



Senator Tim Schaffer
31st Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

December 19, 2011

Contact: Danielle Vandegriff
(614) 466-5838

FROM OUR STATE SENATOR: TIM SCHAFFER

BY STATE SENATOR TIM SCHAFFER

As 2011 comes to an end, we are all reminded that there is no better way to close out the year than by celebrating Christmas with family and friends. In light of all the traveling, cooking, and last-minute shopping that may consume the next few days, I certainly hope that you and your families are able to set aside some time to reflect on the last twelve months as well as the year ahead.

For the General Assembly, 2011 marked one of the most challenging legislative sessions we have ever seen. As Ohio residents continued to work and persevere through the economic downturn of recent years, legislators carved out an agenda centered on one primary goal: *recovery*. Thanks in part to a series of innovative and sound proposals passed by the legislature, I am quite confident that some brighter days lay ahead in 2012. From wide-ranging tax relief and reinvigorated job growth to restoring responsibility in state government, it is clear that a new day is on the horizon.

However, many in our community continue to struggle. So many of Ohio's families have shouldered the brunt of this long recession, and we must remember that their road to recovery remains a long one.

Certainly, there is no shortage of ways this holiday season to help our neighbors who require immediate relief. Whether by volunteering at a soup kitchen or donating to a toy drive, we can all find ways to assist the lesser fortunate in our community.

I have long been humbled by the charitable will of Ohioans. Every day throughout our state, there are those among us who embody the true meaning of Christmas. They are the ones whose holidays and weekends are spent tending to the needs of total strangers and seeing to it that the golden rule is more than just a topic for conversation. They can be found in our churches, schools, community centers and elsewhere, and we are ever so grateful for the work that they do.

For those looking to do their part in the days ahead, I recommend contacting the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. The organization plays an indelible role in providing food and other resources to people in need through its network of 12 regional Feeding America Foodbanks and 3,000 member charities throughout the state. If you wish to learn more about volunteering, making a donation and other ways they can help the needy in their communities by visiting <http://www.oashf.org/> or calling (614) 221-4336.

Again, I hope that you and your families enjoy a wonderful Christmas and a hopeful and prosperous New Year.

As we move into 2012, please do not hesitate to contact my office regarding any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached by phone at (614) 466-5838 or (800) 282-0253, by e-mail at SD31@senate.state.oh.us or by writing me at State Senator Tim Schaffer, Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio 43215. I look forward to hearing from you.

-30-

State Senator Tim Schaffer was elected to the Ohio Senate in 2006 after serving in the Ohio House of Representatives for six years. His legislative accomplishments include enacting anti-corruption reforms, income tax indexing, and stronger penalties on sexual predators. He and his wife reside in Lancaster.