

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OASHF to Hire 165 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates

Full-time positions available at 43 locations across Ohio

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks will place 165 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates at community organizations across the state this summer to help fight childhood hunger by boosting participation in programs that provide free meals to children in low-income areas.

The Summer Associate positions are funded through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America). OASHF is seeking individuals passionate about ending childhood hunger for these positions.

Each OASHF Summer Associate serves at a local organization that provides free meals to kids through the Summer Food Service Program and other feeding programs. The Summer Associates will work to increase participation and serve more meals, while assisting with other activities like recruiting volunteers, leading educational and recreational programming, and fundraising. Summer Associates serve full time for eight weeks at schools, recreation centers, food pantries, summer camps, faith-based organizations, and other community organizations.

Children who aren't hungry learn better, behave better, and feel better, yet many children in Ohio are not getting the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school. A record high number of Ohio children—nearly 841,000 or about 45%-- are now eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches based on their family's income, but less than one in five of those children received meals through the Summer Food Service Program last year.

Summer Associates must be 18 years or older and able to commit to eight weeks of full-time service from June 4 through July 29. Summer Associates are paid a modest living stipend and receive an end-of-service award (either a cash bonus or money for school) upon completing the eight-week term. The program is an opportunity for individuals of all backgrounds to gain valuable work experience and make a difference in their community. Interested individuals should fill out an application online. More information on the applications process is available at www.oashf.org.

About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In SFY 2011, OASHF and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow [@OASHF](https://twitter.com/OASHF) on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OASHF, and visit OASHF on the web at www.oashf.org.

About the Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture and is administered in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Education. The program is designed to fill the nutritional gap that children who receive free- and reduced-priced meals during the school year may face during the summer months, ensuring children get the nutritious meals they need. To locate a Summer Food Service Program site within your community call 1-800-648-1176 or visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/>

About the AmeriCorps VISTA Program

AmeriCorps VISTA is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The program is designed to fight poverty in America through full-time national service. OASHF has partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service since its first AmeriCorps VISTA project in 2006. Since then, more than 500 AmeriCorps members have served hunger- and poverty-relief initiatives through OASHF. To learn more about the AmeriCorps VISTA program and other national service programs, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>

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Participating Organizations

Salvation Army- Kroc Center <i>Ashland</i>	Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission <i>Defiance</i>	The Salvation Army- Williard Unit <i>Williard</i>
Ashtabula County Children Services <i>Ashtabula</i>	Andrew's House, Inc. <i>Delaware</i>	COAD <i>Athens</i>
OU Kids on Campus <i>Athens</i>	Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Ohio <i>Columbus</i>	Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio <i>Lorain</i>
CAC of Belmont County <i>St. Clairsville</i>	Clintonville-Beechwold CRC <i>Columbus</i>	Feed Lucas County Children <i>Toledo</i>
Family Services of Middletown <i>Middletown</i>	E.L. Hardy Center <i>Columbus</i>	YMCA/JCC Greater Toledo <i>Toledo</i>
Hamilton Living Water Ministry <i>Hamilton</i>	SON Ministries <i>Hilliard</i>	Neighborhood Ministries <i>Campbell</i>
Lindenwald United Methodist Church <i>Hamilton</i>	St. Stephen's Community House <i>Columbus</i>	Oaks Family Care Center <i>Lodi</i>
Baldwin-Wallace College <i>Berea</i>	Vineyard Church <i>Westerville</i>	YMCA of Greater Dayton <i>Dayton</i>

Camp Chabad
Beachwood

Camp Genesis
Maple Heights

Center for Families and Children
Cleveland

City of Bedford Heights
Bedford Heights

City of South Euclid
South Euclid

Cleveland Foodbank
Cleveland

EUM Church
Greenville

Westerville Area Resource Ministry
Westerville

Faces Without Places
Cincinnati

Freestore Foodbank
Cincinnati

Washington United Church of
Christ
Cincinnati

Whole Again International
Cincinnati

Highland County Community Action
Organization
Hillsboro

CAC Pike County
Pike County

CAC Portage County
Ravenna

Shawnee State
Portsmouth

Alliance City Schools
Alliance

Canton Calvary Mission
Canton

Washington Morgan
Community Action
Marietta