businesses and corporations like yourself, doing a food drive using the NextDoorNeighbor app - collecting in the surrounding communities, collecting at summer sports practices, running a food drive at our local bank – First National Bank (formerly Parkview), and several at Holy Angels Church.

This year, we again have food drives set up at the church, at the bank, and several libraries with collection boxes. We also created a Food Drive committee in our club to get more 4H involvement within our club and to ensure the 4H participation in the food drive continues after I age out.

Greener Fields 4-H club and Dr. Kellis are dedicated to raising money and food for the less fortunate in our community. Graciously, Dr. Augustine Kellis (440) 285-2020 has committed to matching the donations/food raised as follows:

- \$1.00 for \$1.00 in money raised, up to \$20,000.
- Any canned food donations will be matched at 50 cents per item (included in the \$20,000).

Now more than ever, with so many people furloughed and laid off, I believe as a community member I have a responsibility to help our own. This is a perfect opportunity to do so. Please consider a monetary donation or food item to help this worthy cause. Donations are tax deductible up to \$300. GHTF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Please make checks payable to: **The Geauga Hunger Task Force.**

c/o Heidi/Jayne O'Neill
16560 Snyder Road
Bainbridge Township, OH 44023

Sincerely,

Jayne O'Neill (Greener Fields 4-H Secretary)
216-346-5027