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## Needs of families and children are growing

In these difficult economic times, no one person, nor one foundation, can help everyone. But together we can make a difference in the lives of those we touch – especially children.

In this issue of *Donor Connections* we profile three foundation-supported organizations making a big difference in the lives of children. Two provide food and clothing. The third uses an unusual setting to reach children with special educational or emotional needs.

What's more, we created a new fund – the Basic Needs Fund – in response to the economic downturn. This fund is helping sustain local nonprofits that assist Greater Clevelanders who lack such essentials as food, clothing, and shelter. Says Caprice Bragg, vice president of gift planning and donor relations, “We felt it was important to have a dedicated fund for donors who wish to help those struggling in the current economic climate.”

For more information about the Basic Needs Fund, please call our Gift Planning and Donor Relations team at 216-861-3810 or visit [www.clevelandfoundation.org/donors](http://www.clevelandfoundation.org/donors). Grants to this fund can be made by using the enclosed form or your Advisor Xpress account.

## Kids thrive in Foodbank’s healthy food programs

The Cleveland Foodbank, long supported by the foundation, has helped alleviate hunger in six Greater Cleveland counties by providing food and support to community organizations that feed the hungry, many of whom are children.

Since its founding in 1979 it has operated with a simple formula: Solicit donations of fresh and nonperishable foods, sort and repackage the food or prepare as complete meals



In the past year, the Cleveland Foodbank distributed 22 million pounds of food and essential products, enough for more than 16 million meals.

and distribute to hot meal programs, shelters, food pantries, and other nonprofit programs. Today, the Foodbank helps feed more than 160,000 people annually and 31 percent are children. Two of its programs are especially important to children: Kids Cafe and BackPack for Kids.

Kids Cafe provides a daily hot meal to children who participate in after-school activities at local community centers and other nonprofit organizations serving children from low-income households.

The meals are critical to these children, who often receive free breakfast and lunch during school hours, but may not have dinner when they return home in the

## Gaitway's equestrian program helps at-risk students succeed

You may have heard of the Gaitway School, where it's said that horses help teach the students.

The first of its kind in the country, this small, public high school operates in a nontraditional setting in which students with educational and emotional needs are integrated into the daily workings of the nationally recognized Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center, spending mornings in traditional classes and afternoons interacting with horses.

Fieldstone Farm's Gaitway School, supported in part by the foundation, serves students from Geauga and surrounding counties. They typically have a history of poor attendance and academic performance, but possess the potential to succeed in an alternative educational environment. Here, they find an accepting atmosphere, high expectations to succeed, encouragement, and purpose in their daily accomplishments.

Each year, some 24 students attend in grades nine through 12. Because many have struggled in other academic settings and need more time to graduate, Gaitway has a broad age range of students, from 14 to 22 years of age.

Academics are reinforced with experiential learning opportunities and hands-on application of the subject material, techniques proven to be extremely effective. The benefits students receive from working with horses, including grooming, feeding and stable management lessons, are especially enriching.

The school administers a full academic program that meets the Ohio Department of Education standards, and since its founding in 2005, it has graduated 13 young men and women. In addition, a vocational education component gives students an opportunity to learn job and life skills that open up new employment opportunities after graduation.

"We know that at-risk students can successfully participate in academic instruction and learn job skills when they're in a motivating and challenging equine environment," says Lynnette Stuart, Fieldstone Farm's executive director.



Students like Nomicus, shown with Oliver, the horse he is responsible for, spend their mornings in classes and afternoons working with and caring for horses.

"They find that working with horses, being responsible for their care, and the attachments that grow, can be a life changing experience."

Life changing – and a formula for success: 100 percent of Gaitway's eligible students have graduated, 100 percent are promoted to the next grade level on time, and 100 percent have improved their grades and test scores.

A grant to Fieldstone Farm's Gaitway School can accomplish the following:

- \$125 funds journaling supplies for the school's literacy program
- \$3,562 funds the school for one day
- \$10,000 provides major support for an addition to the school's building

For more information, please call 440-708-0013 or visit [www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com](http://www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com).

## Go back to school with new clothes from Shoes and Clothes for Kids

Self-esteem is essential to a child's success in school – and in life. Since 1969, Shoes and Clothes for Kids has been a blessing to tens of thousands of



In 2009, Shoes and Clothes for Kids will distribute \$1.8 million in shoes and clothes to those in need. Through a national network of suppliers, they can leverage \$1 into more than \$20 worth of goods.

Greater Cleveland's economically disadvantaged children, providing a measure of self-esteem that comes from having brand new shoes and clothes, which their families could otherwise not afford.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of Shoes and Clothes for Kids, which has been supported by the foundation for many years. It gives new shoes and clothes at no charge throughout the year to thousands of children in need. Back to school is the busiest time of year, with parents in need of assistance to prepare their children for school. Today, the demand for clothing and shoes has escalated as more families face tough economic times.

Shoes and Clothes for Kids procures a majority of its clothing through a national, deep-discount purchasing program, enabling it to purchase \$20 to \$25 worth of new clothes for every \$1 spent. It includes not just coats, but

a full array of clothing as well as discounted gift cards to Payless Shoe Stores, allowing families to purchase new shoes or boots of their own choosing. This year, Shoes and Clothes for Kids will distribute \$1.8 million of new clothing and Payless gift cards.

Items are distributed through a network of 35 social service agencies that serve as partners, such as Catholic Charities Head Start, Fatima Family Center, LaSagrada Familia and Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.

"We're especially proud that we keep our overhead at a minimum," says Executive Director Valerie McCormack. "In fact, 92 cents of every dollar donated goes directly into our programs and services."



A cadre of dedicated volunteers helps Shoes and Clothes for Kids keep overhead at a minimum: for each dollar donated, 92 cents goes to programs and services.

A grant to Shoes and Clothes for Kids can accomplish the following:

- \$40 helps outfit four children with \$880 worth of new clothes and shoes
- \$100 helps 12 children purchase new shoes for back to school
- \$500 provides 50 children with winter coats, hats and mittens

For more information, please call 216-881-7463 or visit [www.sc4k.org](http://www.sc4k.org).

### Save the Date for our next Donor Conversation: an Exciting Tour of Two Innovative Schools

Back by popular demand, this half-day event begins with a continental breakfast, a trolley tour in which we visit two new, highly successful, innovative public schools, and concludes with lunch.

Save the date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Details and invitation to follow

# Kids Cafe and Backpack for Kids... continued from page 1

evenings. Participating children also receive nutrition education and training that focus on the importance of healthy eating and exercise. During the 2008 – 2009 school year, 10 Kids Cafe sites served an average 340 children daily, totaling more than 50,000 meals.

A second important program is Backpack for Kids. Weekends are a critical time for low-income children, who have access to fewer food resources, such as the free school lunches. Backpack for Kids provides each child enough food for six full meals over the weekend. Children take the food home in a nondescript backpack provided at the beginning of the school year. The anonymity of the backpack respects the children's privacy.

"Our healthy food and nutrition education programs for kids are essential supplements to other programs available to them," says Anne Campbell Goodman, Cleveland Foodbank's executive director. "They are a way we can make a difference year-round in the lives of hungry children throughout northeast Ohio."

A grant to the Cleveland Foodbank can accomplish the following:

- \$1 provides enough food for four nutritious meals
- \$338 provides a child with a hot meal and after-school nutrition programming for an entire year through the Kids Cafe program
- \$1,000 distributes 25,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to those who lack regular access to or cannot afford fresh foods

For more information, please call 216.738.2265  
or visit [www.clevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org).



Healthy food and sound nutrition habits are essential for growing kids. Cleveland Foodbank's children's initiatives support these needs throughout the year.

*Reducing hunger involves the work of many nonprofit organizations and distribution centers. Included is the important work of the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland and its emergency hunger relief program. Each month, more than 50,000 people receive nutritious food from one of Hunger Network's pantries or hot meal programs. For more information, please call 216-619-8155 or visit [www.hungernetwork.org](http://www.hungernetwork.org).*



## How to recommend a grant for any of these organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the Donors section of the foundation's website. For more information about these and other worthy organizations, please call or e-mail the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



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