

# COMMUNITY HARVEST, INC

PROVIDING A SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTION  
TO END HUNGER IN STARK COUNTY SINCE 1989

## COMMUNITY HARVEST Annual Dinner & Steak Fry

*the hands that make a difference*



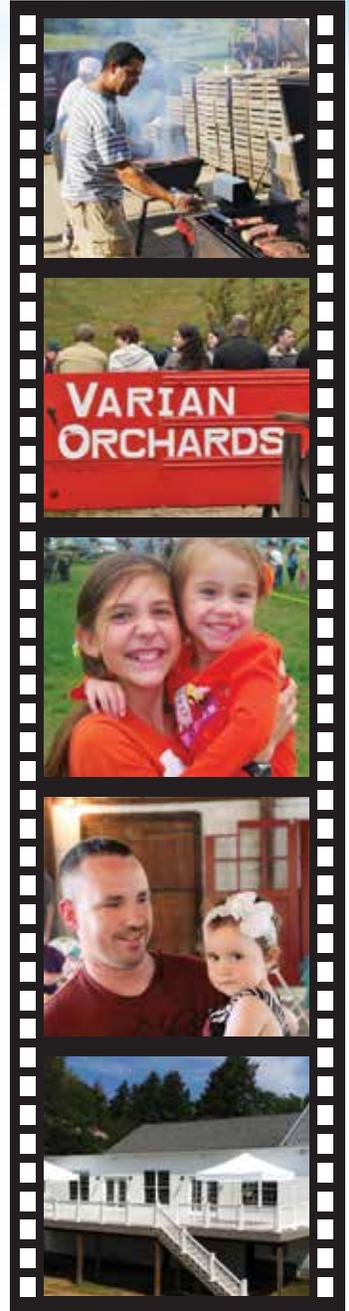
As non-profits around the country celebrated National Volunteer Week from April 12th – April 18th, our thoughts turned to the volunteers who help make Community Harvest a success. Whether it is the volunteers who deliver food to our thirty-two collaborative soup kitchens and hot meal sites, the folks who serve the food each week, over ninety different food donors, or the nearly one hundred volunteers who helped make our 23rd Annual Celebrity Cuisine a success, we recognize that **YOU** are the backbone of our mission. We could not do it without you!

As an effort to express our appreciation, the Community Harvest Staff and Board of Directors host an Annual Appreciation Dinner each June. Our 2015 annual appreciation dinner is a steak fry to be held on **Thursday, June 18th from 5:30 – 9:00 pm** at Varian Orchards in East Canton. The dinner line will open at 6:00 pm.

Attendees will have an opportunity to enjoy a trolley ride throughout the scenic orchards, play cornhole, and enjoy a delicious steak or chicken dinner with baked potato, pasta, salad, rolls, desserts, and assorted beverages including beer, sangria, water, and lemonade for one low admission price of only \$25.00 per person. Children aged 5-12 are only \$10.00. Children under 5 are free. No actual tickets for the event will be provided. Guest names will be placed on a list for check-in at the door. We expect seating to go very quickly, so please RSVP by Tuesday, June 9th. More information is available by calling the Community Harvest office at 330-493-0800.

“This is one of my favorite events of the year,” commented Brian Abbey, current Board President. “It is hard to find a steak dinner in Stark County priced at only \$25.00. This is not an event that Community Harvest hosts as a fundraiser as the ticket price does not even cover all of our expenses. The emphasis is about expressing our appreciation for all of our volunteers and supporters who give generously of their time, talents, and donations to help make Community Harvest so effective and beneficial for our community.” Special awards will be presented to key supporters during our 2014-2015 year, which will include Outstanding Community Support Award, Outstanding Community Partner Award, and Outstanding Business Support Award. We will also acknowledge the recipient of the Deloris Cope Humanitarian Award, a distinguished award presented to a community leader or business who has demonstrated exemplary social service to the community and dedication to reducing hunger in Stark County.

*Thank you, Volunteers!*



### Connect With Community Harvest

**Phone** 330.493.0800  
**Address** 4915 Fulton Dr. NW, Unit 7, Canton, OH 44718  
**Email** [faith@communityharveststark.org](mailto:faith@communityharveststark.org)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/communityharvestofstark>



# Thank You To Our Sponsors

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# 23RD ANNUAL CELEBRITY CUISINE

## Another Huge Success!



The Canton Charge April play-off schedule may have moved our Annual Celebrity Cuisine from April to March, but one thing remained the same - It was a tremendous success! Held on Tuesday, March 24th, "foodies" from all over NE Ohio enjoyed unlimited access to appetizers, entrée samples, beer, wine, and desserts while they listened to live music, bid on our Silent Auction, and purchased envelopes from our enormous giving tree. Our expanded floor and stage seating combined with an additional beer vendor made our 23rd Annual Celebrity Cuisine the most positively talked about event to date!

**Celebrity Cuisine** would not be possible without the many months of planning orchestrated by the Tri-County Restaurant Association, the generous restaurant participants, celebrity chefs, sponsors, and nearly one hundred volunteers who work so hard to make this event a success. **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended, volunteered, and participated in 2015! The date for our 2016 Celebrity Cuisine will be announced shortly. We promise that it will continue to be "a laid back, well-priced, feeding frenzy" that Tri-County Restaurant Association has perfected over the years.



Additional pictures from the 23rd Annual Celebrity Cuisine can be found on the Community Harvest Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/communityharvestofstark>). Please take a minute to like us while visiting our page!

# Uniting to Fight Hunger

## WINDOW CLING PROJECT TO HELP CONSUMERS IDENTIFY SUPPORTERS IS UNDERWAY!

*Our Spring 2015 Newsletter is all about GIVING THANKS and APPRECIATION!*

*There is one particular group that Community Harvest could not exist without – OUR FOOD DONORS!*

Community Harvest is able to provide a broad and dedicated resource for all food industry businesses to call when they have excess food. After 26 years of connecting food donors with dedicated community agencies who serve the food, we have a good pulse on all of the hot meal programs in Stark County as well as their unique needs. But, donating food requires a COMMITMENT. We applaud our donors for their continued commitment and dedication to helping those less fortunate in Stark County.

As an effort to express our appreciation to our dedicated donors, Community Harvest has created “Window Clings” for our food donors and food industry supporters to proudly display on their front doors or windows. Recipients of these window clings will include our regular weekly food donors, restaurants who donate their time and food during our Annual Celebrity Cuisine, and restaurants who support Community Harvest events with gift certificates or in-kind donations. We hope to have the window clings distributed by July 1st.



*With a strong marketing campaign, consumers will be urged to...*



*“Look for the sign before they dine.”*

### WE OFTEN GET ASKED AT COMMUNITY HARVEST HOW WE IDENTIFY NEW FOOD DONORS FOR OUR PROGRAM.

A lot of our food donors join our program by word of mouth while a large number of them are referred to us through the “Food Donation Connection” program. The Food Donation Connection provides an alternative to discarding surplus wholesome food by linking food service donors with surplus food to local hunger relief agencies. They do this by creating and maintaining an efficient communication and reporting network that links available sources of food to those in need through these existing charitable organizations. As the largest Prepared and Perishable Food Rescue program in NE Ohio, Community Harvest is the “go to agency” in Stark County for the Food Donation Connection to call when new restaurants express a desire to donate their excess food. This was not the exception when Bloomin’ Brands made the decision to begin donating their wholesome food for a better good!

The Bloomin’ Brands name is synonymous with exceptional quality and a welcoming hospitality and includes three local restaurants that we all know and love – Outback Steakhouse, Bonefish Grill, and Carrabba’s Italian Grill. All three restaurants became regular food donors and joined the Community Harvest family in March of this year, and our receiving sites could not be more thrilled! “Carrabba’s has been a tremendous blessing to our hot meal program,” commented Judie Peters, Food Coordinator at Canton Calvary Mission. “With numerous programs and services offered by Canton Calvary Mission including a food pantry, free tutoring, a children’s art program, and so much more, food that is already prepared with only the need of a re-heating is such a valuable resource for our weekly hot meal programs. We appreciate Community Harvest for delivering healthy, surplus food right to our doors every other Wednesday.”

**BLOOMIN’ BRANDS, INC. Joins Community Harvest!**



*For more information about The Food Donation Connection, please visit [www.foodtodonate.com](http://www.foodtodonate.com)*

# THE HISTORY OF COMMUNITY HARVEST

*Told by Community Harvest Historian, Judie Cohodas*

Board members provide the backbone and foundation of non-profits across Stark County. The time served on a non-profit board can span from one year to decades with tenure sometimes being cut short by term limits, work responsibilities, and family obligations. Community Harvest is fortunate to have an existing board member who helped start our mission and served as a member of the Stark County Hunger Task Force (SCHTF) before Community Harvest was formed. In her own words, Judie Cohodas shares her story and how Community Harvest first got started:

*I joined SCHTF and became an active board member in 1982. Deloris Cope, one of the founders, mentored me. She taught me good ethics, respect for our clients, and to value each board member's ideas and ways of contributing. I learned from Deloris and soon worked my way up to the Vice President position in 1989. By this time, the SCHTF had grown and was providing food to over 25 pantries.*

*One of our members was taken-back by a recent event he had witnessed and thought more could be done to address hunger in Stark County. He had seen a homeless man eating out of a trash can in downtown Canton. After much discussion, we decided to do something. Someone said "the restaurants have all the food, let's contact them." I volunteered to lead a committee with Mary Martensen and Bob Bonaduce. Then, I contacted Carol King, Executive Director of the Tri-County Restaurant Association at the time, and we formed a committee. The original members were Judie Cohodas, Becky Labowitz, Mary Martensen, Bob Bonaduce, Deloris Cope, Carol Hawk, Douglas Hosterman, Michael Kazes, and Gary Kelley.*

*Our first meeting was held in February 1989 at the Country Manor Restaurant. Topics we discussed were setting up our own hot meal program, guidelines for transporting food, refrigerated truck acquisition, appropriate food handling practices, health department issues, and a hotline for the coordination of hot meal programs in Stark County. We had our work cut-out for us!*

*When the original committee returned and brought other interested persons with them (Bill Smuckler, Richard Kubilus, and Dave Wackerly), we were already well on our way to starting the first prepared and perishable food rescue program.*

*When Community Harvest started in 1989, the founding members were focused on identifying a sustainable solution to hunger by focusing on the involvement of the restaurant and food industry. Our initial efforts led to the passing of Good Samaritan laws in the state of Ohio, which protect food donors and the volunteers who distribute the food from liability.*

The initial vision of Community Harvest started with only seven food donors, two agency recipients, and roughly 8000 pounds of food being delivered in the first year by board members and volunteers in their own vehicles. Community Harvest is now a "link" for over 90 local restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, farmers, cafeterias, and hospital kitchens to donate their unused and healthy food to 32 community-based organizations in Stark County, providing over \$1.5 million in wholesome food to Stark county residents each year.



*(Left to Right in 1990) Community Harvest board members, Judie Cohodas, Mike Kazes, and Doug Hosterman presenting an Award of Achievement to Senator Scott Oeslager for his efforts to help get the "Ohio Good Samaritan Law" passed, the 4th state in the country to acquire liability protection for food donors.*

*Congratulations!*  
**Christina Furney**

## 2015 YStark 20 Under 40! Award Recipient



**Christina Furney**

Twenty under 40! recognizes young professionals across various sectors of the business, civic, government, arts, education, and non-profit communities. According to the ystark website, "Nominees are selected based on career acumen, community service and trusteeship, and personal and professional achievements."

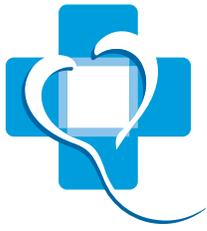
The board members of Community Harvest work tirelessly to execute our mission and increase our footprint to "stomp" out hunger in Stark County. So, it was no surprise to us when a second board member, Christina Furney, was recently announced as a 2015 twenty under 40! award recipient. Faith Barbato, who nominated Christina, submitted the following testimonial of Christina's commitment to Stark County, her family, and the welfare of others: "Christina lives by the motto, 'although I can't do everything, I will certainly do anything I can to help those I can.' Her endless list of accomplishments, volunteer work, and non-profit involvement certainly tells another story. It appears that she is involved in EVERYTHING! From raising her brother as the custodial parent since he was 13 to serving as President on several local non-profit boards to chairing a fundraiser raising over \$200,000 for Akron Children's Hospital, Christina is a true servant leader that has made a tremendous impact on individuals and organizations throughout Stark County."

**Christina follows Kristen Petrilla, another Community Harvest board member who received the prestigious Twenty under 40! award in 2013!**



**Kristen Petrilla**

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



Stark County  
Medical Society

## 14TH ANNUAL STARK MEDICAL SOCIETY GOLF OUTING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

Remember how much fun you had at the 2014 Stark County Medical Society Golf Outing to benefit Community Harvest? Save the date of **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th** on your calendars because the SCMS is partnering with Community Harvest again to make 2015 our best outing ever!

### SKYLAND PINES GOLF COURSE

10:30 AM Registration

11:30 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Shotgun Start

6:30 PM Dinner

**Only \$75/Golfer and \$300/Foursome**

*Registration is quick and easy. Just visit our website at [www.communityharveststark.org](http://www.communityharveststark.org) and click the Fundraising-Events page. The mail-in registration form will be found below the picture after June 1st.*

## 4TH ANNUAL HARVEST MOON RUN

*Sunday, October 11, 2015*

Our scenic trail course at Varian Orchards in East Canton, chaperoned kid's area, grilled food, and post-race bonfires are the top reasons avid runners, new runners, and families alike keep coming back. We've added a few changes for 2015! We've moved our date to a Sunday, and a 10k option has been added for participants who couldn't get enough with just one time around our challenging course.

Registration is now OPEN and available at [www.runtoyouracing.com](http://www.runtoyouracing.com). The registration fee for the 5k Run, 5k Walk, 10k Run, and 1 Mile Scenic Walk is the same and only \$25 through August 1st! Registrants of all events will receive a long-sleeved logo t-shirt, goodie bag, a post-race food coupon, and drink coupons for the after race bonfire party, which will include delicious grilled food from Santangelo Catering, hot and cold apple cider, lemonade, beer, and music.

**We're  
moving to a  
Sunday!**

### 5K and 10k Event Summary

The Harvest Moon Run 5k offers a challenging 3.1 mile cross country trail course, winding through apple orchards and woods that participants can either walk or run. Our 10k event provides a challenging experience for the most competitive runners and entails two laps around our challenging course. All 5k and 10k participants will be electronic chip timed with results uploaded to [www.runtoyouracing.com](http://www.runtoyouracing.com).

### 1 Mile Trail Walk

A scenic 1 mile trail walk has been established as a non-competitive and fun walk for those who prefer to take in the breathtaking sights that Varian Orchards has to offer. The 1 mile trail walk is not chip timed.

### Kid's Play Area and Free Fun Run

A special kid's play area has been created with adult chaperones to watch the children while you run or walk the trail course. Children 6 & under are invited to join our free kids' run. Each child participating in the run will receive a goodie bag.

### Registration

Registration fee for the 10k, 5k Run, 5k Walk, and 1 Mile Scenic Walk is the same. Registrants of all events will receive a long-sleeved logo t-shirt, goodie bag, a post-race food coupon, and drink coupons for the after race bonfire, which will include delicious grilled food from Santangelo Catering, hot and cold apple cider, lemonade, beer, and music.

**EARLY BIRD: Only \$25 through August 1st**

**August 2nd through October 4th - \$30**

**October 5th until Race Day - \$35**

**Race Day Registration will ONLY be available at Varian Orchards from 1:00-2:30**

\* On-Line registration ends at midnight on Sunday, October 4th

\*\* Apparel and sizing is not guaranteed after October 4th

### SPONSORED BY



### Awards

10k and 5k awards will be presented to the top three overall male and female finishers as well as the top 3 in each age group (12 & under, 13-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, and 75+).

**Early Bib and Packet pick-up will be available from 5-7 PM on Friday, October 9th at the entrance of Varian Orchards**

### REGISTER ONLINE AT

**[www.runtoyouracing.com](http://www.runtoyouracing.com)**

Questions for the event can be directed to:

Faith Barbato, Community Harvest Executive Director

Phone: 330-493-0800

[faith@communityharveststark.org](mailto:faith@communityharveststark.org)





# 2015 BLOOD DRIVE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2015

## EXTEND YOUR ARM AND EXTEND A LIFE!

Community Harvest is joining forces with the Aultman Blood Center on Wednesday, May 6th from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm to fight hunger in Stark County while saving lives. 60 blood donors will result in a donation from the Aultman Blood Center large enough to provide over 3000 meals. Although walk-ins are welcome, you can avoid a long wait by calling the Community Harvest office at 493-0800 to make your appointment in advance for either location. Please remember that you must be at least 17 years old to donate and at least 110 pounds with a valid state-issued ID. You can contact Community Harvest for more information regarding donor eligibility.



**Blood donations can be given from  
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Wednesday,  
May 6th at one of these locations:**

**415 Group Parking Lot:**  
4100 Holiday Street NW

**Community Harvest Office:**  
4915 Fulton Drive NW