



JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

February 22, 2011

Holly Davis, (614) 266-5857, holly.davis@governor.ohio.gov

FIRST LADY KAREN W. KASICH PRESENTS \$190,000 TO OHIO CHARITIES

COLUMBUS – First Lady Karen Waldbillig Kasich today presented donations totaling \$190,000 to the [Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks](#) (OASHF) and [Local Matters](#), which tackles child health and nutrition issues. The funds remained unspent by the inauguration committee for her husband, Gov. John R. Kasich, and Lt Gov. Mary Taylor, the Kasich-Taylor New Day Committee, Inc.. Both charities were selected for their commitment to the health and wellness of children in Ohio.

Kasich presented a \$95,000 check to OASHF and its member foodbanks today at a celebration at the Atrium in the Ohio Statehouse. The funds will provide a total of 20,000 meals to children statewide.

“We’re fortunate to have a network of foodbanks in our state that works tirelessly to ensure all Ohioans, especially our children, are provided with basic necessities,” Kasich said at the presentation of funds to Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, OASHF Executive Director. “It’s my hope this donation will reach far beyond its immediate impact and bring awareness to the tremendous promise their work holds for Ohio families and children in need.”

“We are humbled by the generous support of Ohio’s First Lady,” said Hamler-Fugitt. “These funds will provide a weekend’s worth of meals to 20,000 of Ohio’s hungriest children. My colleagues and I cannot express our thanks enough to Governor Kasich and the First Lady for taking an immediate leadership role on such a critical issue.”

Following the OASHF celebration at the Ohio Statehouse, Kasich participated in a Local Matters’ Food Matters class alongside twin daughters, Emma and Reese, at the Schoenbaum Family Center in Weiland Park. At the start of the class, Kasich presented a \$95,000 contribution towards Local Matters’ work to confront childhood obesity via its Food Matters program. The program teaches nutrition, cooking and gardening to over 1000 young children and their parents and teachers in 35 classrooms each week.

“The Food Matters program presents something very unique: a fun, engaging opportunity for children to learn more about fruits and vegetables in the classroom,” Kasich said. “This program inspires children and families to develop a healthy relationship with food, and the benefits of that are limitless.

It's my hope more children across the state will have the opportunity to experience—and taste—Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.”

The donation will allow for the expansion of Local Matters' program to more schools throughout the region and in other parts of Ohio beginning this fall, with the potential to reach an additional 500 children per week. Local Matters Executive Director Michael Jones proudly accepted the support.

“This level of support from First Lady Karen Kasich allows us to take this program further than we'd ever imagined in our three years of teaching it in greater Columbus. It's a great testament to the importance of promoting good choices for our kids and families in Ohio,” Jones said. “Teaching children, parents and teachers about healthy food from a very early age empowers them to break the cycle of chronic illness that is plaguing our community while also strengthening our local food economies and supporting Ohio farmers.”

“I couldn't be more thrilled to have been given the opportunity to make a difference to such deserving organizations,” First Lady Karen Kasich concluded. “Both are faithfully committed to providing a better future for Ohio's children.”

###