simonsontm@gmail.com
help@hungernetwork.org

Hunger Network Associate Board Mission & Member Expectations

Mission of The Associate Board

The mission of Hunger Network's Associate Board is to have fun, create awareness, increase fundraising and steward a new generation of volunteers and philanthropists within the Hunger Network nonprofit organization. Our Associate Board plays an integral role in the future of Hunger Network, by helping ensure the success of our signature fundraising events and echoing the impact of the life-saving dignity-restoring programming unfolding year round. Hunger Network's Associate Board consists of early career professionals in the Greater Cleveland community who want to work to ensure that no one goes hungry, no food goes to waste.

HN Associate Board Structure

Monthly Meetings:
We take a relaxed, community-focused approach to meetings, so attendance is important for a strong board experience. Associate Board meetings are informal and typically held at local hot spots across Greater Cleveland. Meetings may include brief announcements, guest speakers, games, activities, or hands-on volunteer tasks.

Term Commitment: A two-year board commitment is preferred.

Roll-Off Period: November–December annually.

Roll-On & Recruitment Periods
December and April annually.

Leadership Structure: We operate with an informal, non-hierarchical structure. A primary liaison—either staff or a board member—helps coordinate activities. Members may take on special tasks or ongoing projects, but all members are considered equals, and we do not use a traditional leadership board model.

Volunteering: We ask all members to try each Hunger Network volunteer opportunity at least once. We also organize group volunteer projects several times a year.

Personal Financial Commitment: We make a soft annual ask of $500, which can be met through incremental donations, event tickets, donated materials or labor, or crowdfunding support. **Disclaimer:** We understand this may not be feasible for everyone. We will still fully consider and welcome candidates regardless of their ability to contribute financially. Our goal is equitable participation that removes financial barriers and ensures all members can be involved.

Signature Event Committee Service: Serve on one signature event planning committee as a part of your Associate Board service. Committees meet outside of the Associate Board meeting schedule in the months and weeks leading up to the event and often include staff members, community partners, board of trustees members, volunteers, along with associate board members.

- ➔ Walk for Hunger & 5K Run [Date falls in May or June]
- ➔ Annual Golf Outing [Date falls in August]
- ➔ Night to Fight Hunger Gala [Date falls in October or November]

Additional Expectations of Associate Board Membership

Mission & Community Engagement

- Actively promote Hunger Network throughout the community.
- Support and advance the mission and vision of the organization.
- Contribute to building a board that reflects the diversity of our community.
- Increase engagement on social media and at Hunger Network events.
- Engage your company, organization, or personal network with Hunger Network's fundraising goals and community initiatives.

Fundraising & Development

- Engage your company, organization, or social and professional network with Hunger Network's fundraising goals and events.
- Assist in fundraising efforts by arranging introductions, signing letters, and opening doors to potential funding, auction, and sponsorship sources.
- Collaborate with Associate Board members and staff to design and execute an original fundraiser that supports a self-sustaining budget.
- Contribute monetarily to Hunger Network through incremental donations, tickets, donated materials, and crowdfunding totally a minimum of $500 annually to Hunger Network.
- Advise staff and leadership on strategic questions or special projects as needed.

Benefits of Associate Board Membership

Professional Growth & Leadership

- Gain valuable nonprofit leadership, governance, and philanthropic experience.
- Access professional development workshops, mentorship from community leaders, and networking opportunities.
- Strengthen skills in planning, event execution, and strategic advising.
- Enjoy variety by branching out beyond your current career tasks and daily activities.

Community Impact

- Play an active role in advancing hunger relief and improving community health.
- Participate in unique volunteer opportunities and contribute directly to meaningful impact.
- Educate yourself and your network on food insecurity issues and solutions.
- Engage and inspire next-generation donors and volunteers.

Personal Connection & Experience

- Make new friends while creating meaningful, mission-driven experiences.
- Enjoy discounted access to Hunger Network events.
- Contribute to a supportive, energetic board dedicated to strengthening Greater Cleveland.