

The Emergency Assistance Center Annual Report 2020

The Emergency Assistance Center (TEAC) has worked hard to become not only a food pantry but a resource center supporting those most in need in our community.

TEAC offers our clients:

- Seven-day food supply: TEAC has increased the amount of food given to clients from a 5-day to 7-day supply
- Healthy food options: In addition to nonperishable food items, clients receive milk, eggs, sliced bread and butter, frozen beef and poultry, bakery and fresh produce
- Fresh home-grown produce donated by local gardeners, including plants for our clients to grow at home
- Recipes and a menu guide using many staples from the food pantry are available to our clients
- Hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid, needed items not covered by government SNAP or WIC benefits
- Baby items such as diapers and wipes as well as feminine hygiene items
- Clothing section for all ages and sizes, including warm coats in the winter
- The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services on-site once a month to enroll those who are eligible for SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid benefits
- School supplies and haircuts in August in conjunction with Momentum Christian Church, a partner located in Macedonia
- Christmas toys and gift cards for children of our clients at a December holiday shop hosted at Western Reserve Grace Church in Macedonia
- Easter baskets for youngsters through generous donations from area students
- Birthday Bags filled with cake mix, frosting, table clothes, candles, plates, napkins and party favors to help children celebrate their special day
- Paws on Child Hunger program: Weekend food help for qualified Twinsburg students in partnership with Twinsburg City Schools
- Food delivery to a low-income apartment building for senior citizens and the disabled located in Twinsburg.

TEAC Improvements and Achievements:

- The annual site inspection by The Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank scored TEAC a perfect one hundred percent for Best Practices in all five areas of evaluation
- Funding provided by A Fresh Food Capacity Building Grant secured through the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank was fully utilized. Purchased with the Grant:
 - A two-door glass front cooler
 - A hand-truck
 - Two scales
 - Wire racks and bins for fresh produce
- Fabric skirting was added to the main pantry shelving units
- An emergency plan was put in place including a defibrillator donated by University Health Care system
- TEAC's website www.teacenter.org received a fresh new look on a secured site.

New Financial Partners in the last year:

- MGM Northfield Park
- M & G Pools LLC
- Jackson Comfort Systems
- Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
- Progressive Machine Die, Inc.
- Fuchs Lubricants Co
- Howmet Aerospace, Inc.
- NOPEC
- Akron Community Foundation
- Hudson Community Foundation
- Kaulig Charitable Giving Programs
- Essendant Charitable Foundation

This year proved to be difficult due to COVID-19. Our volunteer staff decreased from 70 to 15 due to exposure concerns. Safety protocols are in place which include staff and volunteers wearing masks and gloves plus limiting the number of people in the Pantry. Temperatures are taken for all who enter the building. For safety, TEAC is currently offering a curbside model only, with the plan to return to a 'choice' food pantry as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so. For now, food and hygiene items are prepackaged and placed in the trunk of the client's vehicle. The clothing area is temporarily closed since clients are unable to enter the building.

The Staff, Board of Trustees, and TEAC Volunteers all look forward to continuing to provide food, help, and hope with dignity and care to those in our community in need over the coming year.

The Emergency Assistance Center is an independent 501(c)(3) supported entirely by donations from our local community. Approximately ninety percent of every dollar donated goes directly to assist our clients. TEAC is an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau by meeting all twenty Standards for Charity Accountability and has obtained GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency.