



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Greater Cleveland Food Bank partners with Maple Heights Food Pantry to
open Food Resource Center**

Maple Heights, OH – As of Monday, August 27, 2018, the Maple Heights Food Pantry, a dedicated partner of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, has expanded to become a Food Resource Center. In their six county service area, the Food Bank is working to establish 10 Food Resource Centers that not only provide food, but help to address the root causes of hunger. Food Resource Centers are held to the highest Food Bank standards and each distribute more than 250,000 pounds of food per year.

Maple Heights Food Pantry and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank have partnered to serve area residents since 2008. Under the guidance of the site director, Linda Vopat, Director of Human Services at Maple Heights Senior Center, this program has grown tremendously since it first began. In 2016, Linda won the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Ed Worley Award, which is awarded to an individual who exhibits strong leadership, advocacy, and passion within their community in the fight against hunger relief. The Maple Heights Food Pantry is open three days a week, including one evening to help accommodate those families that work during the day.

Over the past 10 years, the Maple Heights Food Pantry has distributed over 1.6 million pounds to people in the community through their pantry and mobile produce distributions. In 2017, they provided more than 125,000 meals to 8,432 people. As a Food Resource Center, Maple Heights Food Pantry will have the capacity to distribute even more nutritious food to people in need.

This and other Food Resource Centers will provide enhanced access to food through expanded operating hours, with a strong emphasis on nutritious foods and fresh produce. Working in partnership with other community organizations, they will help clients access related services such as those that assist in employment, housing, or healthcare. Along with providing wrap-around service, Food Resource Centers provide increased food storage, have enhanced capacity to serve diverse populations, and collaborate within their communities. Food Resource Centers are also provided expanded support from the Food Bank including priority access to capacity funding, growth training opportunities, and infrastructure upgrades.

The Maple Heights Food Pantry is open Tuesdays 12 pm to 3 pm, Wednesdays 9 am to 12 pm, and Thursdays 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at 17100 Broadway Avenue in Maple Heights. If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Help Center at 216.738.2067 to find a Food Resource Center or partner program near you.



Greater Cleveland Food Bank

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, having made possible over 55 million meals in 2017 to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties. The Food Bank's mission is to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. We do this through both food distribution and SNAP outreach efforts. For more information, please visit www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org.