

Hunger Action Month: ART ACTION



September 2013

Art Action Parameters

Students will learn about the condition of hunger in Ohio and the United States through a hands-on regional art showcase that runs September 2013 through November 2013. Educators can use this opportunity to either teach or allow students time for research on the condition of hunger and food insecurity. Students can then express their understanding of the issue through the creation of an interpretive visual art piece.

Timeframe:

The guidelines are flexible to fit your school's service learning schedule. The official launch is the beginning of September. Students have until November 27, 2013, to finish their visual art project. Mid-Ohio Foodbank will showcase students' art pieces during the month of December.

Announcement:

The artwork will be showcased by age category as follows: K through 2nd grade, 3rd through 5th grades, 6th through 8th grades and 9th through 12th grades. Mid-Ohio Foodbank will invite students, parents, guardians, teachers and friends to attend a finale recognition event on December 4, 2013, featuring displays of participants' artwork.

Acceptable Media:

- Designed T-shirt
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Painting
- Drawing
- Digital
- Printmaking

Contact:

Please send all visual art submissions to Tessa Dufresne at tdufresne@midohiofoodbank.org. For questions or concerns, she can be reached by email or telephone at (614) 782-5501.

Sources:
Mid-Ohio Foodbank;
The Center for Community Solutions;
Ohio Department of Education;
U.S. Department of Agriculture;
Feeding America;
Food Research and Action Center;
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks

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Facts about Mid-Ohio Foodbank

- Mid-Ohio Foodbank distributes more than 48,000,000 pounds of food and grocery products each year – enough to provide more than 107,000 meals each day.
- In Mid-Ohio Foodbank's network of food pantries, 35% of all requests for food are for children and 15% are for seniors. Requests for food at member pantries have risen about 40% since 2006.
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank distributes food to more than 550 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs and senior housing sites in 20 central and eastern Ohio counties. More than 300 of these agencies are located in Franklin County alone.
- Fresh produce makes up nearly 36% of Mid-Ohio Foodbank's distribution. In 2012 alone, the Foodbank distributed about 17.5 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. With other products such as bread, dairy and meat included, fresh foods account for 52% of distribution.
- In 2012, Kroger Community Pantry at Mid-Ohio Foodbank responded to more than 12,500 requests for assistance, serving more than 4,700 families. More than 1.4 million pounds of food and grocery products were distributed through the Pantry.
- In the past year, 13,500 volunteers generously contributed about 64,000 hours of their time at the Foodbank.
- Every \$1 donated to Mid-Ohio Foodbank allows for the distribution of \$8 worth of groceries or 4 meals.

Figures about the state of hunger in Ohio

- In 2012, the United States experienced an 8.6% unemployment rate. Ohio's unemployment rate was 7.2%.
- In any given week, 207,700 Ohioans receive emergency food assistance – 50% of Ohioans served must choose between paying for food and utilities/heat while 1/3 must choose between food and paying rent or mortgage.
- About 1.7 million Ohioans receive federal food assistance while 1,714,176 Ohio students accessed free or reduced-price school lunches in 2012.
- More than 1 in 4 Ohio families with children report not having enough money to buy food at times in 2011.
- Ohio ranks 20th in the nation for food hardship, with 26% reporting difficulty. Ohio is home to seven of the 100 most troubled metropolitan areas.

Definitions

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- **Food insecurity** is limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.
- **Hunger** is involuntary hunger that results from not being able to afford enough food. People are not counted as “hungry” for these statistics if they were hungry only because they were dieting to lose weight, fasting for religious reasons, or were just too busy to eat.

Related resources to help jumpstart your research project

1. Mid-Ohio Foodbank: <http://www.midohiofoodbank.org>
2. Feeding America: <http://www.feedingamerica.org>
3. No Kid Hungry: <http://www.nokidhungry.org>
4. Local Matters: <http://www.local-matters.org>
5. Ohio Association of Foodbanks: <http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org>
6. The Ohio Benefit Bank: <http://www.ohiobenefits.org>
7. United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service:
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us.aspx>
8. United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ech>
9. United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap>
10. United States Department of Agriculture Choose My Plate: <http://www.choosemyplate.gov>
11. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:
<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=USA>
12. Food Research and Action Center: <http://www.frac.org>
13. World Food Program USA: <http://usa.wfp.org>
14. Congressional Hunger Center: <http://www.hungercenter.org>
15. Children’s Hunger Alliance: <http://www.childrenshungeralliance.org>

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