

# Stories from the field

how A Child's Hope International is making a difference

June 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

## *Hands Against Hunger™*

### **A Child's Hope International Partners with Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank to Provide 30 Tons of Food for the Tri-State Area**

Cincinnati is sadly ranked #2 in childhood poverty in the United States. Unfortunately, poverty often results in hungry children.

Years ago, the volunteers of *A Child's Hope International* (ACHI) asked Executive Director Larry Bergeron if they helped feed children locally as well as overseas. Since local outreach was a vital part of ACHI's original business plan, Bergeron felt challenged to connect with like-minded Cincinnati organizations to do just that. This is one of those success stories.

Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank is the largest enterprise of its kind in the tri-state area (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana). In 2016, they worked with 350 community partners to provide 25 million meals in 20 counties and were also chosen as

Non-Profit of the Year (35-250 employees) at the Cincinnati USA Business Awards. Given these credentials and the Freestore's close proximity to the Hope Factory™ (where thousands of ACHI volunteers pack millions of Hands Against Hunger™ high protein meals each year), it made perfect sense for Bergeron to reach out to their President, Kurt Reiber, to help them in their quest to fight hunger.

ACHI's high protein meals were a welcome addition to Freestore's inventory. Unlike traditional food stuffs, these meals are



dehydrated, have a long shelf life, and take up little space. Each 9" x 6.5" Hands Against Hunger™ pouch feeds up to 6 small children and is packed with 21 essential vitamins and minerals, 6 dried vegetables, highly fortified soy protein, and whole grain enriched white rice.

Though some food recipients prefer traditional sources of protein, such as chicken or beef,



Reiber says that larger families have embraced the high protein alternative because it allows them to provide their families with hot meals that are very nutritious, something that is high on the Freestore's priority list.



Special packing events, such as *Sack Hunger* and the *Child Hunger Week Project*, are sponsored at The Hope Factory™ specifically to benefit the Freestore. Each of these events gives hundreds of volunteers an opportunity to play an active role in feeding hungry children who are part of their communities. It also allows them to personally experience ACHI's "Miracle Math" process:

***1 volunteer X 2 hours =  
high protein food for 1 child X 365 days***

As a Hands Against Hunger™ volunteer, Reiber has experienced this process first-hand. He shares, "Our relationship with ACHI is very positive. It allows us to feed more families and get highly nutritious meals to those we're serving. I appreciate Larry and his organization because they raise awareness of the hunger issue and help solve the problem. This also helps break the stigma surrounding those who may be forced to frequent food lines due to circumstances beyond their control."

Bergeron was astounded by a recent tally of ACHI's deliveries to Freestore since their partnership began in 2015, "To help combat the dire hunger situation in the Cincinnati

area, Hands Against Hunger™ volunteers have packed approximately 30 tons of high protein meals for Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank in just 18 months!"

Those 30 tons equate to approximately 400,000 high protein meals—valued at over \$100,000—that have been channeled through Freestore's partners to feed hungry people in the tri-state area.

Though the task at hand may seem daunting, these Cincinnati leaders are grateful for every opportunity they have to make a difference. They also recognize they will only have the greatest impact in breaking the cycle of hunger if they join forces with others whose hearts ache, as theirs do, for those in need.

If your organization is interested in learning how you can partner with ACHI to help combat hunger, please contact us at the number below or visit our website.



As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the mission of A Child's Hope International is to motivate and mobilize the church and community to care for orphans and vulnerable children through adoption, foster care, orphan care, and humanitarian relief. As advocates for the "least of these," our programs reach thousands of children worldwide.

*We exist because the children are waiting™.*

**A CHILD'S HOPE INT'L**

2430 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 | 513-771-2244  
www.TheChildrenAreWaiting.org

