

**ATHENS  
FOOD  
RESCUE**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

# How it All Started

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- Donated food to Salvation Army food pantry and learned about the increasing numbers of families in need in our area
- At the same time was looking for a way to volunteer in the community- knew it would involve helping get food to the people coming to the pantry
- Came across an article about an all volunteer group in California doing food rescue
- Food rescue was the perfect volunteer opportunity



# What is Food Rescue?

- Collecting food from local restaurants that would otherwise get thrown away and delivering to local charities
- According to the USDA, 30-40% of food in US gets thrown away every year
- Food waste in landfills creates methane gas which is 21x more potent at trapping heat in the atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>



# Map the Meal Gap Study

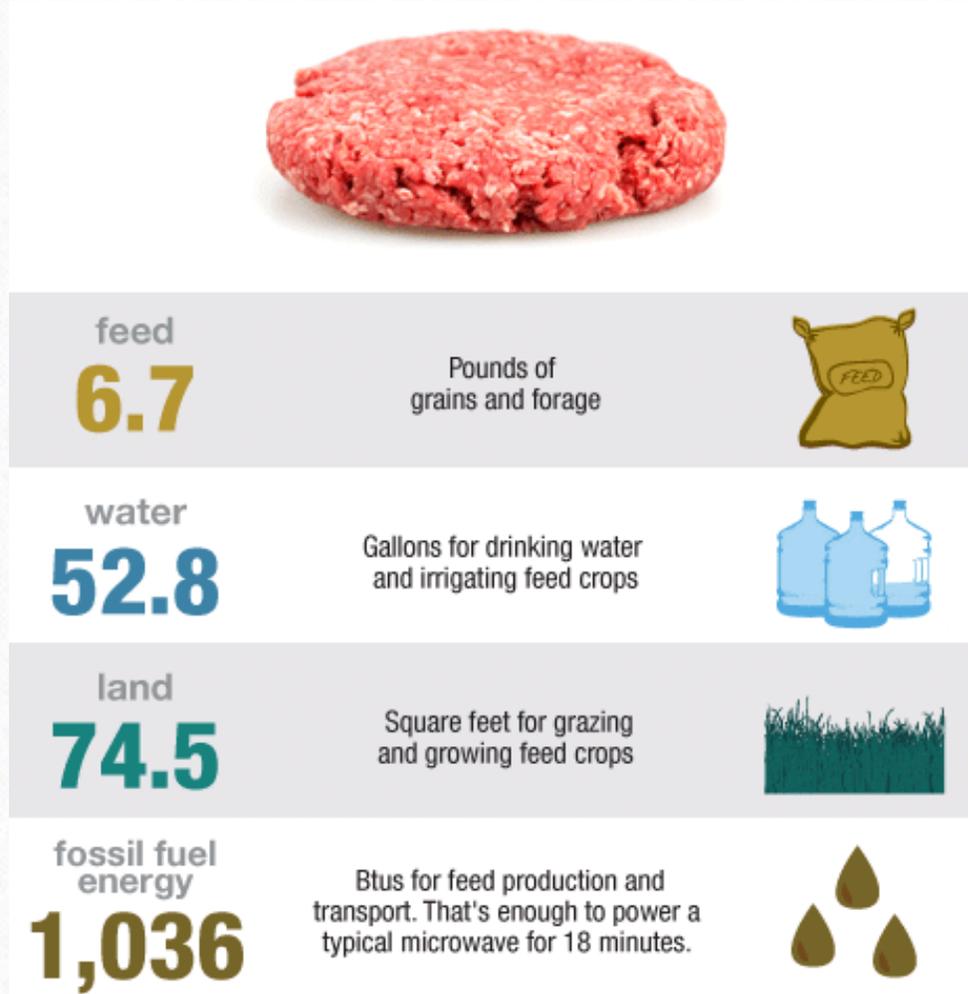
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- Feeding America Study
- Look at food insecurity in every county in the US
- In Ohio, Athens County has the highest rate of food insecurity at 20.5%



# Cost of Food Waste

- One example of all the natural resources that get wasted along with food
- This is what it takes to make a quarter pound hamburger



Source: J.L. Capper, Journal of Animal Science, December, 2011.

# Cost of Food Waste Cont.

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- Getting food to our tables eats up 10 percent of the total U.S. energy budget, uses 50 percent of U.S. land, and swallows 80 percent of freshwater consumed in the United States.
- Yet, 40 percent of food in the United States today goes uneaten.
- That is more than 20 pounds of food per person every month.
- Not only does this mean that Americans are throwing out the equivalent of \$165 billion each year, but also huge amounts of unnecessary chemicals, energy, and land.

Source: Gunders, Dana, NRDC Wasted, August 2012

# EPA Waste Reduction Goals

- In September of 2015 the EPA announced the first ever national food waste goals
- They want to see a 50% reduction by 2030
- EPA & USDA will work with organizations to determine ways to reduce waste
- We have the opportunity to be leaders in Athens county on how to make this work



# Is Food Rescue Legal?

- The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act is a federal law that protects those involved in food rescue from liability as long as food is donated in good faith
- Perfectly legal and encouraged by the EPA and USDA



# How Athens Food Rescue Works

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- Food safety is key
  - All volunteers are trained in food safety before collecting food
  - Record and take temperature of food
- Sign up for food shift on website
- Collect food at designated time and immediately drive it to local charity
- It is weighed at charity
- All data is entered into website
  - Poundage
  - Temperature
  - Time food in transport



# State Food Must Be In To Donate

- We pick up food as long as it has been stored at the proper temperatures if it is a time or temperature sensitive food
- If it is already cooked prepared food this needs to come from a licensed food facility that has properly cooled it and either refrigerated or froze it
- We accept food that is near or at expiration as long as it is still good
- We also accept food that is slightly blemished like fruits and vegetables



# Why Donors Would Want To Donate

- To help feed those in need in our community!
- Boost worker moral, it weighs heavily on some employees having to throw away all that food
- They are protected from any liability in relation to their food donation by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act
- They may qualify for an enhanced tax deduction that may be as much as twice the cost of the food
- They save on waste hauling fees
- Helps keep perfectly edible food out of the landfills and reduces the amount of methane produced



# Local Donors

- Texas Roadhouse
- Athens Country Club
- Green Edge Garden
- Bob Evans
- Chipotle
- A Food Court
- A local café
- Zoe
- Witten Farm Market
- Purple Chopstix
- Shagbark Seed & Mill
- Athens Bread Co.



# Local Charities

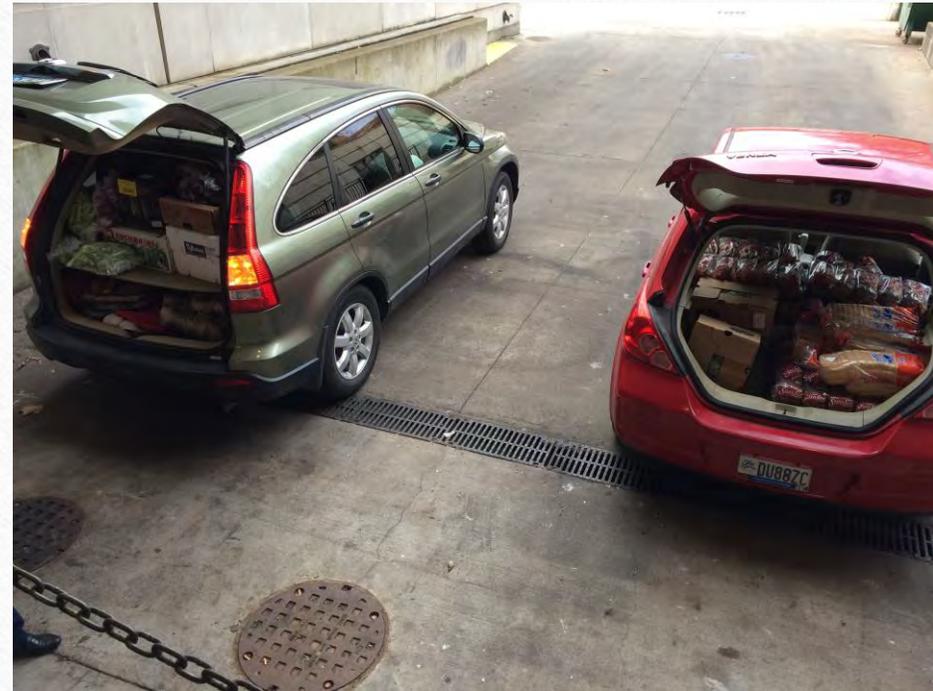
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- My Sister's Place
- The Gathering Place
- United Campus Ministry
- Clem House
- Respite Center
- First United Methodist Church
- Rural Woman Recovery Program
- Timothy House
- Friends & Neighbors Food Pantry



# Rescue Stories

- Chipotle
  - In early 2015 discovered pigs were not being kept humanely and they discontinued all pork items
  - Donated pork steaks
- Bob Evan's
  - Pies just in time for Valentine's Day
  - Large menu change meant a lot of frozen and refrigerated food for charities
- Christmas break donation
  - Took 3 car loads to deliver it all



# Biggest Donation Yet!



# What Impact Have We Had

- Rescued over 11,000 lbs of food
- Help feed about 400 people/week that are food insecure
- Eliminated this food from landfills and its eventual production of methane gas



# What You Can Do To Prevent Food Waste

- Plan meals ahead of time so you only buy what you will use that week
- Have a shopping list and stick to it so you don't impulse buy and then end up not using those items
- Understand that “Sell by” and “Use by” dates are not federally regulated and do not indicate safety, except on certain baby foods.
- These use by dates are just manufacturer suggestions for peak quality
- The foods can safely be consumed after these dates



# What You Can Do To Prevent Food Waste

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- Your freezer is your friend! When in doubt throw it in the freezer.
- Most food can be frozen, that goes for meat, vegetables and fruit on their last legs or nearing expiration. Make sure to wrap tightly in plastic wrap or put in bags with all air squeezed out.
- Compost any vegetables that have gone bad or any leftover table scraps
- Composting allows food to breakdown naturally and produces great fertilizer



# Funders

- We have been able to continue our work thanks in part to grants from the Athens Foundation, RCIF, Athens AM Rotary, and Quidel.
- We could not help feed those in need without support from the community!
- Website: [athensfoodrescuete.wix.com/feed-the-world](http://athensfoodrescuete.wix.com/feed-the-world)
- Email: [athensfoodrescue@gmail.com](mailto:athensfoodrescue@gmail.com)
- Facebook: Athens Food Rescue

