



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

food
for thought

“IT’S LESS ABOUT THE FOOD, IT’S MORE ABOUT THE THOUGHT.”

Food For Thought is a Toledo-based and Toledo-focused organization dedicated to feeding and nourishing our community. We have taken our grassroots program directly into neighborhoods and the street, meeting and bringing food to people where they live. We build meaningful relationships with the people we serve, and we feed our neighbors with dignity and respect.

One in four families in Toledo experiences hunger. Food For Thought programs and partnerships strive to create a community where the hunger for food, respect, and belonging is met for all people.



Moves the food to the people.

Our Mobile Pantries visit 10-12 different schools, community centers, churches, and partner agencies every month. We take food to the people, assist them in selecting fresh produce and pantry staples.

Serves all people and never turns anyone away.

Families in need are asked only to present ID to receive 3-4 grocery bags of food every visit and can shop with us as often as needed, even without ID. We also serve those who don't qualify for state aid.

Is Reliable.

Every Saturday morning we hit the streets with PB&J lunches. Since its inception, Food for Thought has never missed a Saturday morning. Through blizzards and heat waves, the people we serve know they can count on us to be there.

Provides a Community for those in need.

Hunger is only one of many things people in poverty experience. Isolation and loneliness can be just as crippling. Our innovative program includes relationship building with those we serve. **We stop for introductions and conversations with anyone who wants to connect.**

Serves everyone in our community with respect and strives to preserve the dignity of every person we encounter.

We don't just feed people, we nourish them. We listen to and get to know our Saturday morning PB&J lunch patrons. And we listen and act on feedback from those we serve, our volunteers, and donors.

2018 SNAP SHOTS

The Toledo community is great enough and our resources are plentiful enough to put an end to hunger, right here. It will require purposeful planning as well as collaboration with a multitude of other like-minded organizations.

PB&J Distributions



Mobile Pantries



Jam City 2018

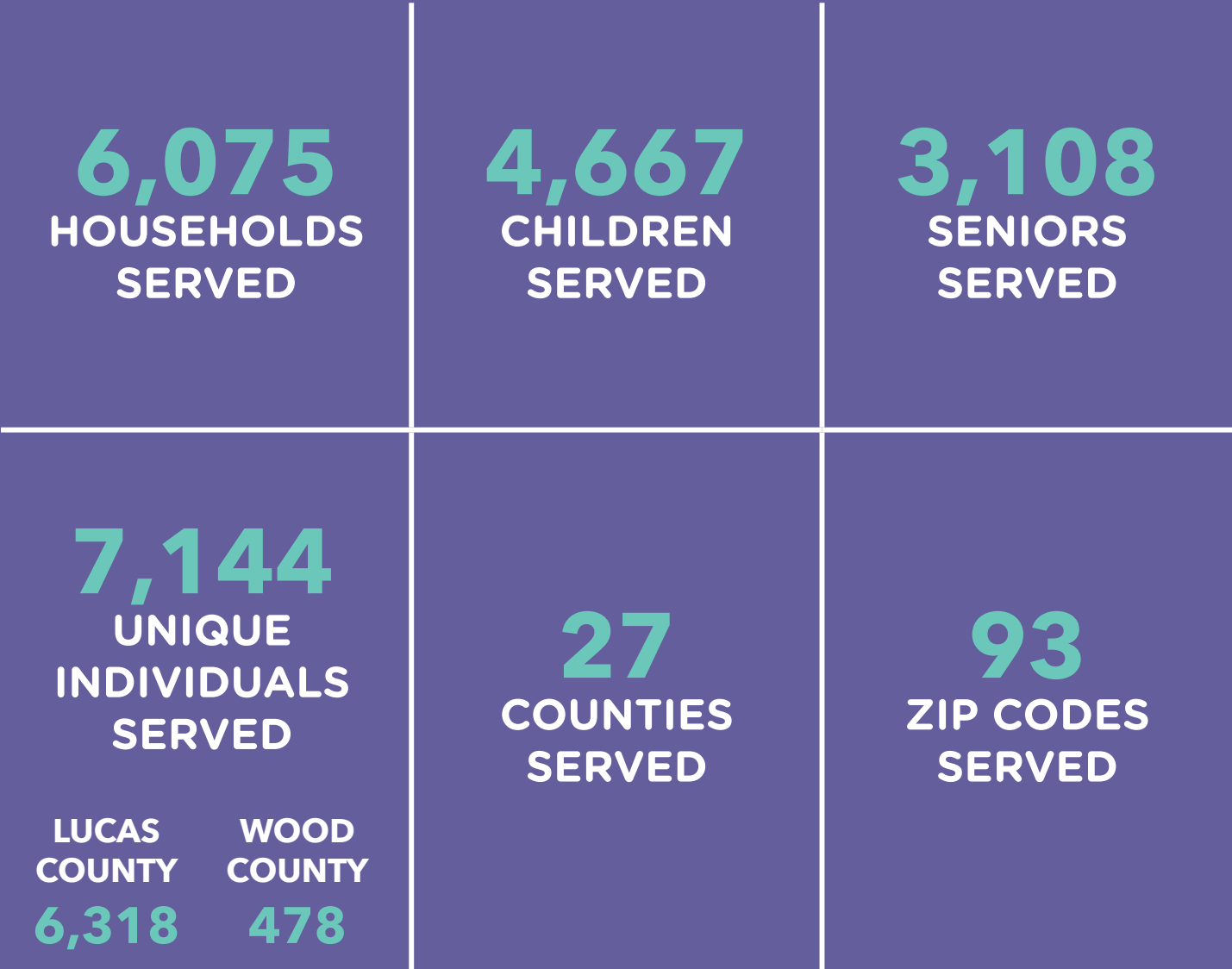


Walt Churchill Half Marathon & ProMedica 5K to End Hunger



2018 PANTRY STATISTICS

TOTAL INSTANCES OF SERVICE - 15,182



VISIT FREQUENCY BY CLIENT



2018 VOLUNTEER STATS



TOTAL VOLUNTEER
HOURS FOR 2018

2,937



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

1196

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Food For Thought. We could not run our programs as efficiently or effectively without the time, energy, and love that our committed volunteers dedicate every day. You make it possible to feed Toledo thoughtfully year in and year out. Thank you!

STRENGTHENING OUR HEART

Food For Thought was born with a vibrant heart, caring for the poor and hungry, offering both food and friendship. That alone is inspiring! But even more incredible is the fact that FFT volunteers have carried out that same act of kindness **every weekend** for almost 12 years without missing a single time. It is this heart and consistency we not only want to preserve but strengthen in the year ahead - **to ensure that this basic passion is demonstrated in every aspect of our work.** Not because we are obligated, or because it makes us feel good or look good, but because there is a need. And, **that need is a 'someone'** facing not just food insecurity but often loneliness as well.



**"I'M 58 YEARS
OLD. I LOVE TO
COOK FRESH
VEGETABLES. FOOD
FOR THOUGHT
HELPS ME DO THAT.
I CANNOT COOK
FROM THE BOX."**

CHERYL

2007

PB&J starts
happening organically
**Food For Thought
Toledo Inc.**, official launch

Our first food pantry

Faithful volunteers serve
PB&J lunches on our 100th
consecutive Saturday

2009

2011

Serving at 4 mobile
pantry sites across the
Toledo region

2012

Our partnership with Toledo
Farmers' Market began,
helping us to continue our
mission of providing nutritious
choice in our pantries

2013

Oregon-Maumee Bay Chamber of
Commerce recognizes **Food For
Thought** as the Non-Profit of the Year!

Our first Jam City event raising \$9000

A grant from ProMedica Advocacy
Fund enables us to purchase a
second mobile pantry trailer and
increase mobile pantry sites from 10
to 24 across the Toledo region

2016

Food For Thought collaborates with
faith based partners in NW Ohio
and Michigan to respond to people
affected by the Flint Water Crisis

1st Eat in the Street event

Our first holiday food box
distribution in partnership with
Pathway

2017

Food For Thought turns 10!

The Toledo SOUP Award allowed
us to provide culturally appropriate
food boxes for 25 immigrant and
refugee families resettling in Toledo

2018

Our pantry warehouse moves to
Lott Industries at the beginning
of a new partnership

Our fantastic volunteers serve
PB&J lunches on our 600th
consecutive Saturday

STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE

Putting hunger out of business is a monumental undertaking! But, this is exactly how we describe our goal. We don't want to justify our existence by recording the increasing numbers of patrons we serve.

IT ALL STARTS WITH

Individual donations

Corporate sponsors

Corporate match programs

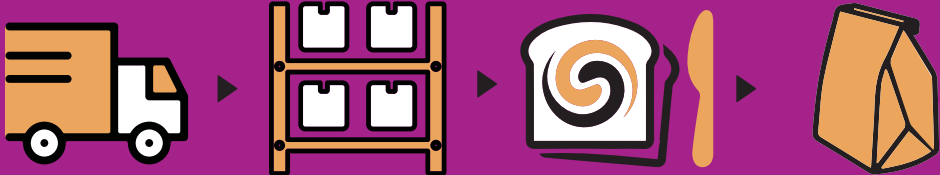
Church and school donations

Grants

In-kind donations



THE PB&J PROCESS



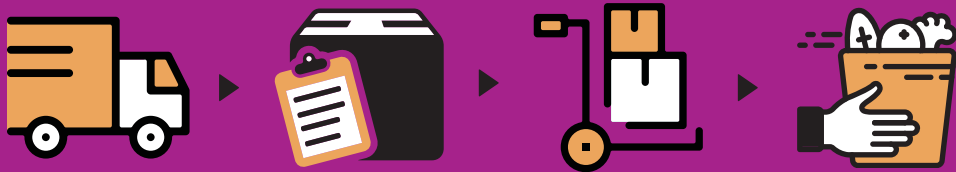
Our truck and trailer pick up donated supplies from community food drives

Supplies are joined with individual donations on the PB&J storage wall

Friday night PB&J lunch packing with volunteers

Saturday morning downtown lunch distribution by volunteers

THE PANTRY PROCESS



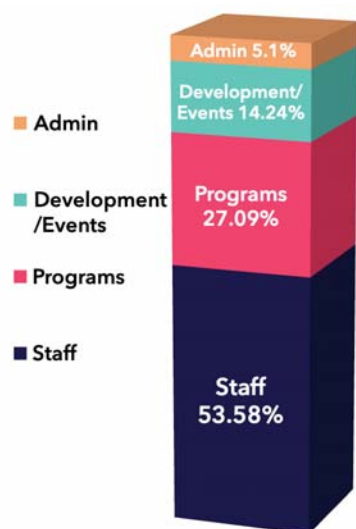
Our truck and trailer pick up supplies from food banks and produce suppliers

Food is brought back to the warehouse to be unloaded, sorted, and inventoried

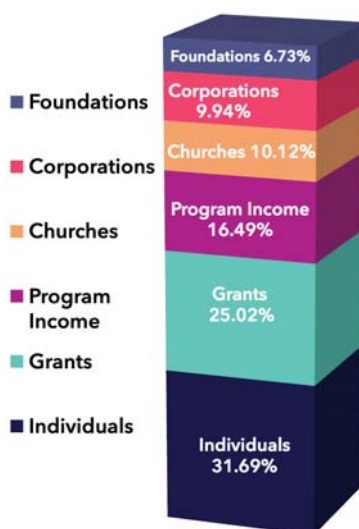
Packed shelves are loaded onto the trailer and driven to the host pantry site

Shelves are rolled out at host site to serve pantry shoppers

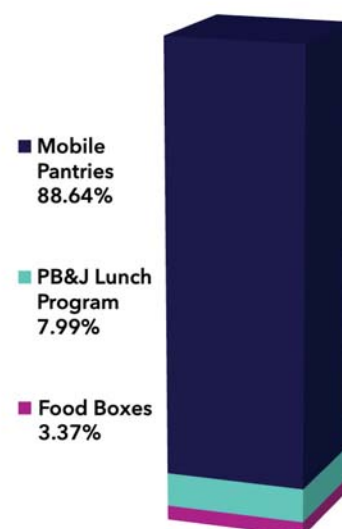
EXPENSE BY CATEGORY



INCOME BY CATEGORY



EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



“I WAS A PHARMACY
TECHNICIAN AND I
JUST LOST MY JOB OF
FIVE YEARS. THIS IS MY
FIRST TIME AT FOOD
FOR THOUGHT. I HAVE A
MODERATE TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY AND I’M JUST
TRYING TO GET BACK ON
MY FEET. FOOD FROM HERE
WILL HELP ME TAKE CARE
OF MYSELF AND MY CAT”

NICOLE



THANK YOU

Without the unwavering and often sacrificial support of volunteers, partners and donors Food For Thought simply would not function. These are the real heroes who make it all possible. We offer many thanks to all who have played such a significant role!

VOLUNTEERS

Individuals
School groups
Church groups
Corporate groups
Teams

DONORS

Corporations
Churches
Schools
Individuals
In-kind donations
Event sponsors

FOOD SOURCING PARTNERS

Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
Seagate Food Bank
Enpuzzlement Food Bank
Walt Churchill's Market - Bread rescue program
Local Farms
Food Drives

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Trinity Episcopal Church
FFT office and PB&J host

Lott Industries
Warehouse host

Toledo Famer's Market
Host for FFT donation booth

Faith Community United Church
Pantry host

Crossroads on 23
Pantry host

Nova Faith
Pantry host

St. Paul's Episcopal
Pantry host

Waite High School
Pantry host

Pinewood Tabernacle
Pantry host

Robinson Elementary
Pantry host

Lott Industries
Pantry host

Agape Community Center
Pantry host

Pathway Inc.*
Pantry host

TMACOG Furlough Pantry*
Pantry host

This year we are challenging our FFT family - the network of all who support us and our mission - to make a difference by pledging a monthly amount. If **1,000 people** would pledge a gift of just **\$10 a month**, it would make a huge difference in our financial strength and sustainability. **Let's strengthen our resolve together!**

DONATE NOW

Detach and mail completed forms to
Food for Thought, Toledo Inc. 316 Adams Street #2, Toledo, OH 43604
To donate online, visit **feedtoledo.org**

Your support brings groceries and produce to families on mobile pantries across the region, and it packs PB&J lunches which are delivered with a smile every single weekend.

Contact Information

Name

First Name

Last Name

Organization/Employer

Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

State

ZIP/Postal Code

Email

Phone

Credit Card Information

Donation Amount

☐ Charge this amount to my card monthly.

☐ Add 3% to my total amount to cover the processing fee.

Card Number

Expiration Date

Zip Code

Signature

Karl Strauss - Board Chair

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Software Implementation Specialist, Solana

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Wallick Communities

Sandra Irvine

Chef, Host of the Fat Cat Cooking Show on iHeart Radio Fox Sports

Director Culinary Instruction, The Opportunity Kitchen

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Jonathon Richards

Senior Tax Associate

Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

STAFF

Caitlin Ballinger

Associate Director

Liz Dickens

Warehouse Coordinator

Dennis Westlake

Executive Director



**“PAY IT FORWARD.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
HELPS US OUT SO MUCH.
I HATE THAT I HAVE
TO BE HERE, SO I TRY
TO HELP AS MUCH AS I
CAN, WHOEVER I CAN,
BECAUSE I GET THIS
HELP. IT’S ROUGH. IT’LL
GET BETTER.”**

MELISSA



**“THIS IS MY SECOND
YEAR USING FOOD FOR
THOUGHT. THEY ARE
SO FRIENDLY AND THEY
DON’T JUDGE US. FOOD
FOR THOUGHT HELPS
ME DRAMATICALLY. I GET
VERY LITTLE FROM THE
GOVERNMENT, AND THAT’S
REALLY HARD.”**

CATHERINE



316 Adams Street #2
Toledo, OH 43604

Thoughts on Hunger

Did you know that 1 in 4 families in our community struggle with hunger each year?

Childhood hunger is a major issue in Toledo. 80% of children in Toledo Public Schools and 60% of children in Washington Local Schools are eligible for free and reduced school meals?

In Ohio, nearly 18% of older adults struggle with food insecurity. Nationally, there has been a 65% increase in senior hunger from 2007 to 2014, which is credited partially to the economic recession that started in 2007.

1 in 5 Lucas County residents lives in poverty. While struggling to afford basic living expenses, many have to choose between putting food on the table and covering the cost of rent, utilities, medication, education, and transportation.

You can ensure that food is one less thing for our neighbors in need to worry about. Give or serve with Food For Thought today.

Give Online
feedtoledo.org

Checks by mail
Food For Thought
316 Adams Street #2
Toledo, OH 43604

To learn more about our work and how you can get involved, visit us at feedtoledo.org

**E-mail us directly at info@feedtoledo.org
Call us at 419.972.0022**

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