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Food Exhibit Opens at McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

Canton, OH... The new Keller Gallery exhibition *Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals* will open on June 13 at 6:00 PM with a free opening reception featuring food from Canton's restaurants. The exhibition is based on the themes in Kim Kenney and Barb Abbott's new book of the same name, which explores what Stark County residents have eaten over the past 200 years. The exhibition is sponsored by the Stark County Farm Bureau.

Stark County Food is part of Project EAT!, a countywide celebration of all things food. Partners across the community have joined together to bring Stark County residents a full schedule of food-related events and programs in 2019. From June 22 through July 21, three area museums will have food-themed exhibitions on view. The Canton Museum of Art's exhibition *Food for Thought*, featuring food-themed artwork from their permanent collection, is on view now through July 21. *A Heritage of Harvest: The Industry of Agriculture in Western Stark County* opens at the Massillon Museum on June 22.

Stark County Food begins with a look at farming in our region, which includes a large cash register that was used at Harry Ink's Aplink Orchard in the early 20th century. Other sections include grocery stores, wholesale food companies, restaurants, cookbooks, rationing, ethnic influences, bakeries, dairies, legacy families, community organizations, and culinary tourism. A special section will feature the evolution of kitchen appliances over time, including an early refrigerator, an apartment-sized electric stove, and a microwave with so much chrome, it rivals a 1950s automobile.

"This exhibition has been so much fun to put together," said Kim Kenney, executive director of the Museum and curator of this exhibition. "We searched our permanent collection for artifacts that demonstrate the ways in which we have eaten over time. We have everything from cast iron pans to refrigerators, and everything in between."

The exhibition includes video clips from the Project EAT! Oral History Project, based on interviews that were conducted in 2017 and 2018 by Carmella Cadusale, an AmeriCorps volunteer. Intern Rose Stull reviewed many hours of interviews in order to find the best clips to share in the exhibition.

"There are five people featured in the video," said Kenney. "They share their own memories of what their families cooked when they were little, and what restaurants and grocery stores they remember. Ernie Schott from Taggart's explains how the famous Bittner was invented, too. The clips we have selected provide an interesting snapshot of our community's foodways over time."

The exhibition includes a section of carefully curated nutrition handouts sponsored by Canton Food Tours. Topics include Be a Healthy Role Model, How to Read the Nutrition Label, Kid Friendly Fruits and Veggies, and Make Better Food Choices.

There is also a panel that highlights the organizations who are fighting food insecurity in Stark County. “An estimated 15.3% of Stark County’s population and 23.8% of children are food insecure,” says Kenney. “We wanted the exhibition to include that information, to inspire our visitors to donate food, money, or their time to these organizations. The need continues to increase. The number of people seeking food assistance from the Stark County Hunger Task Force has swelled from 3000 people per month in 1981 to 30,000 people per month in 2017. We have invited leaders from these organizations to speak about their work before many of our Project EAT! programs. We are also running a series of drives for food, gardening tools, and pots and pans throughout the exhibition’s run. Visitors will receive \$1 off admission during each of the drives.”

Stark County Food also includes a binder featuring more than 75 reproduction menus from local restaurants and banquets. The ephemeral nature of menus means that the collection is by no means complete. “You aren’t supposed to take the menu home with you when you eat out,” said Kenney. “But the program from a special event, that happens to include the evening’s menu, was designed as a keepsake.” As a result, the Museum’s archival collection includes many more banquet menus than restaurant menus.

The Museum is approaching the collection of visitor responses a bit differently for this exhibition. “Instead of the traditional guest book, we have purchased a 1950s metal kitchen table and chairs,” said Kenney. “We invite our visitors to *have a seat at our table* to record their own food memories, which can be posted on a large bulletin board near the table. There are also coloring and activity sheets for kids.”

“One of my favorite parts of the exhibition is a handout I made that includes strange recipes from old Stark County cookbooks,” said Kenney. “Recipes include Hot Lettuce Sandwiches, Frozen Tomato Salad, Pork Cake, and Banana Soup. We want to encourage our visitors to try some of the recipes at home and tag us on social media for a chance to win a copy of my new book with co-author Barb Abbott *Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals*.”

Stark County Food will be on view through January 5, 2020.

ABOUT “PROJECT EAT!”

Stark County has a rich food history starting with our agricultural roots and continuing into the present with urban and rural farming, field-to-fork restaurants and many other food-focused agencies. Project Eat! highlights the many great existing programs doing work in our community, while showcasing exciting new food-related events created throughout the Stark County area in 2019. Partners include the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Canton Museum of Art, Massillon Museum, First Ladies National Historic Site, Stark Fresh, Canton Food Tours, Palace

Theater, Carpe Diem, Kent State Stark, Walsh University Food Design Institute, Visit Canton, and Arts in Stark. For a complete list of programs, visit www.ProjectEatStark.org.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum is located at 800 McKinley Monument Dr NW in Canton. The Keller Gallery is the Museum's temporary exhibition space and features a variety of topics each year. The Museum also includes the McKinley National Memorial, McKinley Gallery, Street of Shops, The Stark County Story, Discover World, and the Hoover-Price Planetarium. The Museum is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

EXHIBITION BASED PROGRAMS AT THE MCKINLEY MUSEUM

June 12 Meet the Authors Luncheon and Exhibit Preview

12:00 – 1:00 PM. Meet authors Kim Kenney and Barb Abbott who wrote *Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals*. The program will feature an exclusive look at images that were not included in the book, as well as a special preview and tour of the Keller Gallery exhibition based on the book, which opens to the public the next day. Lunch will feature food from DioGuardi's Italian Market, which is included in the book. Cost is \$15 and pre-paid reservations are required.

June 14-23 FOOD DRIVE

Visitors to the Museum will receive \$1 off admission with the donation of a non-perishable food item for local food pantries.

June 17 Tea with the Curator: "The Kitchen: From Cast Iron to Convection Ovens"

10:00 AM. Join Executive Director Kim Kenney for a look at the evolution of kitchen technology over time. Innovations such as home refrigeration and electric appliances influenced the way home cooks fed their families, and in some cases created brand new menu options that had not been possible before. The program will include a tour of the Keller Gallery exhibition "Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals" and a book signing with Kim Kenney and Barbara Abbott of Canton Food Tours. Special guest Tom Phillips will share a little bit about his organization StarkFresh before the program. The program is \$15 and includes tea/coffee and breakfast sweets. Reservations are required.

June 24 - 30 GARDEN TOOLS DRIVE

Visitors to the Museum will receive \$1 off admission with the donation of a gently used or new garden tool for Stark Fresh, an organization in our community that innovates and educates to combat systematic poverty and provide equitable food access throughout Stark County. The tools are loaned out for community projects and given to those in need.

June 28 Foodie Bus Trip

8:15 AM. Discover Stark County's farms, food and history on this bus trip sure to excite the senses. Begin the day with breakfast from Deli Ohio and then board our coach for a trip to Claredale Farms. Following our farm tour, experience a Canton Food Tour and delight in the tastes of some of

Canton's finest restaurants. Cost is \$80 for museum members, \$85 for non-members. Pre-paid reservations required, and space is limited.

July 8-12 Summer Science Camp

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Kids in grades 1-5 will enjoy exploring science through food with Science Director Lynette Reiner. Themed days include kitchen science experiments, nature edibles, and a bake-off. Sign up for one day or the whole week. Cost is \$18/day for museum members, \$20/day for non-members. Pre-paid reservations required.

July 18 Soup at Six: "Why Wednesday Is Food Day: Paging Through the Culinary History of *The Canton Repository*"

6:00 PM. Join Gary Brown for this exclusive new program! Recipes, grocery ads, food trend stories and articles providing cooking tips long have been an important part of newspaper lifestyle offerings. And, midweek traditionally has been the time for publishing an abundant amount of information that could be clipped for the kitchen. The program is \$20 and includes one of our signature soups, fresh baked bread, drinks, and dessert. Reservations are required.

September 12 Soup at Six: "Ballpark Food"

6:00 PM. Presented by Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Associate Chair & Associate Professor of History at Kent State Stark, this program will explore the history and fun of ballpark food. Have you ever wondered why hot dogs go with baseball? Why crackerjacks? Today we have extreme ballpark food – everything from popcorn to sushi. Learn about the stories and strange facts behind some of your favorite eats at the ballpark! Someone from the Kent Stark Food Pantry will share a little bit about what they do before the main program. The program is \$20 and includes one of our signature soups, fresh baked bread, drinks, dessert, and some ballpark food. Reservations are required.

September 24 *Farmers for America*

7:00 PM. We will host a FREE screening of the documentary *Farmers for America*, narrated by Mike Rowe, at The Palace in downtown Canton. This film examines the central question of "Who will feed us?" in the future. The average age of the U.S. farmer is 60. Half of America's farmland is going to change hands in the next 12 years. 20% of our food is imported. This is the story of young people who are stepping up. Sponsored by Arts in Stark.

September 26 Fall Fundraiser: "Eating Your Way Through History"

6:00 PM. Experience popular foods of past decades in a "progressive dinner" through the Street of Shops. Cost is \$25 for museum members, \$30 for non-members. Pre-paid reservations required.

September 30 – Oct 6 POTS & PANS DRIVE

Visitors to the Museum will receive \$1 off admission with the donation of a gently used or new pots & pans for Stark Fresh, an organization in our community that innovates and educates to combat systematic poverty and provide equitable food access throughout Stark County. All items donated are used in Stark Fresh programs and given to those in need.

October 7 Tea with the Curator: "The ABCs of Nutrition: A History of 'Scientific Eating'"

10:00 AM. Join Executive Director Kim Kenney for a historical perspective on healthy eating. In the early days of our country, we had to eat a lot of food to keep our bodies fueled for working in the fields and factories. As our economy transitioned to less physically demanding desk jobs and service industry positions, we had to change the way we ate. As women's fashion became more revealing in the 1920s, the idea of "scientific eating" began to take hold. The program will include a tour of the Keller Gallery exhibition "Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals" and a book signing with Kim Kenney and Barbara Abbott of Canton Food Tours. The program is \$15 and includes tea/coffee and breakfast sweets. Reservations are required.

October 17 Dinner with the President

5:30 PM. We offer presidential dining packages for motor coach groups, but this experience has never been open to the general public – until now! Join President McKinley for a special evening that includes dinner and a look at the President's favorite stories about his wife Ida, the Front Porch Campaign, and his presidency. This special presidential experience is \$35 per person. Reservations are required.

November 14 Soup at Six: "The True Story of Thanksgiving"

6:00 PM. What was the first Thanksgiving REALLY like? Spoiler alert: it was nothing like you've been taught! Learn the true story of Thanksgiving with Executive Director Kim Kenney. What was available to eat in 17th century colonial America? Sign up for this Soup to find out! Special guest Maureen Tate will share a little bit about the Stark County Hunger Task Force before the program. The program is \$20 and includes one of our signature soups, fresh baked bread, drinks and dessert. Reservations are required.

December 13 Open Hearth Dinner

6:00 PM. The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum will offer a special open-hearth cooked dinner on Friday December 13 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 and guests will be able to observe the meal being prepared at the hearth. Dinner will be served at 6:30 in the Museum's Street of Shops. Your meal will include pumpkin soup, chicken, green beans, bubble and squeak, fresh baked bread, warm apple cobbler, and beverages. Guests will be able to tour the fully decorated museum. The Museum Shoppe will be open for holiday shopping. The cost for this exciting evening is \$45 per person. Reservations are required and payment is due at the time reservations are made. There is limited seating available so sign up today! The deadline to make reservations is December 6. For more information or to make reservations please call Christopher Kenney at the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum at 330-455-7043.

December 26 – Jan 5 FOOD DRIVE

Visitors to the Museum will receive \$1 off admission with the donation of a non-perishable food item for local food pantries.

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