



FOOD • CONNECTION • HOPE

CONNECTION

News and information for friends of Freestore Foodbank

SUMMER 2019

Rubber Duck Regatta winner gives back

“I told them I bought just one duck—that’s all I could afford, I was screaming and crying and laughing because I just couldn’t believe it.”

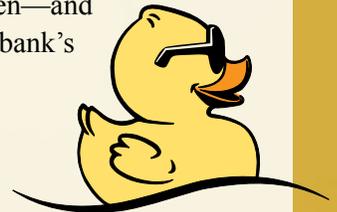
—JOSETTE



Josette Anderson entered the Rubber Duck Regatta in 2018 by chance. She thought her help wouldn’t be much, but she helped far more people than she ever imagined.

A bank employee asked if she wanted to donate \$5.00, which would provide 15 meals for hungry children—and enter her in Freestore Foodbank’s Rubber Duck Regatta.

Read more of her story inside on page 2.



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A message from our President & CEO

The tagline “buy a duck, feed a child” for our Rubber Duck Regatta is really something that our entire community has taken to heart.

It shows that everyone can participate and be a part of the solution to ending hunger. That sense of giving back, of being part of something bigger than yourself, that’s what the Rubber Duck Regatta does. Everyone can make an impact.

And truly, fighting hunger is a community effort here in the tristate area. We’ve just recently had exciting events like our Taste of the NFL and Hunger Walk and 5K Run. The support we’ve received from individuals and businesses across the 20 counties we serve make these events possible.

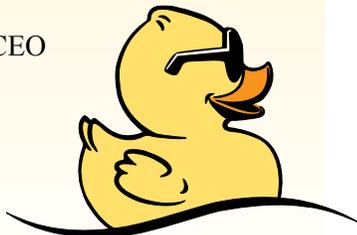
While these events are fun, they are vital in bringing more nutritious food to the children, families and seniors who need it most.

“...everyone can participate and be a part of the solution to ending hunger.”

We’ll have exciting things to share in the coming weeks about our 25th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta. I hope you’ll join us in our biggest event

of the year over Labor Day weekend. And remember, “buy a duck, feed a child!”

Kurt Reiber, President & CEO



Continued from cover

One duck can change a life



First prize was a 2018 Honda Accord. Josette told the bank employee she didn’t really have \$5 to give. But Josette was deeply appreciative of a time Freestore Foodbank helped her, so she wanted to give as a way to help someone else. She decided to buy a duck with the little money she had.

Josette’s connection to Freestore Foodbank began in 2017, when she signed up for the Cincinnati COOKS! program. Homeless before entering the program, she recently completed the 8-week program for Second Course and says it’s helping her stabilize. Josette has learned some important skills and says she is now on a path to independence.

“Freestore Foodbank has awesome programs and they made me more self-sufficient.” –JOSETTE

Despite those challenges, Josette wanted to help children facing hunger—she knew all too well the struggle of providing enough food for her own family. **She couldn’t believe when a staff member at Freestore Foodbank called her to tell her that her duck won the Rubber Duck Regatta.** “I told them I bought just one duck—that’s all I could afford,” Josette says. “I was screaming and crying and laughing because I just couldn’t believe it.”

Paying it forward

You might think someone in Josette’s position—down to her last few dollars—would keep the grand prize money to herself. Not Josette. She took the cash option so she could help others.

She went to an area where she helps serve homeless neighbors frequently. Many of them are her friends she used to live with on the streets. With her prize money, she paid bills, bought meals, helped pay for medication.

For Josette, it’s just paying forward the help she received at a difficult time in her life.

“Freestore Foodbank has awesome programs and they made me more self-sufficient,” Josette says. “They make you feel like you’re family.”

If you would like to “buy a duck, feed a child” at our Rubber Duck Regatta this year, please visit rubberduckregatta.org.

When I couldn't feed my kids, your support was there

Janice found herself in one major transition after the other—and making ends meet became almost impossible.

She recently moved in with her boyfriend, and they combined their families. With three teenage boys in the house, trying to keep up with feeding them can be overwhelming. On top of that, Janice also found out she had a tumor, one that required multiple surgeries and has kept her out of work.

Thanks to your generosity, Janice had a place to go when she couldn't afford the groceries she needed each week to feed her family. She started coming to Inter Parish Ministry, one of our partner agencies. "It's really helped to make sure we stay fed," Janice says. "I want to make sure my children are able to eat."

Your generosity continues to help people in need

Janice is grateful for the food she is able to take home and cook for her family, and she feels strongly about sharing what she receives with others. When her kids bring friends over or someone in their neighborhood is short on food, Janice stretches the food you help provide even further to make sure they all have something to eat. She is grateful that your generosity helps her family while they get back on their feet—and gives her the opportunity to continue that spirit of helping others.

"I hope the donors know that they bless others," Janice says. "You're not just helping one person. You're helping one person, and then they can help another person. It's ongoing."

The impact of your generosity goes so much further than providing meals. You can help provide food for more neighbors like Janice by visiting freestorefoodbank.org and donating today. Thank you!



"It's really helped to make sure we stay fed. I want to make sure my children are able to eat." –JANICE

Your support helped me get back on my feet

Sammie lived a middle class life, working as a flight attendant for 11 years. He always had enough income to cover his basic needs.

In short succession, he suffered a massive heart attack and stroke, and the airline he worked for closed down. It left him without a job, and he could no longer pay his bills or afford food. His anxiety had escalated and was no longer manageable on his own.

"I was waiting on disability, living in a house with no electric, no gas and no water. I had no income," Sammie says. "I didn't know where my next meal was coming from."

I think donors need to know that they've saved somebody

Sammie felt scared and alone, and unsure how long he could continue living in his current situation. A friend



suggested he go to Brighton Center, one of Freestore Foodbank's partner agencies.

That first visit to receive food—made possible by your support—led to many positive changes in Sammie's life. He began volunteering in the food pantry and also began to work in the

community garden near the Brighton Center.

"This year I grew corn, tomatoes, squash and peppers," says Sammie. "It's nice to go out there and grow your own food."

Sammie says working in the garden has helped him ease back into social situations and has lowered his anxiety. He feels deeply appreciative of the donors who help make the food possible for himself and so many others struggling with hunger.

"I think donors need to know that they've saved somebody," he says. "There's great appreciation from the people who come here and use these services."

For more information on our community partners, visit freestorefoodbank.org.

Donor Spotlight

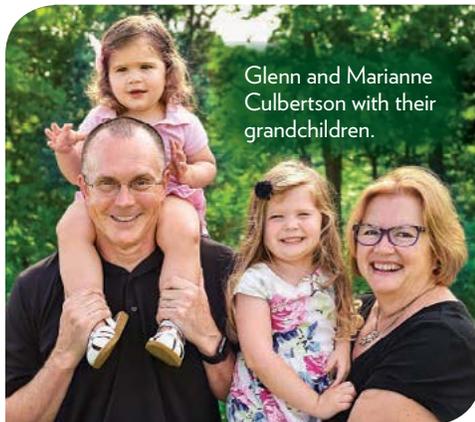
A family tradition of generosity and service

Glenn and Marianne Culbertson's involvement with Freestore Foodbank began over 20 years ago through volunteering at holiday food distributions with their young daughters, Shannon and Molly. They wanted to spark their children's involvement in philanthropy by making it a part of their family's holiday tradition.

As a result, they have been generous and loyal donors for the past 10 years. They give to Freestore Foodbank's Second Helping Fund, a matching fund that leverages gifts from other donors.

Glenn has worked at GE Aviation for 34 years as a materials engineer. For Marianne, Freestore Foodbank's mission is close to her heart. "Providing a meal for your family is an expression of love," she said.

Freestore Foodbank is grateful that Glenn and Marianne are looking forward to continuing to financially support the organization and volunteering with their grandchildren, Eve and Renee.



Glenn and Marianne Culbertson with their grandchildren.

“Providing a meal for your family is an expression of love.”

—MARIANNE CULBERTSON

Through the support of individuals and families like the Culbertsons, the Freestore Foodbank can provide nutritious food to our neighbors who need it most.

Please help keep our programs running all summer long by giving online at freestorefoodbank.org or send your gift in the enclosed reply slip. Thank you for your generosity!

ICING ON THE CAKE

Are you at least 70½?

If so, you can make tax-free gifts directly from your IRA.

Your gift to Freestore Foodbank will never count as income, but will always bring food, connection and hope to families in need. **Now that's icing on the cake!**

For more information about gifts from your IRA, contact Mindy Hammer at mhammer@freestorefoodbank.org or 513-482-7099 or visit Freestore Foodbank's website, www.freestorefoodbank.org/take-action/make-donation/make-gift-stock



TOMORROW'S HARVEST SOCIETY



Stay connected to the work you support! Visit us at freestorefoodbank.org



Yes, I want to provide more nutritious food to children, families and seniors all summer long.

I've enclosed my tax-deductible gift of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

I would like to be a **Full Plate Partner** and commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____. My first gift is enclosed.

I would like more information on including Freestore Foodbank in my will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

Double my gift's impact. I will ask my company to match my gift.
Company Name _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make your gift payable to: **Freestore Foodbank**
1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202 | 513-482-3663

DONATE NOW

Your online gift will be put to work quickly. Please visit our website: freestorefoodbank.org

Double your gift's impact: Many employers offer matching contributions dollar for dollar.

To find out if your employer has a matching gift program please contact your HR department.

Questions? Please call our Donor Relations Department at 513-482-FOOD (3663).

Please charge my gift on my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. We will send a receipt for your records.



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Your gifts change lives!