



Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Community Services Report: July 2020





Total Members Currently Serving: **32**

Other Highlights This Month:

25,028 people received hunger relief, referrals, or nutrition education

37 outreach events or presentations

26 new systems or processes implemented

4999 youth supported

15 community assessments conducted

ShareCorps members are part of the AmeriCorps VISTA program. They work on indirect, capacity building initiatives like improving technology at food pantries, developing resources, and coordinating volunteers. They serve full-time for year-long service terms.

"This month, we brought back our couch potato workout in virtual form. The class is a hit! The community members who regularly attended the class in person are so excited to have it back and more people have been giving it a try every week. We were also able to have our first vision clinic since January! We had one scheduled in March, but it had to be canceled because of the pandemic. Seven people who don't have vision insurance were able to see our volunteer optometrist and get glasses!"

AmeriCorps VISTA member Jess Grady (Community Development for All People)

"For our Back to School Drive, I evolved OCS's previous set-up for the Drive for the necessities of social distancing: instead of collecting donations through drop-off boxes, I set up a web page for online registration and donations, and built Wish Lists where donors could order supplies for the Drive online and have them shipped directly to our offices. We ended the registration period with nearly 75 students signed up to receive a full array of school supplies for the coming year. Although the donation period to fund these supplies is still open into early August, we received over \$1000 dollars in monetary donations and \$200-\$300 in supplies by July 31."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Emily Murphy (Oberlin Community Services)

"For our Getting Ahead PLUS classes, we decided that it would be best to screen current Getting Ahead clients for the classes to determine if they are ready to take the next step in achieving their goals. I created a questionnaire to be used for individual interviews with Getting Ahead clients. The questions covered topics around personal goal setting, what aspects of their lives would they like to change, and how NOCAC can best support them in their goals. Several participants expressed that the program was giving them confidence they did not have before and they could achieve goals that they felt were unattainable previously."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Janelle Johnson (NOCAC)

"I assisted in relaunching volunteer opportunities since their pause due to the virus. I created and updated a new volunteer webpage featuring new volunteer opportunities and an updated sign-up form to improve communication among current and potential volunteers as well as make recruiting efforts more efficient. I also trained, managed, and supervised 14 new volunteers at FBCO's social enterprise thrift store. By explaining processes and overseeing volunteer activities, hundreds of items were effectively sorted, cleaned, and priced."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Rachel Rickman (Furniture Bank of Central Ohio)

"The agricultural portion of The Farmhouse's first task for me was to help organize volunteers to clean out an acre of land to prep the land for an orchard. I was able to secure 4 volunteers, who were able to put in a total of 70 hours. The land is now ready to plant!"

AmeriCorps VISTA member Megan Brown (Metamora United Methodist Church)

"I am working to re-start the Senior and Disabled Committee to determine how we can reach more food insecure seniors and those with disabilities who may be food insecure. I am in the process of recruiting members to the committee.

I verified the information that we have on the resource table for clients is up to date through a variety of methods, including checking websites, emailing, and calling different organizations."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Karissa Esala (New Albany Food Pantry)

"I am working on the creation of a grant calendar and deliverable system in Salesforce so that we can take advantage of all grant/funding opportunities efficiently. During my first month, I have helped apply for 3 grants for a total of \$65,000 in potential funding."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Traleathea Fairbanks (Breakthrough Cincinnati)

"We created a partnership with United Healthcare and they have been joining us at our pantry events. We set up one event within walking distance of 3 senior citizen high rise apartments in our downtown. While at the event the representatives from United Health care were able to sign up 25 seniors with health insurance. They were able to answer numerous questions and they arranged for 3 seniors in need of hearing aids to receive them the next day free of charge. They also were able to make sure 2 seniors received the wheelchairs they needed within 3 days of that same event. Sometimes I think it is so important to realize how helpful sharing information with others is. We didn't do much except invite the representatives out, but they were able to help our friends in ways we could not."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Kendra Faulkner (Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio - OHgo)





National Service Monthly Report: July 2020

"The Foodbank received \$570,000 from the Feeding America grant that I co-wrote. This is an incredible amount of funding and is critical support for our network partners and neighbors facing food insecurity. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to write the grant and see my hard work pay off!"

AmeriCorps VISTA member Sylvia Krebs (Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank)

"For 3 weeks this month we have been able to, after our CSA bags are completed, package up veggie bags for our HUB leaders to distribute for elementary and high school families. We have impacted 165 adults and children with our organic food from our garden here and also from our partner local farm that supports us with their donations."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Iliana Reese (The University Church)

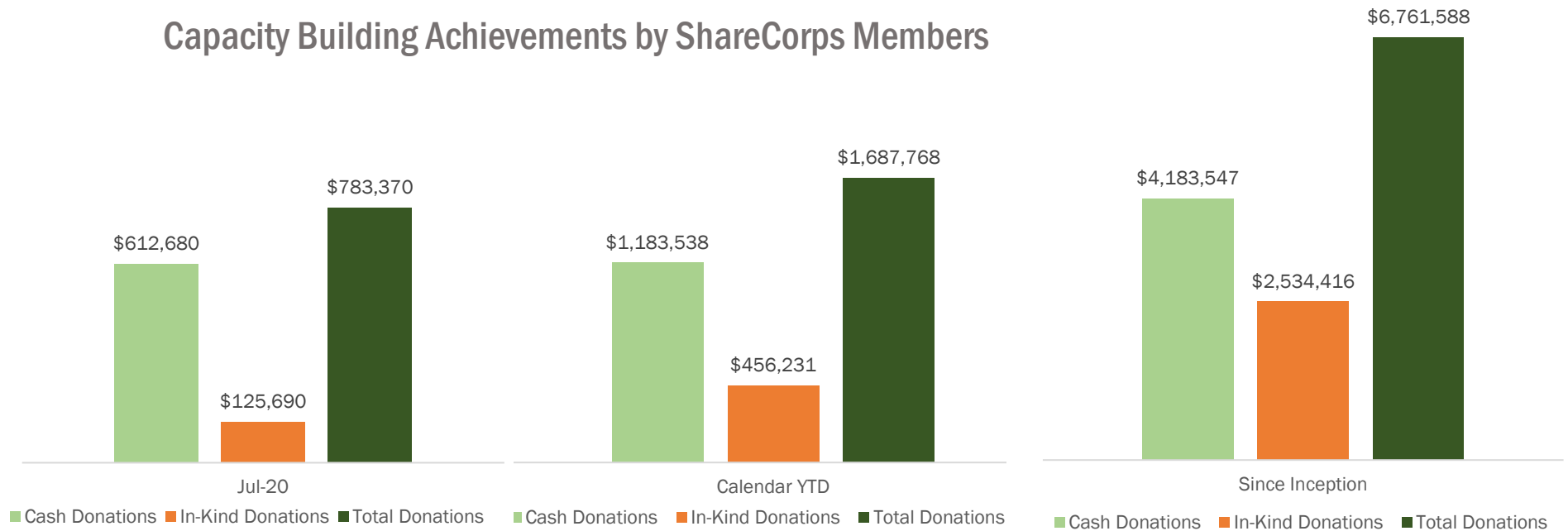
"My major focus was re-designing our pre-packaging system at the Promise House. I wanted to re-format our pre-packaging survey so that students could have more autonomy over what goes inside their bag(s)- rather than us deciding it for them- and also to create a system that could be scalable for when students return in the fall. I redesigned our form so that students can now select what items from each of our food categories they would like inside their bags. This allows students to receive more items they like, and it also saves us time from having to wander around trying to figure out what to put in someone's bag."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Sydney Quynn (Otterbein University Promise House)

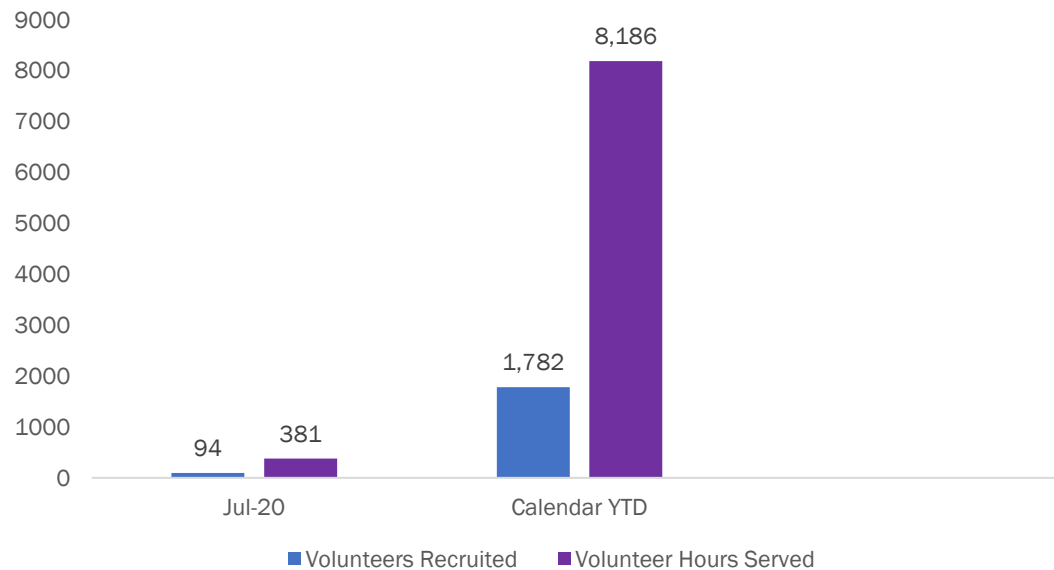
"We are fostering a relationship with Gem City Market to sell our lettuce, and I have been researching prices and varieties of lettuce and herbs in local grocery markets. This data will help us negotiate a contract with the market in the next several months, so that we can supply hydroponic lettuce to them when they open in January 2021. We hope to be able to supply our lettuce at a below-market price so that discount can be transferred to consumers, making healthy produce more affordable in Dayton."

AmeriCorps VISTA member Lindsay Kreill (The Foodbank)

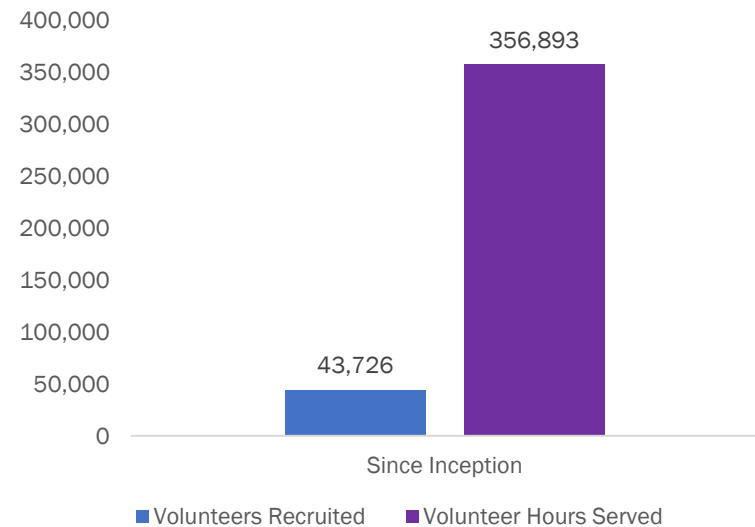
Capacity Building Achievements by ShareCorps Members



Volunteer Mobilization - Current Program Year



Volunteer Mobilization - Since Inception



ShareCorps Member Highlight:

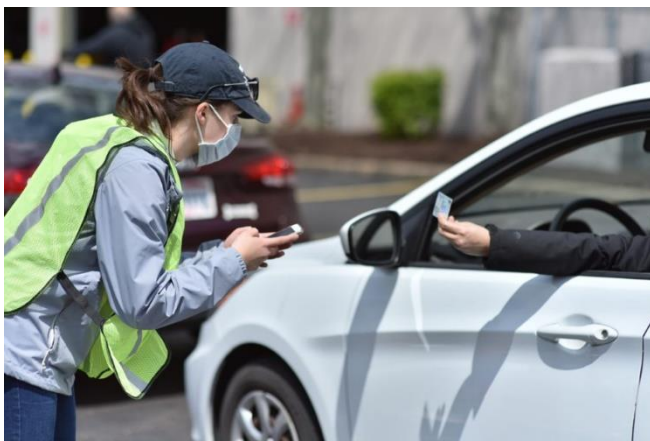
Courtney Davis, The Potter's House Ministries

Courtney has just entered her second year-long VISTA service term with the Potter's House Ministries. Her primary project focus throughout her service has been to coordinate initiatives and resources to increase food access for low-income families and youth in Scioto County. She has partnered with community organizations in order to raise awareness of childhood hunger and she has secured funding for the Potter's House food pantry through her grant writing efforts. While the organization has seen a 17% increase in clients since the beginning of this year, through her work, they are still able to provide more pounds of food per client than in the past.

One project that Courtney is particularly proud of is the Cooking Matters program: a partnership with the Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences to develop family cooking classes aimed at teaching children and adults simple, healthy meals that can be made together as a family, or that the children can make safely on their own. The program was a success and Courtney hopes to expand these classes in her second service year once in-person classes are safe to resume. As Courtney continues her service, she will be shifting her focus to increasing food access by developing programs for low-income families that face transportation challenges. This project aims to fund a delivery vehicle to provide food and resources to remote areas. Courtney states that her VISTA service so far has taught her to never take anything for granted and has shown her the value of helping others. We can't wait to see everything you are able to accomplish in your second year, Courtney!



"This past year has opened my eyes to many of the struggles happening in our own backyards, and as a result my perspectives have changed. An action you think small, or perceive to not make much of an impact, can make a world of difference to someone else."



ShareCorps Member Highlight:

Sylvia Krebs, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Serving as the Fundraising and Engagement Coordinator at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Sylvia has spent her year focusing on engaging community stakeholders in the Foodbank's Growing for Good capital campaign. Through her work, Sylvia has built a strong foundation for future community engagement, particularly with the local Canton schools' community. In February, Sylvia organized a community gathering at a Canton City elementary school to engage and educate families on the Foodbank's future Stark County facility. She coordinated with school staff and established a connection with Councilwoman Brenda Kimbrough in order to lead this community informed approach to service.

Sylvia has also had many opportunities throughout her service year to build grant-writing skills as she has focused not only on grants for the capital campaign, but additionally on writing grants and allocating funds to be used in COVID-19 relief efforts. She supported the development of a Feeding America COVID-19 relief grant that was awarded over half a million dollars to support partner order delivery and a pop-up pantry program. While Sylvia has had a disrupted service year, switching project focus due to COVID-19, she is grateful for having played an integral role in the emergency response. As she states, this year has allowed her to understand the behind the scenes work, challenges, and successes of non-profit work and she believes this provided her with professional and personal skills needed to tackle the inequities in society. Thank you for your service, Sylvia, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

"It's important to remember that not everyone we serve, or will serve in the future, is in poverty. We saw people needing food assistance for the first time in their lives. My VISTA experience has inspired me to become a more engaged advocate for social and economic justice."