Law firms participate in Operation Feed, help central Ohioans struggling with food insecurity

One in six Ohioans is food insecure, and many families struggle with the choice of paying for housing, utilities or medical expenses and putting food on the table. One community resource available to those in need is Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

In 2015, Mid-Ohio Foodbank distributed nearly 60 million pounds of food, supporting pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters across 20 Ohio counties. Operation Feed, a campaign the organization has run since 1980, recruits local businesses, schools and civic groups to fight hunger through virtual food drives.

As a part of the annual Operation Feed campaign, many central Ohio law firms participate in the Law Firm Challenge, raising funds and donating food to Operation Feed while participating in some friendly competition.

While Mid-Ohio Foodbank recognizes a wide variety of central Ohio organizations, law firms specifically recognized for their outstanding Operation Feed 2015 efforts included BakerHostetler, Barnes and Thornburg, Dickie McCary & Chicote, Dinsmore & Shohl, Hahn Loeser + Parks, Isaac Wiles, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur and Squire Patton Boggs. Of those firms recognized, three raised the most money and credit debit card accounts and 70 million customers. According to corporate filings, the

breach cost Target $252 million through the end of 2014. In 2015, Anthem health care discovered a data breach that compromised 80 million patient and employee records. Some industry analysts have speculated that the breach could cost Anthem billions of dollars.

Second, lawyers and law firms routinely handle all sorts of confidential, protected and sensitive information for clients. That information can be stored in hard files that are not susceptible to cyberattack, but more and more, such information is stored electronically.

The good news is that the increasing incidence of data breaches is forcing companies and their counsel to focus on security and prevention, adopt proper procedures for handling of breaches when they happen and contain costs where possible. There’s also been an increase in programming to help educate lawyers to cybersecurity risks and opportunities.

If you’d like to learn more about cybersecurity and data breaches in a fun setting, attend the Columbus Bar Association’s upcoming seminar and cocktail event, “I Invented the Internet to Make Your Job Harder: Lawyers and Law Firms Online.” The event will take place on July 21 at 1:30 p.m., followed by a cocktail hour and speed networking event. Call (614) 221-4112 for more information and to register.

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