

# The Bread Box

Spring 2022 Newsletter



"With everything going on in the world, it gets hard. I'm a single mom to a 7-year-old," P.J. said. "It's a big relief to know that I have the fresh produce to feed my family."

# Perspective:



As the Chief Executive Officer of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, it is an honor and privilege to serve our mission. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the work we have been able to accomplish together to build stronger communities. And, although our world is still dealing with COVID-19, the changing season gives us new hope.

The pandemic reminded us that many families are living paycheck to paycheck and hunger can very easily happen to anyone; be it a job loss, illness, or simply a reduction in pay. With the price of gas, groceries, and goods rising, it is almost certain that food-insecurity for many new families will follow.

The most recent Map the Meal Gap Study from Feeding America tells us that 1 in 8 people within our 11-county service area are hungry. Sadly, 1 in 6 of those individuals are children, just like our cover photo of young Katrina. For her mother P.J., and for many families in Northwest Pennsylvania, the struggle of hunger is far from over.

One factor that can be depended upon is Second Harvest's commitment to reach seniors, children, and families who are in need of food. Our Produce Express Program continues to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and other pantry items off the back of our truck in poverty-stricken neighborhoods. The Backpack and School Pantry programs provide child-friendly food to students so that they do not miss a meal over the weekend. So that they never have to make the difficult choice between purchasing much needed medicine or food, a 30-pound box of non-perishable food is delivered each month to low-income seniors through our senior box program. With these programs and many more, Second Harvest Food Bank is reaching those who are most vulnerable, making sure that they never miss a meal.

Second Harvest, in turn, relies on our donors to help fund the many programs that we administer. Last year, our food donors, financial supporters, and volunteers never skipped a beat. With your help, we were able to provide over 10 million meals to hungry individuals in our area. We are truly blessed for all the support we have received during this global pandemic. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for believing in our mission.

As we plan for the future, our vision remains the same: a hunger-free community. We kindly ask that you consider donating your time, talent, or treasure to help us serve the food insecure population within Northwest Pennsylvania. I am immensely proud of what we accomplish here at Second Harvest Food Bank and hope that we can continue to rely on our beloved community to help us pursue our dream of alleviating hunger.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen S. Seggi".

Karen S. Seggi  
Chief Executive Officer



**OUR VISION: A hunger-free community.**

**OUR MISSION: The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is to provide food to those in need within 11 counties of northwest Pennsylvania while creating awareness and educating the community on the realities of hunger.**

**Second Harvest serves 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango, and Warren.**

# Community Partner Spotlight:

## Wegmans Supporting Local Food Banks



Local Wegmans employees involved in the Check Out Hunger campaign.

According to Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap Study, more than 88,000 individuals in Northwest Pennsylvania are food-insecure. That is approximately 13% of our total population. To address the issue of hunger in our community, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania partnered with our local Wegmans supermarkets for their annual *Check Out Hunger* initiative.

Between February 1st and March 12th of 2022, area Wegmans locations invited customers to donate to Second Harvest at the checkout register in order to help their fellow neighbors in need. All donations went directly to Second Harvest to support our anti-hunger programming in the community. Customers who donated \$5 or more were entered to win a Wegmans gift card. The five cashiers at each Wegmans location who raised the most money will have a lunch celebration with store leadership to recognize their efforts.

In total, the 2022 *Check Out Hunger* campaign raised \$89,394. These funds will help Second Harvest provide thousands of meals to our food-insecure community members. Second Harvest's partnership with Wegmans was recently strengthened with the addition of a new Board Member, Ryan Salvo. Ryan is the General Manager of the West Ridge Wegmans location and joined Second Harvest's Board of Directors in 2021. Thank you, Wegmans!

"The success of this fundraising effort is fully dependent on the generosity of our customers," said Ryan. "They continue to support our efforts for the community at an incredible level. Our team of dedicated cashiers and front-end staff do an amazing job for the community year after year. I'm honored to serve on the Board of Directors at Second Harvest and will look for every opportunity to grow the already incredible relationship between Wegmans and Second Harvest."



Ryan Salvo

**P.S. Do you know someone in need of food?**

**Leave a message on our food helpline at (814) 459-3663 x 117. An agency relations representative will reach back to you with information on resources near you.**

# Second Harvest Programming:

## Food Rescue & MealConnect

Approximately 40% of food that is produced in the United States is wasted before it can be consumed (Feeding America). Second Harvest's *Food Rescue Program* aims to address the issue of throwing away nutritious food that could be used to feed our hungry neighbors.

Our food rescue efforts have expanded over the past year, including gleaning from area farms and building new relationships with retail stores. Recently, Feeding America

introduced a new website called *MealConnect*. This website streamlines the food rescue process, connecting retail food donors directly to nearby member agencies who can pick up leftover food that would otherwise be wasted. Agencies can then distribute this extra food to their community members in need.

In 2021, Second Harvest rescued 5 million pounds of food. Since *MealConnect* was launched, 67 nonprofits have signed on as well as 59 stores and restaurants. To learn more about the *Food Rescue Program* and *MealConnect*, please visit our website at [www.nwpafoodbank.org](http://www.nwpafoodbank.org).



Food Rescue Coordinators, Celeste Makay & Jade Menow

**MealConnect™** **FEEDING AMERICA**

## The Healthy Pantry Initiative

Second Harvest held a press conference at the Mount Carmel/St. Luke Food Pantry on January 20, 2022, to showcase the *Healthy Pantry Initiative* program (HPI). The goal of the HPI program is to increase pantry clients' consumption of healthy foods by highlighting healthy choices within pantries.

At the conference, all participating member agencies were rewarded for playing a major role in influencing food choices. Our HPI Coordinator, David Godoy, provides food demonstrations, tastings, and nutrition classes to encourage healthier options.



**PA Healthy Pantry Initiative**  
A project of Feeding PA in partnership  
with the PA Department of Health

Each agency displays signage and provides produce information and recipe cards that promote health and wellness without restricting clients' freedom of choice. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our amazing Healthy Pantry Initiative partners. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to health and wellness in our region.



Healthy Pantry Initiative member agencies representatives

# Volunteer Spotlight:

## The Spichers

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania would not be as successful without steadfast volunteers like Maria and Curt Spicher. After having both retired from teaching careers, the Spichers planted their volunteer roots at Second Harvest. When asked why they enjoy volunteering, the Spichers stated that they "love to help others and meet new people in our community." This dynamite duo mentioned that the need for volunteers is always prevalent, just like the need for food. The impact that the Spichers have made at Second Harvest can be summarized best by Gerry Weiss, *Director of Network Relations*, "Maria and Curt are the most reliable, dependable, and capable volunteers any nonprofit programmer could dream of. Regardless of the weather conditions, the Spichers have never said, 'No,' when we've needed their help during our outdoor food distributions. When you look in the dictionary under the word volunteer, there should be a photograph of Maria and Curt."

You too can make a difference by volunteering with Second Harvest Food Bank. We are always looking to fill various volunteer shifts throughout the week and weekend. If you are interested in volunteering with Second Harvest, please contact our Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator, Sydney Courcier, at [scourcier@nwpafoodbank.org](mailto:scourcier@nwpafoodbank.org) or at (814) 459-3663 x113.



Curt and Maria Spicher



Karen Seggi, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, and Douglas Starr, Board President of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania

On March 7, 2022, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania welcomed the prestigious Feeding America CEO, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot. Second Harvest is a member of the Feeding America network, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization and the second-largest U.S. charity. This was a momentous occasion to say the least and one that has never occurred in our beautiful city, until now.

Claire arrived without an entourage and with a warm heart. Currently, she is on a Northeastern tour of food banks and made sure to add Second Harvest to her list of destinations. Claire toured the administrative offices and warehouse, making sure to greet each staff member. She even took time to educate our volunteers on the bigger picture of hunger in our country.

Through a network of more than 200 food banks, including Second Harvest, Feeding America has provided 6.6 billion meals to tens of millions of people in need in the last year. As a Feeding America member, we were proud to be able to host such an impactful person. Thank you, Claire, for taking the time to make us all feel seen and heard. Your kindness gives us power to push forward every day to help alleviate hunger in our region of Pennsylvania.

## Planned Giving

A special thank you goes out to The Potthoff Family, who after the passing of their beloved mother, Martha, and father, Edward, decided to make a charitable contribution, in their memory, from their estate. "With three boys and four girls, it was magic how they fed us all," shared Marilyn (Potthoff) Tuberson. "Now they will continue to feed others for years to come," added Breanna Watts, *Director of Development*.

If you or a friend are interested in Planned Giving, please contact Breanna at (814) 459-3663 x114 or email her at [bwatts@nwpafoodbank.org](mailto:bwatts@nwpafoodbank.org). Second Harvest kindly suggests that you consult with your financial advisor to discuss the best choice of planned gifts for you. As always, we want to make sure that we help each of our donors fulfill their philanthropic goals. Let us help you change the lives of hungry men, women, and children today and for always.



Stephen Potthoff and his sister, Marilyn (Potthoff) Tuberson, at our Full Plate Society wall.

# Upcoming Events

## Walmart and Sam's Club's Fight Hunger Spark Change

Fight Hunger Spark Change is a nationwide initiative encouraging the public to join the fight against hunger. From April 18th through May 15th, you can donate to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania at the register of your local Walmart or Sam's Club store. Donations of \$1, \$2, \$5 or another amount will be accepted. There is no limit to what can be raised at the register! 100% of funds donated in our 11-county service area will be directed to Second Harvest!



## National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, letter carriers throughout northwest Pennsylvania and the Second Harvest Food Bank will once again Stamp Out Hunger. Residents can leave a sturdy bag of nonperishable food items next to their mailbox early in the morning. Local letter carriers and volunteers will be collecting donations. Community support during this event will greatly help Second Harvest provide food assistance to our neighbors in need. For more information about the 30th Annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign, please contact Sydney Courcier at [scourcier@nwpafoodbank.org](mailto:scourcier@nwpafoodbank.org) or at (814) 459-3663 x 113.



## Warren Gives

On May 18, 2022 from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM, please visit [www.warrengives.org](http://www.warrengives.org) to securely and easily make donations to organizations dear to you in Warren County. Checks will also be accepted if received at the Foundation office (310 Second Ave, Warren, PA 16365) no earlier than Monday, May 2, 2022 and no later than noon on Friday, May 13, 2022. Donation checks must be made out to Community Foundation of Warren County and accompanied by a Check Donation Form available. These forms are available at the Foundation office or online. Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA and Second Harvest Food Bank Backpack Programs are both options when giving during Warren Gives.



## Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Please consider registering to walk with Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania at this year's event. Registration and check-in begin at 7:45 AM at Beach 11. The 5K walk begins at 9:00 AM and the 1 mile walk is at 9:15 AM. Help those who are food insecure by signing up at [www.walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org).



## Erie Gives

From 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM on August 9, 2022, is Erie Gives. Brought to you by The Erie Community Foundation and its generous sponsors, the signature event promotes the nonprofit sector. You can be a philanthropist with a gift of just \$25 or more. Make your gift online, mail a check, or gift the required minimum distribution from your IRA. For complete instructions on mailing your check, simply download the Erie Gives check contribution form and send it with your check to the Foundation, 459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507. Thank you for supporting Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania at Erie Gives!



**1507 Grimm Drive, Erie, PA 16501 | (814) 459-3663 | [www.nwpafoodbank.org](http://www.nwpafoodbank.org)**

