Thank you, Tony Muir and Welcome, Michael Tukeva

In January, we honored long-time advisory board member and then chair, Tony Muir for his 10 years of service. Tony couldn’t have been more dedicated to the growth and well-being of the Food Bank. He was committed to ensuring that Second Harvest was a healthy and efficiently-run organization. We will surely miss his guidance and leadership.

Tony’s last act as board chair was to welcome Michael Tukeva, Executive Director of Pocono Alliance, to the role. Pocono Alliance is a non-profit that provides essential services and resources for people in the Pocono Mountain area. Michael is well-fit to take on the role of board chair and we look forward to his leadership. Michael tells us, “Poverty and hunger should pierce the conscience of all. It is a privilege to serve as the advisory board chair as we draw attention to these issues and contribute to the solutions we all desire.”

FARM FRESH AND NEVER WASTED

Growing food from the earth is hard and dirty work. George and Annette Cuzzolino, the owners of Casa Bianca Farm in Mount Bethel, started selling their vegetables on a card table on the side of the road 10 years ago using a coffee can honor system. From there they graduated to a roadside stand and eventually their operation evolved into a fully-fledged Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Now they sell their products wholesale and offer pick-your-own blueberries by appointment.

George and Annette hold full-time jobs working for a large greenhouse operation in New Jersey in addition to raising their five growing sons, and yet they somehow find the energy to run their family farm. Even through the craziness of their hectic schedules, George and Annette make sure that their surplus product finds its way to Second Harvest Food Bank. The produce donated to Second Harvest is high-quality, but might not meet the quality standards of retail grocery markets. It is much easier to plow under or compost unsold products than to coordinate the logistics to pack, store, and ready them for transport to the food bank. Annette tells us, “No food should go to waste; Second Harvest helps us to achieve those goals. We are so very thankful for them.”

Casa Bianca Farms is making a big impact in our community. If you are a local grower with surplus product, please consider donating to Second Harvest. Give us a call to learn more.
UDDERLY FANTASTIC

Fresh milk is one of the best things we can provide to a family. It’s loaded with vitamins and nutrients essential for the healthy growth and development of a kid’s body and mind. Milk is very seldom donated, and since it isn’t inexpensive, we were never able to offer it to our member agencies. This all changed in 2016, when we began our Fill a Glass with Hope™ fresh milk program.

We are now licensed as a charitable milk sub-dealer, meaning we can purchase milk from dairies at a reduced price. To-date, we have distributed over 11,925 gallons of milk! Our Fill a Glass with Hope™ program is funded by donations and sponsorships. On average, $1 provides eight servings, or one-half gallon of milk.

KEEPING IT FRESH!

Our goal is not only to provide food to our neighbors in need, but to provide the freshest and healthiest foods. In order to do so, we purchased our first refrigerated truck in 2017, and, thanks to the extreme generosity of the guests at our annual Empty Bowls dinner, we are now able to retrofit our remaining two trucks with refrigeration units. Last year, almost 28% of the food we distributed was fresh, perishable product, compared to 20% just two years ago. We are committed to nourishing our community, and aim for 35% fresh product distribution by 2020!

MEMBER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The food pantry at Central Elementary School has served the Center City Allentown community for more than 15 years. It was created and operated by the Allentown School District, but since 2015, the pantry has been supported by community members. Ten volunteers serve over 100 families each month. Three of Central’s volunteers are also food pantry participants. Central is a rare pantry that is open in the evening, and the majority of participants are stopping in on their way home from work.

Lisa Zinkler inside the Central Food Pantry

In addition to running the food pantry, Central Elementary also manages the Backpack Buddies Program, through a partnership with the United Way’s Community School Program. Each Friday afternoon, at-risk students bring home a backpack of food to get them through the weekend.

Lisa Zinkler is an indispensable part of the team at the Central Food Pantry. Pantry Coordinator, Valerie Lane, tells us that Lisa has been volunteering for four years, and she’s been reliable since day one. Lisa isn’t afraid to do the heavy lifting, both literally and figuratively, that is often required to keep the operation running. Not only is Lisa dependable and hardworking, she greets each participant with dignity and kindness.

Lisa has been a resident of Allentown since 1986, where she and her husband raised their three children. Lisa tells us, “I feel blessed that I’m able to contribute my time to such a wonderful cause as the food pantry at Central Elementary School. In this small way I’m able to help others in need of the basic necessities of food and nutrition.”

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We couldn’t operate without the support of our corporate partners. We are thankful for the many partnerships that enable Second Harvest to improve the lives of the people we serve. We thank the following donors for their recent support.

BB&T Economic Development Fund
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
UGI Heating & Cooling
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Northampton County DCED
Wal-Mart State Foundation
Dunkin Brands Joy in Childhood Foundation
Our Family Foundation
Walt Disney Company
Giant Food Stores
Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation
Wells Fargo

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This year, we were proud to honor Shirley Radler as our Alice Anne Miller Hunger Hero Volunteer. Shirley has been volunteering for 20 years with the Trinity Pantry in Lehighton. She spends hours each week at the food pantry, greeting participants, coordinating their senior food program, and helping with food distribution. Shirley remembers each participant’s name and makes sure to ask them how they are doing. She knows every aspect of the food pantry and can answer all questions the other volunteers might have.

Shirley’s impact reaches far beyond the walls of Trinity Pantry. As an advocate for the hungry, she responds to legislation through the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania and the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C.

Shirley is an inspiration to those who work with her, both in her commitment and work ethic. Her work both on scene and behind the scenes is a true labor of love for which she expects nothing in return. Shirley is making a big difference in the lives of many people.
Advisory Board Members
Our Advisory Board members provide exemplary support and guidance, and we are thankful for their service.

Michael Tukeva, Chair
Pocono Alliance

Betsy Storey-Bono, Vice-Chair
Concannon, Miller & Co.

Barbara Bigelow, Secretary
Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra

John Buckley
Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A

John Diamant
Retired, Victaulic

Maria Gaspar
Bank of America

Michael Gausling
Originate Ventures

Maryann Haymanek
Northampton Community College

Lisa Higgins
Community Advocate

Valerie Lane
Retired, Muhlenberg College

Patrice McFarquhar
PA Career Link

Janet Ney
Retired, Second Harvest

John Savchak
RLB Accountants

Elizabeth Scofield
Community Advocate

Royal “Chip” Snyder
Sodexo

Benjamin Spalding
CISS, Ltd.

Mike Tirrell
Giant Food Stores

Maureen Topper
Community Advocate

Ilene Wood
Community Advocate

The Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA is registered with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations through its parent organization the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Inc. A copy of the official registration and financial information can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. This Program was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

6969 Silver Crest Road
Nazareth, PA 18064
484.287.4015

Empty Bowls
Saturday, October 14, 2017
6:00-9:00 PM
Save the date to join us for an extraordinary evening, and help us fill the empty bowls in our community!

Upcoming Events

Food Truck Food Drive
WFMZ and Dorney Park will host the second annual Food Truck Food Drive on Saturday, April 21 from 10 AM - 2 PM in the Dorney parking lot. It’s a food truck festival with admission being a donation of food or funds to Second Harvest. We had a blast last year, and hope to see you this year, for an even better time!

Empty Bowls
Mark your calendars – we will be hosting our annual Empty Bowls event on October 20 from 6 - 9 PM. We would love if you could join us for this special event held here in our food bank warehouse. Stay tuned for more details.

Hoedown!
Flint Hill Farm and Educational Center is hosting their annual “Hoedown” Farm to Table Dinner on June 2 from 5 - 9 PM. Flint Hill Farm will donate a portion of Hoedown proceeds to Second Harvest! It will surely be a fun, delicious, and meaningful night. Learn more at flinthillfarm.org.

Empty Bowls 2018
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Call 484.287.4015 for details.

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