



**AAIC**

**AKRON AREA  
INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2023**



14th Annual  
Akron Area Interfaith Council  
**HUNGER WALK**

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron  
3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn, OH 44333

Registration - 2:00 pm | Walk begins at 3:00 pm  
Fellowship afterwards

100% of ALL DONATIONS go directly to




This year's walk is in honor of longtime AAIC and Hunger Walk volunteer, Lela Brown.



*Pictured: Dan Flowers, CEO Akron-Canton Food Bank, and Lela Brown*

## WAYS TO DONATE

- CHECKS payable to AAIC Hunger Walk.  
Mail to: 3300 Morewood Road, Akron, OH 44333
- IN PERSON DONATIONS on Sunday, May 7, 2023
- DONATE ONLINE Click on QR code →   
Or go to [Akroninterfaith.org](https://Akroninterfaith.org) and follow the prompts.

Friends:

You have all been very generous these past 14 years. We are asking you once again to donate, as you are able, to the 14th Annual Hunger Walk sponsored by the Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC), where 12% or 67,760 Summit County residents were food insecure in 2022. Nearly a third of that number (21,030) is made up of children. That is unacceptable to the Akron-Canton Foodbank and should be unacceptable to all of us.

Although inflation is declining, as well as fuel prices (temporarily), the cost of groceries remains high, accounting for 30% of families within the Foodbank network that visited a food pantry for the first time ever in 2022.

Please, make the 14th Annual Hunger Walk a success by your donation and participation in the Walk itself on May 7. Last year's donations totaled \$25,942.08 from the Walk in Fairlawn and donations to the Stark Co./N. Canton collection drive.

Sincerely,

The Hunger Walk Committee: Nancy Williams, Chair, [knks97@mac.com](mailto:knks97@mac.com) and the Leadership Team of AAIC, Conni Dubick, Chair, [cdubick@kent.edu](mailto:cdubick@kent.edu).

Note that Stark County/N. Canton is having a walk again on May 7 after 3 years of donations only. For information contact Beck Arbogast at [wickedbuckeyes@gmail.com](mailto:wickedbuckeyes@gmail.com).



# HUNGER IN SUMMIT COUNTY

## FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of regular access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

Food insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

## OUR RESPONSE

 **8,351,516**

TOTAL MEALS ENABLED IN SUMMIT COUNTY IN 2022

 **10,021,820**

TOTAL POUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN SUMMIT COUNTY IN 2022

 **2,176,914**

TOTAL PRODUCE POUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN SUMMIT COUNTY IN 2022

## Overall Food Insecurity Rate



# 12.5%

AN ESTIMATED 67,760 FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE LIVE IN SUMMIT COUNTY. 1 IN 8 PEOPLE MAY STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER.

## Child Food Insecurity Rate



# 18.5%

AN ESTIMATED 21,030 FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN LIVE IN SUMMIT COUNTY. 1 IN 5 CHILDREN MAY STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER.



**1 IN 8 PEOPLE  
MAY STRUGGLE  
WITH HUNGER.**

## Top Partners by Pounds

- Ellet Community Church of God
- The Salvation Army (Akron)
- Open M

## Number of Programs

- Food Pantries **119**
- Hot Meal Sites & Shelters **51**
- Senior Citizen Programs **11**
- Youth and Backpack Programs **40**
- Other Non-Emergency Programs **38**
- Total Programs **259**

# SNAP Changes- What You Need To Know

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly called food stamps, is a government program that helps people buy the food they need for healthy lives
- During the pandemic, SNAP Emergency Allotments were issued for individuals to receive additional benefits
- After 3 years of receiving SNAP Emergency Allotments as a result of the pandemic, about 1.5 million Ohioans will be losing those additional benefits in March 2023
- Ohio's food banks will not be able to make up for the significant loss of food purchasing dollars left by the reduction in emergency COVID-19 SNAP allocations. At this time of sustained inflation and high food prices, Ohio's food banks do not have the infrastructure or capacity to respond to the volume of people seeking our help without continued and sustained support
- In Summit County alone, nearly 80,000 individuals will be affected by a loss of almost \$6.3 million in these additional SNAP benefits

## The Response

- Locally, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is preparing its network for this change and asking its network partners to be prepared for an increase in demand due to the loss in these additional benefits
- The Foodbank's pop-up pantry will be providing additional food distributions in March, April and May
- The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is engaging in work around the Farm Bill, which contains provisions for nutrition programs like SNAP. The current Farm Bill, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, will expire in September of 2023 and negotiations for a new bill have begun. As the bill is debated in Senate and House Agricultural Committees, it will be critical for hunger-relief advocates to make their voices heard to strengthen the country's SNAP program, and protecting and ideally increasing the benefits individuals are eligible for monthly

## Need Food Assistance?

Please visit: <https://www.Akroncantonfoodbank.org> or call 330-535-6900. If you live outside of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's territory, please visit [ohiofoodbanks.org](https://ohiofoodbanks.org) and click Find Your Foodbank.





## 2023 Interfaith Justice Alliance Series

### *The Tragedy of Gun Violence in Our Country*

This annual interfaith series will once again take on a current and difficult issue plaguing our country: gun violence. Temple Israel and New Hope Baptist, St. Hilary Catholic and Faith Lutheran churches are offering an opportunity for communities of faith to come together to listen, ponder, discuss and pray over a difficult reality.

<https://fb.watch/j0QwZ-rmHP/>

#### *Lament: Telling the Story of Gun Violence in the US*

Speaker: Steve Dettelbach, Director of ATF in Washington, DC

[facebook.com/newhopebaptistakron/](https://facebook.com/newhopebaptistakron/)

#### *The Reality of Gun Violence in American Culture and in the City of Akron*

Speaker: Dr. Curtis Williams II of the Minority Behavioral Health Group, Akron

#### **Wednesday, March 15 - St. Hilary Parish**

##### *The Reality of Violence in Ohio and in the City of Akron*

Speakers: Officer Donny Williams, APD

La Marr Atchison & Bahote Griffin, South Street Ministries

#### **Wednesday, March 22 - Faith Lutheran**

##### *Discerning Our Response As Communities of Faith to the Violence in Our City*

Speakers: Kemp Boyd - Executive Director, Love Akron

Rev. Raymond Greene, Jr - Executive Director, Freedom BLOC

Denico Buckley-Knight, Youth and Community Opportunity Director, City of Akron

Bertina King, Detective with the Akron Police Department

#### **Evening Schedule:**

6:00 p.m. - Gathering

6:15 p.m. - Shared Meal

7:00 p.m. - Worship

7:30 p.m. - Presentation/Questions

8:45 p.m. - Closing remarks

\*\*Each session will be livestreamed.

For all details and to register,  
visit [sthilarychurch.org/interfaith/](https://sthilarychurch.org/interfaith/)  
or call your congregation's office.

Build a better & Safer Akron Presents

# THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MAYORAL FORUM



Thursday, March 16, 2023  
5:30 – 7:30 pm



Garfield High School,  
435 North Firestone Blvd. Akron, OH



# AROUND AKRON

With Blue Green



This month the Sojourner Truth Project—Akron is featured on Around Akron with Blue Green. This PBS Western Reserve TV program shines a spotlight on the good things that Akron has to offer. This time the spotlight lights up Sojourner Truth, her legacy, and our project. Towanda Mullins (Project Chair), Leianne Neff Heppner (Project Historian) and Margaret Maurer (Education Chair) are interviewed and the famous Ain't I a Woman? speech is reenacted by Hazel Burney Malone. Blue Green provides an accurate and entertaining introduction to Sojourner Truth and our project.

To view the show, visit [Around Akron with Blue Green: February 2023 - YouTube](#),

## White Nationalists Thrive on Social Media



Despite repeated warnings, Facebook, Twitter and other tech giants haven't banned white nationalists, white supremacists and racist militias, even though they use social media to spread disinformation and sow hatred.

That's why the Color Of Change has released the Black Tech Agenda, a comprehensive road map for Congress and the White House to rein in Big Tech, silencing the kind of white nationalist disinformation and hate that fueled the Jan. 6 insurrection, and create a safe and inclusive internet where Black people can thrive, free from racist threats and harm.

With hate speech flowing unchecked on Elon Musk's Twitter, and Facebook doing next to nothing to stop white supremacists, this agenda urgently needs to be implemented. It offers a way to hold Big Tech accountable for helping spread racist ideologies and stop them from providing the resources that insurrectionists and white nationalists need to organize and win elections. Please urge your members of Congress to check out the Black Tech Agenda.

—Susan Gallagher,  
*Akron Editorial printed in the Akron Beacon Journal, February 19, 2023*

**4.1.23**

**GUYS AND GALS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INC.**

**4th Annual**

**Hoop for COOP**

**Youth Health Fair**

**Buchtel CLC 1040 Copley Rd. 44320**

- **HEALTH FAIR 11:00am to 1:30 pm**
- **SKILLS CLINIC 1:00p to 2:30pm**  
(we will start on time)

- **Free Sports Physicals**
- **Free Dental Hygiene information**
- **First 50 parents to register will be put into a raffle for a prize**

**SATURDAY APRIL 1ST 2023**

**11AM-3PM**

**SIGN UP LOG ON [GGCPINC.ORG](http://GGCPINC.ORG)**

**QUESTIONS OR DETAILS [JEROME MOSS](mailto:JEROME MOSS) 330.689.8816**

## AFRO-ACADEMIC CULTURAL TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC OLYMPICS

The NAACP is also recruiting mentors and judges for Akron NAACP ACTSO (Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics). Mentors and Judges must be experienced in: STEM, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and/or Business. The Akron competition is in late April; students are already preparing. More information is available at [www.akronactso.org](http://www.akronactso.org).





## MISSION

The Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective interfaith responses to the social, moral, ethical and cultural issues of our community and to promote freedom of religion, equality and understanding.

## VISION

We envision a strong network of faith communities that collaborate to make our city a haven for all.

## GUIDEPOSTS

- Diversity is a blessing and enriches us all; the diversities of all peoples, languages, cultures, and colors must be cherished and celebrated.
- We are responsible for each other's welfare.
- Because of the importance of individual's faith traditions in developing underlying values, faith communities can contribute to the development of a more just, humane, and ecologically responsible society. [We refer here to "faith traditions" vs. "religion" as AAIC is interested in reaching not only congregations but also those who are searching and may not have a specific faith affiliation (such as the NONES).]
- Members of AAIC oppose any and all forms of discrimination, especially those based on faith, gender, race, heritage, nationality and sexuality
- Advocacy and Social Justice: AAIC has consistently put issues of social justice at the forefront. Our past history shows a deep concern for inclusiveness. The group has been focused on the issues faced by the immigrant populations in Akron, ongoing issues of racism in the community, hunger, as well as xenophobia.

## TO JOIN AAIC

Please visit our website for information on yearly dues:  
Individual membership— \$30.00/yr., Institutional— \$50.00/yr.

Send your check or donation to:

**Akron Area Interfaith Council**  
**3300 Morewood Rd.**  
**Akron, Ohio 44333**

or send a membership fee via the following link: <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/aaicmembership>.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month. We are meeting in person and via Zoom.

Website: [Akroninterfaith.org](http://Akroninterfaith.org)

Facebook Group: [Facebook.com/AAICOH](https://Facebook.com/AAICOH)