

# The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks:

## \*Endorsement Form \*

In 1997, the Ohio General Assembly first began providing funding to the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks at a level of \$1.5 million per year, in support of the Ohio Food Purchase Agricultural Clearance. The Ohio Food Purchase Program (OFP) supplies highly nutritional shelf stable and protein while the Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program (OACP) provides surplus Ohio grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein items to food pantries and soup kitchens in all 88 Ohio counties. Since 1997, the funding has grown to \$12 million per year.

Funding for these programs has proven to be a highly successful, cost effective and efficient way to help meet the nutritional needs of hungry Ohioans who depend on soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and similar grass roots charities to feed themselves and their families. These programs have been described by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to members of the Ohio General Assembly as ***“one of the most successful cost effective public private partnerships currently operating in the State of Ohio”***.

### **As a result of this support, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks has:**

- Purchased and distributed over 60 million pounds of Ohio Food Program shelf stable items including peanut butter, ground meats, tuna, canned fruits and vegetables and cereals, and protein items including chicken and eggs to 12 Foodbanks serving over 3,000 member charities, which represents over 46.7 million meals required to feed hungry Ohioans since inception.
- Reimbursed Ohio farmers, growers and commodity producers for picking, packing, production and transportation cost to provide over 136 million pounds of surplus fruits and vegetables, representing over 105 million meals since inception.
- Provided over 25% of all the emergency food distributed in the State of Ohio during SFY 2010.
- Served over 2.8 million low-income households as a direct result of funding for the Ohio Food Purchase Agricultural Clearance Program in SFY 2010. Over 75% of the households served with this food had incomes below the poverty level, 35% of those served were children, and 22% of the households contained at least one elderly.

Ohio's Foodbanks and their network of over 3,000 emergency food providers are struggling everyday to meet the ever-increasing need for additional food from a growing number of low-income individuals and families who lack the resources to meet their basic food needs. Over 86% of member charities have operating budgets of less than \$25,000 per year and are operated largely by volunteers. Over 79% are faith-based charities that receive over 78% of all the food they distribute from Ohio's 12 Foodbanks.

Funding provided to the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks to operate these programs is unique because the funds help provide highly nutritional foods that are distributed directly to Ohio's neediest households – those with incomes below the poverty level. These funds help Ohio farmers and growers by providing a market for their surplus crops, creating a win/win situation, while helping to support the infrastructure of Ohio's emergency food assistance network.

The undersigned hereby endorses OASHF's funding request of \$17 million per year in Ohio's 2012/2013 State Budget for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks in support of the Ohio Food Purchase Agricultural Clearance Program.

**I hereby give my permission to use my name and/or organization as an endorser of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks efforts to obtain a permanent and dedicated revenue source in the next state budget.**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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51 North High Street, Suite 761, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614/221-4338 fax.**

Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks 614/221-4336 voice 614/221-4338 fax or [www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org)