

2024 Food Kindness Project Report

Ohio State University Extension Engages in Hunger Action Month

Over 250,000 meals packaged by 1,000+ members of the Ohio State Buckeye Community

On September 11, OSU Extension joined Ohio State's Office of Student Life, OSU Alumni, other campus collaborators, and more than 1,000 volunteers to package 250,000 meals. Ohio State students, staff, faculty, alumni, volunteers, and families were involved in two 2-hour packing events on Ohio State's Columbus campus. The Food Kindness project began in 2016 and Ohio State has packed nearly 2 million meals since then.

Meals distributed through 100+ organizations engaged with the Ohio State Buckeye Community

Thanks to 100+ local volunteers, the packaged meals were delivered to local Ohio food communities on September 13 via Ohio State's football tractor trailer truck. OSU Extension community nutrition teams contacted local partners about the project. More than 233,000 of the packaged meals were distributed to 100+ agencies in Adams, Brown, Hamilton, Highland, and Montgomery counties. The University of Cincinnati partnered to host the distribution site in Hamilton County.

The 1,145 boxes of food equaled approximately 38,000 pounds of shelf-stable food. These meals are now being provided by the local organizations to those struggling with food insecurity. The balance of the meals were distributed by Student Life to Central Ohio food pantries.

Local OSU Extension teams, including SNAP-Ed and EFNEP community nutrition, were integral in coordinating the on-site distribution and event. Those agencies accepting the food were recognized with a framed certificate as champions of kindness in their local food communities.

Ohio State community collaboration

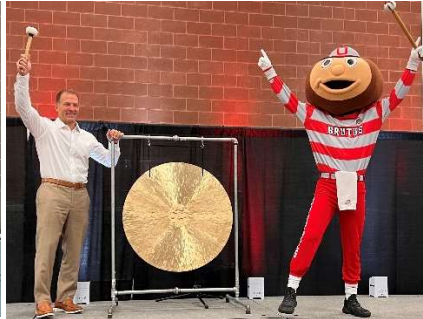
The program is a collaboration among Ohio State Student Life, Athletics, OSU Extension/College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), Ohio Union Activities board, OSU Alumni Association, Coca-Cola, and 9-11 day.org. As a land-grant university, Ohio State is grateful to be a consistent part of Ohio community priorities, such as food security.

For more information about the Food Kindness project, contact:

Julie Fox, Ph.D., OSU Extension Director, Strategic Initiatives and Urban Engagement (fox.264@osu.edu)
Michelle Gaston, OSU Extension Program Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives and Urban Engagement
(gaston.6@osu.edu)



Packing Event Photos





Distribution Day Photos

Adams, Highland, Brown Counties Distribution (Brown Local Schools)





Hamilton County (University of Cincinnati property)





Lunch at the OSU Extension Hamilton County Office (included the Mayor of Cincinnati)



Montgomery County (Adventure Central)





Project Leaders

OSU Office of Student Life

- Secured project funding
- Secured food vendor, packing location, tables, DJ, snacks, football tractor trailer
- Managed volunteer recruitment, communications, and check-in
- Coordinated planning meetings for the packing event
- Organized media

State Extension

- Organized planning meetings for the distribution day
- Provided leadership for Area Leaders and community nutrition teams on the project
- Coordinated planning meetings for OSU Extension and University of Cincinnati partner
- Set up the distribution day schedule of drop-offs/events
- Oversaw box count for distribution accuracy
- Created a distribution event profile with the day-of details

Local Extension Teams

- Contacted and coordinated agencies to pick up food
- Attended weekly meetings from two months out to plan the details
- Secured delivery locations and mapped traffic flow
- Recruited and managed volunteers for distribution day
- Coordinated group lunch for the Ohio State and University of Cincinnati teams
- Participated in distribution day



Media Coverage

Take a look at the [Food Kindness web page](#) and see article links below.

Student Life

Website:

[Buckeyes spread kindness with food packing event on national day of service](#) (article)

[Today's Update Sept 13th](#) (article)

[Today's Update Sept 20th](#) (article)

Social Media:

Food Packing IG Story (archived)

Views: 31,664 (Followers: 19.9%; Non-Followers: 80.1%), Reach: 28,867

[Food Packing Wrap Up IG Reel](#)

Views: 27,915 (Followers: 67.9%; Non-followers: 32.1%), Reach: 20,731

[Delivery IG Reel](#)

Views: 9,626 (Followers 66.9%; Non-followers 33.1%), Reach: 6,214

OSU Lantern TV [link](#) , 162 views

WOSU News

<https://www.wosu.org/news/2024-09-11/ohio-state-volunteers-pack-350-000-meals-on-9-11-day-of-service>

CFAES

OSU Extension Facebook [link](#)

CFAES Facebook [link](#)

Highland County [web post](#)

The Highland County Press – [September 20 article](#)

