

Springfield News-Sun Community Food Relief

Your support makes a difference to families in our community. Look for your donation envelope inside today's newspaper.

Scan the code at right or visit SpringfieldNewsSun.com/foodrelief

WHO'S MOVING ON IN PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS. D1

ONLY IN THE NEWS-SUN

'WE RAN OUT OF FOOD'

Local hunger-assistance charities facing 'perfect storm with increased need and rising costs'

By Kristen Wicker
Staff Writer

The food pantry at Christ Episcopal Church used to serve 300 to 350 people during its monthly distribution date, and items would be left over. In the past six months, however, that number has increased to nearly 500 – and shelves are always bare.

"I think times have been getting harder so every little thing counts," said Kelly Zeller, program director and co-chair of the Christ Church Food Pantry. "There are misconceptions about who uses food pantries. Our clients are hard-working people. We have a lot of elderly whose Social Security isn't enough so they use the pantry to supplement."

This holiday season, those with plenty can help those in need by donating to or volunteering for local food pantries or Second Harvest Food Bank, which supplies 65 pantries in Champaign, Clark and Logan counties.



Bruce Dudley stocks Wheat Thins boxes on shelves at Second Harvest Food Bank on Thursday in Springfield. JOSEPH COOKE / STAFF

Clark County residents are more food insecure compared to state, national averages

Data backs up Zeller's observation about times being tough. According to the Clark County Combined Health District's 2025 Community Health Assessment, food insecurity in the area is rising above state and national levels.

Food continued on A10

HOW TO HELP SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

- For available volunteer hours or to receive email updates about upcoming volunteer opportunities, contact Second Harvest Food Bank's volunteer specialist at (937) 325-8715, ext. 115, or email volunteer@theshfb.org.
- Individual volunteers can also visit Second Harvest's website at theshfb.org/get-involved to fill out the volunteer application form and email it to volunteer@theshfb.org.
- People can donate online or by mail. To donate by mail, make your checks out to: Second Harvest Food Bank of Champaign, Clark, and Logan Counties.
- Mail them to: Second Harvest Food Bank, 20 N. Murray St., Springfield, OH 45503
- Visit theshfb.org/donate to donate online or to find other ways to donate.

About 15.6% of Clark County residents are food insecure, according to the Clark County Combined Health District's 2025 Community Health Assessment.

CLOSER LOOK

Voting on high school NIL deals begins this week

Area athletic directors more open to change than 3 years ago.

By Steven Wright
Staff Writer

Representatives from more than 700 school districts across Ohio will start voting Monday on whether high school athletes can profit off the use of their name, image and likeness.

The vote through the Ohio High School Athletic Association will run Monday through Friday and could lead Ohio to join most other states in allowing high school student-athletes to profit off NIL deals.

The Dayton Daily News, Journal-News and Springfield News-Sun interviewed athletic directors across the region and found none who oppose the change. This is notable because a similar proposal failed by a two-to-one margin just three years ago.

Forcing the issue now is a lawsuit against the OHSAA by the family of Jamier Brown, a junior who plays football at Wayne High School and reportedly missed out on deals, such as trading card licensing, ranging into six figures because of Ohio's current NIL rules.

NIL deals continued on A9

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Your Food Relief donation will help neighbors in need



Rob Rohr

Dear Reader,

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, it's easy to take for granted the simple comfort of sharing a meal. But for too many of our neighbors, that comfort feels out of reach. More than 33,000 people in Clark, Champaign and Logan counties face food insecurity –

unsure where their next meal will come from.

At the Springfield News-Sun, we believe everyone deserves a place at the table. Giving to our Holiday Food Relief fundraiser helps make that possible. Your gift doesn't just provide food – it tells our neighbors they are valued, seen and heard.

Here's why your support matters:

- Every \$1 provides 2 meals for a person in need.
- Every penny you give stays local and goes directly to

wholesale food purchases for families in need in our communities.

For more than 40 years, our readers have shown the power of community by supporting Holiday Food Relief. Last year, you helped provide tens of thousands of meals through our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. This year, as food costs rise and access becomes harder for many families, your generosity is needed more than ever.

Please join us in making sure

no one is left out this holiday season.

How to give:

- **Online:** www.SpringfieldNewsSun.com/foodrelief (or scan the QR code in today's paper)
- **By mail:** Send a check to Holiday Food Relief, Second Harvest Food Bank, 20 N. Murray St., Springfield, OH 45503
- **With envelopes:** Included in today's News-Sun and again Nov. 23, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28. Your donation is tax deductible and makes an immedi-

ate impact. Together, we can ensure that every neighbor has a place at the table.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Sincerely,

Rob Rohr
President & Publisher
Springfield News-Sun

THE LATEST

Government reopens minus data guiding markets, the fed. B1

Emails reveal Epstein's network of rich, powerful. B2

IN YOUR EPAPER

Read your newspaper anywhere, any time with bonus and updated content at SpringfieldNewsSun.com/epaper.

INDEX

BUSINESSB4
DEATHS A8
IDEAS&VOICESB5
NATION&WORLDB1

TICKETS AS LOW AS \$12!

DON'T MISS THE MAGIC THIS WINTER

1.1 MILLION LIGHTS

TRAIN RIDES

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

HOLIDAY TREATS

GET YOUR TICKETS AT DRAGONSDECKTHEDIAMOND.COM