

Neighbor Profiles

Rich data from a widely distributed survey comprises the basis for the Hunger in Ohio 2026 results. All data were collected through electronic surveys completed by food pantry visitors from April 18th to May 22nd. Neighbors also had the option to self-select into a secondary, more in-depth interview process. The following profiles highlight a few of the neighbors the Ohio Association of Foodbanks spoke with to learn more about their experiences.



Glen, Erie County

Glen from Erie County is an 85-year-old widower, father, and proud retired factory worker. He lives on a modest Social Security check and a small pension. His children live nearby, and he enjoys spending time with them. Glen regularly utilizes his local foodbanks and often visits his local senior center for support and community. While he is thankful for the assistance provided by his local Veterans Affairs office, the rising cost of living means that affording enough food and covering everyday expenses continues to be a struggle.

“In this economy nowadays, every little bit helps. You can be up on the top of the hill today, and at the bottom tomorrow.”

“Well, I usually wait until I go to the food pantry. And then whatever I don’t get there that I need, like miracle whip or butter or something like that, then I’ll go down to Aldi’s and get it. It helps a big amount.”

“Well I’d just like to thank everybody that’s involved in it [foodbank]. I appreciate what everybody’s doing... It’s come in mighty handy lots of times.”

Kiarius lives in Cuyahoga County. After earning her bachelor's degree in business and communications, she became the full-time caregiver for her 87-year-old grandfather and her five-year-old son, who has autism and requires additional care and support. Balancing the needs of multiple generations under one roof can be challenging, and Kiarius knows firsthand how difficult it can be to stretch a household budget. Kiarius is grateful for the support her household receives through Social Security, SNAP, Medicaid, and home energy assistance. While these programs provide important stability, rising food costs still create challenges. She shared that visits to her local food pantry help supplement her grocery budget, making it easier to provide healthy meals for her family while focusing on her caregiving responsibilities.



Kiarius, Cuyahoga County

“Being able to go to the food pantry kind of helps me offset the difference from needing extra food that SNAP doesn’t cover. My grandfather, I try to give him very nutritious meals. I try to stay away from processed foods for him because he has diabetes. So, you know, getting things like chicken and fresh fruits and vegetables, I try to cook for him and make different snacks. Going to the food pantry definitely helps with that. It allows me to think of different ideas. If I get zucchini, then it’s like, ‘Hey, okay, now we’ve got to eat zucchini this week. What can I make with that?’”