



food
for thought

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

food for thought

*Creating a community where the hunger for food,
respect, and belonging is met for all people.*

We serve Everyone in our community with respect and strive 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 all of our patrons. And we listen and act on feedback from those we serve, our volunteers, and donors.

We Move the food to the people.

Our Mobile Pantries visit 10 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.

We Serve all people and never turn 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. We also serve those who don't qualify for state aid.

We are Reliable.

Every Saturday morning we hit the streets with PB&J lunches. Since its inception, Food for Thought has never missed a Saturday morning. That's over 150,000 lunches! Through blizzards and heat waves, the people we serve know they can count on us to be there.

We provide a Community for those in need.

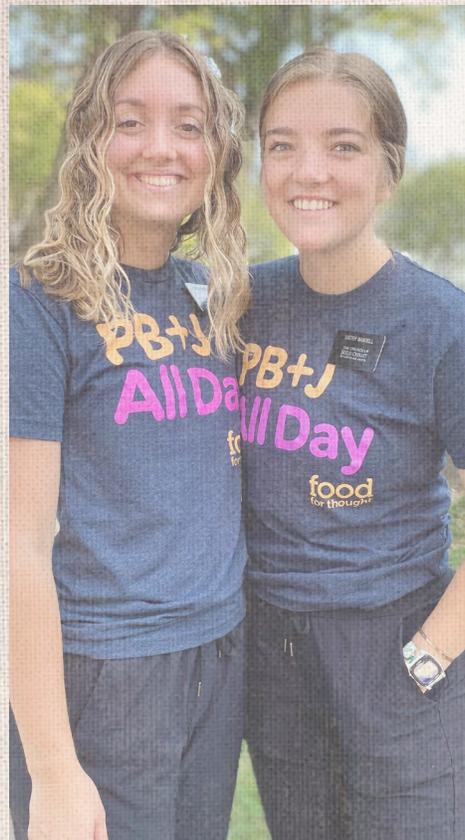
Hunger is only one of many things people in poverty experience. Isolation and loneliness can be just as crippling. Our innovative program includes relationship building with those we serve. **We stop for introductions and conversations with anyone who wants to connect.**

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.



Sister Fenton

"I like volunteering for FFT because of the people. Not only the other volunteers but also the people we're serving. They are so loving and kind. I've made it a goal to get to know at least one new person every week. The people are what keep me coming back."



Sister Mansell

"Volunteering at PB&J reminds me what is important in life. I look forward to coming every weekend...it's uplifting and brightens up my week. We're making a difference we can actually see."

Our first food pantry
Faithful volunteers serve PB&J lunches on our 100th consecutive Saturday

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

Our healthy recipe box initiative starts, providing dietary specific ingredients for quick, easy meals to diabetic patients and expectant moms

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

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

Collaborated with ProMedica Ebeid Center to pack & deliver food boxes to low income families and seniors during the Covid Pandemic

2007

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

2009

2011

Serving at 4 mobile pantry sites across the Toledo region

2012

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

2013

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 turns 10!

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

2018

Partnering with area churches, schools, and community centers to offer ten mobile food pantry locations in food desert areas.

2019

2020

Partnered with Maumee Bay Brewing Company to host our first Hop Chef event raising over \$5,000

2021

Collaborated with the Toledo Potters Guild and Toledo Metroparks to hold an inaugural lunchtime event, Empty Bowls

Letter from the Executive Director

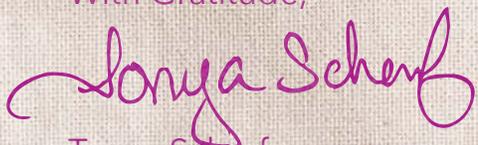
As I reflect on the past year, it seems the challenges just kept coming. It's during these continued difficult times, that I am reminded of the strength and support of our community. It's because of this unwavering commitment that Food for Thought has not only survived during these times, but thrived in spite of them. We have celebrated many accomplishments such as, new events, stronger partnerships, a sustainable mobile pantry network, and expanded services. None of which would be possible without our amazing supporters, volunteers, donors, staff, and Board of Directors.

In 2021, we provided groceries to more than 5,000 households which equaled almost 13,000 people in total. We also saw a record breaking increase in the number of new families served. Awareness of our programs and services continued to spread to those in need.

As we move into this next year, we will continue feeding the hungry in a thoughtful way. This encompasses considering the real needs of those we are serving, caring about their health and well-being, addressing isolation, showing hospitality, and demonstrating that every person has dignity and worth regardless of their situation.

Thank you for being a part of the Food for Thought family! Your support, gifts, encouragement, and dedication keep us going. Together we can ensure everyone in Lucas County is served in a thoughtful and dignified manner and continue to demonstrate that in every aspect of our work.

With Gratitude,



Tonya Scherf

MOBILE PANTRY STATISTICS

12,489 TOTAL INSTANCES OF SERVICE



5,086
HOUSEHOLDS



11,717
ADULTS (18-59)



4,095
SENIORS



3,224
CHILDREN



James

"You guys are awesome! I like coming here and just hanging out with everyone. I feel like I can make a difference too."





Be One Of The Thousand

We are challenging our Food for Thought family to become One of the Thousand. If 1,000 people from our family - the network of all who support FFT and its mission - would pledge a gift of just \$10 a month for one year, it would make a huge difference in our financial strength and sustainability. That's the cost of one lunch. It's the difference between offering 4 fresh produce choices or 6 to the families we serve. It means having frozen meat and dairy at every pantry (not just some of them). And to make it easy, we can set up automatic monthly payments for 12 months. Let's strengthen our resolve together! **Step up and be One of the Thousand!** Schedule your monthly gift at feedtoledo.org OR 419-314-4866



Faces of Food for Thought



Carol

"It's hard to make ends meet every month so sometimes I have to stop at a food pantry. I like going to Food for Thought's mobile pantry because they treat me good. They are always happy to see me and very respectful. I also try and help others as much as I can because we all need help from time to time"



Cathy

"Being a single mother is hard financially sometimes. We get help when we need it. Food for Thought helps us out so much. We don't want to have to be here but the people are nice and my daughter can pick out what kind of cereal she likes. It's nice to know someone cares."



Brian

"I love hanging out at my normal spot on Saturdays passing out lunches and bottled water. I've made new friends and it's given me the opportunity to connect with so many people."



Denny

Denny is a familiar face on Saturday mornings. He's been coming to our lunch distribution site for many years. He started off receiving lunches from us and is now one of our lead volunteers in the PB&J program. "Giving back is the most important thing I do".



Darnell

"I started coming down to help Food for Thought pass out lunches in 2014. I couldn't believe the volunteers showed up every single week. I love being a part of helping the community in this way".

THANK YOU

Without the unwavering and often sacrificial support of our volunteers, partners, and donors, Food for Thought simply would not exist. These are the real heroes who make it all possible. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have played such a significant role in helping us feed Toledo!

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
- Sam Okun Produce Company
- Empuzzlement
- Walt Churchill's Market
- Market on the Green
- Local Farms
- Corporate & Business Food Drives



PROGRAM PARTNERS

Lott Industries
Toledo Farmer's Market
Wonder Hostess Thrift Shop
Crossroads on 23
Nova Faith
St. Paul's Episcopal
Agape Community Center
Augsburg Lutheran Church
Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
TARTA
Starbucks
Planet Fitness
ProMedica Ebeid Center
The Anderson's
Owens Corning
Toledo Roadrunners

BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Chrzanowski,
Board Chair
Scot Henshaw,
Vice Chair
Chris Rowe,
Treasurer
Heather Woods,
Co-Treasurer
Sandra Irvine
David Schwartz
Wendy Miller
George Benson
Keith Mathis Smith

REVENUE SOURCES

TOTAL INCOME: \$183,236



Food For Thought

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feedtoledo.org