



Second Harvest
Food Bank
of Northwest Pennsylvania

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA



THE BREAD BOX

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Nutritious News

PASS Program benefits

Distributing fresh food items is a key priority for Second Harvest. A new development in the distribution of these items is the implementation of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS). This state-wide program puts healthy food, provided by Pennsylvania growers and producers, directly into the charitable food system. PASS funding was first made available last spring. Through the program, we distributed 54,194 pounds of nutritious items to 7,844 unduplicated households across our 11-county region. For more information on the PASS and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, visit www.agriculture.pa.us.

Increase in State Food Purchase Program Budget

The state House and Senate recently approved a spending plan that includes a 4.1 percent increase in the line item that supports the commonwealth's anti-hunger programs. Under the approved budget, the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) funding will be increased. SFPP remains one of the commonwealth's most important tools in the fight against hunger and a lifeline for food banks across Pennsylvania, including Second Harvest. The SFPP provides Second Harvest with grants to purchase nutritious food items that might not normally be received as donated product. Second Harvest is the lead SFPP agency for Clarion, Erie, Forest and Jefferson counties.



MILK –
Fill a Glass with Hope

Milk has long been associated with good health: making bones and teeth stronger, reducing risks of various chronic diseases, building muscle and much more. Milk is also associated with something else: it is one of the most requested items at Second Harvest. Unfortunately, milk is rarely donated.

As a member of Feeding Pennsylvania, Second Harvest has partnered with the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, Mid Atlantic Dairy Association, agricultural partners and business leaders to launch *Fill a Glass with Hope*. The primary goal of the program is to make this vital dairy item accessible to the hungry – and it has already been put into action.



"At the Edinboro Food Pantry, we serve nearly 200 families, and we are trying hard to improve the nutritional quality of food we distribute," said Mary Weber, director of the Edinboro Food Pantry. "We feel very fortunate to give a jug of milk to each of our recipients, and our families are thrilled."

Since the program started, approximately 900 families are receiving fresh milk each month. In its first year, *Fill a Glass with Hope* is expected to provide more than 8,000 quarts of fresh milk through our member agencies. The goal is to continue to expand the program in the upcoming year.

There are many costs to acquire, handle and distribute milk to needy Pennsylvanians who seek help at the hundreds of community organizations across our service area. While this is a statewide initiative, we hope to bring fresh milk to the tables of families in the 11 counties of northwest Pennsylvania. If you have questions about *Fill a Glass with Hope*, please contact Sr. Karen Kosin at (814) 459-3663 x 107 or email kkosin@nwpafoodbank.org.

PERSPECTIVE



Is it too early to plan for Thanksgiving?

Not when you're feeding 167,700 people. The last three months of the year are incredibly busy at Second Harvest.

All throughout this season of giving and caring, I see so many examples of generosity. What is even more heartening is that contributions, fundraisers and food drives that benefit Second Harvest continue all year round. We are blessed with caring people throughout our service area. You make it possible for us to carry out our mission of distributing food to people in need.

As the holidays approach, so many businesses, schools, churches, organizations and individuals step forward to collect food and/or raise funds to help us continue to provide food to people facing difficult times. Together, they make it possible for thousands of people in northwest Pennsylvania to have a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner or other celebration.

We thank all of our donors, food drive organizers, fundraisers and volunteers for your commitment to your neighbors in need and ask for your continued support.

From all of us at Second Harvest, Happy Holidays and God bless you.

They also help us provide nutritious food for children, who make up nearly 29 percent of the 167,700 individuals who receive food through Second Harvest each year. The children rely on the food pantries, BackPacks and other programs to provide necessary supplements to the groceries their families are able to purchase.

Karen S. Seggi
Executive Director



INSIGHT

Keith Bennett directs activities at the Elmwood Presbyterian Food Pantry. He works with a group of 12-15 volunteers who show up early on the third Thursday of each month to assemble bags of food for up to 50 families in need. The volunteers are made up of members of the church, The Barber National Institute and local neighbors and each works hard to prepare for the monthly pantry distribution.

"We've gotten to know each of our clients over the years," Keith says. "The most rewarding part of the process goes beyond distributing food. It is about building these close-knit relationships through the community."

"Call it generosity or family kinship...it just feels good to give back to those that need it."

“The most rewarding part of the process goes beyond distributing food.”



GRATITUDE

Second Harvest's annual Bread Box Awards recognizes the efforts of groups and individuals who host fundraisers and food collections for Second Harvest.

Each year, finalist awards are presented in nine categories: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College/Technical School, Individual, Church, Organization, Small Business and Large Business. Judging is based on the creativity of the event, community awareness of the issues involving hunger and the amount of food or money collected.

A first and second place winner is selected in each category. The main award, an actual bread box, is presented to one of the first place winners. The name of the winner is engraved on the Bread Box Award, which the winner proudly displays for one year.

The Bread Box award for 2016 was presented to **Rouse** in recognition of their project - a business to business challenge in their area to benefit the Warren County Backpack Program.

For a full list of winners, please visit www.nwpafoodbank.org.



“Do your little bit of good where you are: it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

- Desmond Tutu

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The work we do at Second Harvest would not be possible without the generous and loyal support of our donors. Thanks to the many who help with Second Harvest's mission. Thousands of our neighbors in northwest Pennsylvania received emergency food and grocery products when they needed it the most.

The **Erie News Now Holiday Drive-Thru Food Drive** will be held November 16th and is an all-day food drive and fundraiser. All food collected at each location in Erie, Meadville, Corry, Warren, Edinboro, Titusville, Waterford, East Springfield and Franklin remains in the community where it was collected. Monetary donations assist Second Harvest's mission throughout the year.

On November 12th, the **Mantsch-Lafaro Insurance Agency** teams with ServiceMaster by Advanced, Erie Insurance and Bello's Shur-Fine to hold a community fall food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank. The food drive is held at Bello's Shur-Fine in the Colony Plaza in Erie from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cash and food donations can be made on site. Free hotdogs will be available to those who make a donation.

Tops Friendly Markets offer shoppers the opportunity to purchase a "Little Brown Bag of Hope" for \$5, \$10 or \$20 on December 16th. These bags of nonperishable food will go directly to the Second Harvest Food Bank to help those in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS



HELP OVER THE HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY BACKPACKS

One of the ways Second Harvest works to alleviate childhood hunger is through the Backpack Program. The Backpack Program provides second and third grade students within 31 local schools a weekly bag of food. These bags provide children with nutritious items when school meals are not available.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, many are looking forward to sharing meals with friends and family while others are stressed about being able to afford additional meals for their children. Second Harvest is making sure that these children have access to food during the extended Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks by providing them with holiday Backpacks.

Second Harvest will be teaming up with local businesses, organizations and volunteers assemble and distribute holiday Backpacks to all income-eligible students in kindergarten through fifth grade within the Erie County School District as well as the Warren County School District. In all, approximately 8,000 holiday bags will be distributed for the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. The goal is to make sure the students can focus on enjoying their holiday breaks instead of worrying about where their next meal may come from.

If you would be interested in making a donation to help support this important program, please contact Zach Webb at (814) 459-3663 x 114 or email him at zwebb@nwpafoodbank.org.



HOLIDAY BASKETS

The holiday season can be particularly difficult for families in need. Thanks to the efforts of several local organizations and individuals, thousands of families in northwest Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to enjoy holiday meals they may otherwise not have access to.

With the help of Citizens Bank, the Times Old Newsies and the Rick Hinman Thanksgiving Dinner Drive, 6300 holiday baskets of food will be delivered to families between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These boxes are filled with a turkey or ham, as well as vegetables, potatoes, stuffing, rolls, gravy, and other traditional holiday food items.

If you would be interested in making a donation to help support these important programs, please contact Zach Webb at (814) 459-3663 x 114 or email him at zwebb@nwpafoodbank.org.



Second Harvest
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1507 Grimm Drive
Erie, PA 16501
Phone: (814) 459-3663

97 cents of every dollar that is donated to Second Harvest is used directly to help feed those in need

WWW.NWPAAFOODBANK.ORG

WAYS TO GIVE

Hunters Share the Harvest

Are you a hunter? Did you know that you can share your extra venison to help the hungry through the Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) donation program? An average-sized deer will provide enough highly nutritious, low-cholesterol meat for up to 200 meals.



There are three easy steps to donate your venison:

1. Enjoy a safe and successful hunt.
2. Carefully field dress, legally tag and report your deer harvest.
3. Visit HSH participating butchers in our area who coordinate meat deliveries with Second Harvest.

Second Harvest then redistributes the venison across our network of 297 member agencies to organizations such as food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Each year, approximately 2,000 pounds of venison is delivered to help feed the hungry in our community.

Interested in knowing more about the program? Visit www.sharedeer.org

MEAT PROCESSORS IN NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA:

CAMERON COUNTY

Valley Meats
Emporium, PA
(814) 486-0440

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Jason Monn's Buck Stop Deer Processing
Philipsburg, PA
(814) 280-1359

CRAWFORD

Hilltop Processing
Conneautville, PA
(814) 587-2193

ERIE

Scott's Custom Deer Processing
Albion, PA
(814) 449-5335

Pacileo's Great Lakes Deer Processing
Erie, PA
(814) 825-3759