Requirements to become a

**Stark County Hunger Task Force food pantry**

**The Stark County Hunger Task Force** is a non-profit organization committed to alleviating the problem of hunger in our communities. We are a support organization for local food assistance programs. We offer a variety of services:

1. We work with a wide variety of schools, businesses and civic organizations to organize food drives. That food is picked up by individual pantries and taken directly to their pantry. Every effort is made to ensure that all the pantries we work with get a fair share of this food.
2. We solicit funds from individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups. Those funds are used to purchase food from the Akron Canton Food Bank (ACRFB). We must stretch every dollar donated to us and use of the Food Bank gives our sites access to USDA commodities, donated food and special purchase food which averages about 18 cents a pound. Almost all of our pantries have a specific allowance per month paid by SCHTF to shop at the ACRFB. The amount each pantry receives is determined by financial need and the number of clients served.
3. The Stark County Hunger Task Force’s trucks (2) are available for our pantries to borrow to make the trip to Akron to pick up food. Pantries must refill the gas tank upon every return.
4. We work with the pantries to determine special needs such as freezers, refrigerators, dollies, shelving and other products. When those needs are identified, we seek grant money to meet them.

# Becoming a part of The Stark County Hunger Task Force

Existing pantries or new pantries can apply to become part of The Stark County Hunger Task Force by calling our office at (330)455-6667, sending a letter of inquiry to P.O. Box 20941 Canton, Ohio 44701 and by filling out the pantry application. To be accepted, pantries must:

1. Have a food pantry ready to operate with a location and regular hours of operation determined. The site must be able to provide volunteers to order and pick up food, prepare bags for give away, qualify applicants and do minimal record keeping. (The Food Bank will provide government guidelines.) In most cases, the pantry will need some financial support beyond The Stark County Hunger Task Force.
2. Have a 501c3 non-profit status determination from the IRS. Applications for this can be picked up at the Post Office and usually require the help of an attorney to complete.
3. Be a member of the Akron Canton Food Bank and in good standing. Call Katie Carver (330)777-7577 for an application.
4. New pantries must be in a geographic location not already covered by existing pantries or be operating during hours not covered by an existing pantry.
5. Pantry directors or staff will be asked to attend our monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month at The Community Campus at Goodwill @ 9:30am. (408 9th St SW Canton, OH 44707)
6. Submit the latest report of monthly numbers to the Stark County Hunger Task Force by the 10th. Submit your ACRFB member number in the SCHTF monthly numbers report.
7. Submit an annual SCHTF survey to assess your pantry’s current needs.