



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

# News Release

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214

(614) 267-2502 ~ FAX (614) 267-2677 ~ [www.ohsaafoundation.org](http://www.ohsaafoundation.org)

---

For Immediate Release July 15, 2009

Contact Kim Mahoney

## OHSAA FOUNDATION AND LEBANON CITY SCHOOLS PARTNER IN FOOD DRIVE EFFORTS

**Columbus, Ohio** – The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation and Lebanon City Schools have partnered to help Ohio schools make a difference through the OHSAA Foundation's community service initiative, "**Foundation Service Week.**" Demand is at an all-time high at many food pantries across the state. More families than ever are seeking assistance during these tough economic times. Meanwhile, food pantries are struggling to keep their shelves stocked amid increasing demand and soaring food costs. According to a May 6, 2009 report from Feeding America, one in six young children live on the brink of hunger in 26 states in the U.S., including Ohio with the third highest rate of food insecure children under 5 years of age.

The Lebanon High School boys' basketball team and cheerleaders have organized a "**BASKETBALL FOR FOOD**" campaign for the past three years. During their second year they collected 12,000 pounds of food and during their third year they collected over 23,000 pounds of food and \$5,000 for the Warren County Food Pantry. For 2009, Lebanon City Schools have plans to further expand their program to include boys and girls basketball programs at all sixteen schools in the Greater Western Ohio Conference.

According to Lebanon City Schools Superintendent Mark North, "The 'Basketball for Food' program has had a positive effect in several ways. This program provides tons of food to many families in need of assistance. Many high school students are involved in positive mentoring and providing leadership through a cooperative effort by talking with younger students at pep rallies and working with their peers to make this a successful program. This program has raised awareness about hunger and the community is very supportive of our students and their desire to help our neighbors who are less fortunate."

Lebanon City Schools have graciously shared the information from their successful food drive program in hopes of assisting other schools in their service efforts. Based upon that information, the OHSAA Foundation has compiled a food drive template intended to assist schools participating in the OHSAA Foundation Service Week in their efforts to serve their community. The template and tools can be modified by OHSAA member schools as needed.

— MORE —

## **OHSAA Foundation and Lebanon City Schools Partnership – 2**

The OHSAA Foundation recently announced dates for the 2009 OHSAA Foundation Service Weeks. **The 2009 Volleyball Service Week will take place Friday, August 14, 2009 through Saturday, August 29, 2009. The 2009 Basketball Service Week will take place Wednesday, November 18, 2009 through Saturday, December 5, 2009.** Complete information regarding the 2009 Foundation Service Weeks can be found at [www.ohsaafoundation.org](http://www.ohsaafoundation.org).

Foundation Service Week provides an opportunity for OHSAA member schools to participate in a community service project(s), as well as a platform to highlight the community service activities schools already participate in throughout the year. Service Weeks are highlighted by "**Foundation Games**" in basketball and "**Foundation Matches**" in volleyball where participating schools are permitted to use one of the five allotted scrimmages to play a live game / match under all normal conditions, although the scrimmage does not count on a team's record.

The proceeds from Foundation Events go directly to the selected community service project, minus a \$250 donation per school to the OHSAA Foundation. Contributions to the OHSAA Foundation are returned to all OHSAA member schools in the form of scholarships, leadership conferences and educational materials for student-athletes in all sports. The OHSAA Foundation annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships and hosts six leadership conferences for over 1,000 student-athletes and administrators at no cost to member schools.

The OHSAA Foundation is a non-profit organization created over 10 years ago to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for Ohio's student-athletes.

**— OHSAA FOUNDATION —**