MEET OUR MEMBER AGENCY

PARKLAND C.A.R.E.S.

Our newest member agency, Parkland C.A.R.E.S. (Community Aid Reaching Every Student), serves a hidden need, in an area where most find it hard to believe that hunger exists. Out of the 9,400 students in the Parkland School District, 27% of those are experiencing some level of food insecurity.

The founding members of the Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry found this staggering statistic unacceptable and decided to do something about it.

“Parkland C.A.R.E.S. believes that no child, ever, no matter the circumstances should go hungry” said Katrina Sundstrom, Executive Director at Parkland C.A.R.E.S. “Seeing our community come together to help those in need has been remarkable. We may never solve the issue of hunger, but we will diligently fight it as long as the need exists.”

Currently they operate as a choice pantry, allowing families to select items that best suit their needs, and are open three times a month with families permitted to shop twice a month. They also provide weekly snack packs on Thursdays to help bridge the gap over weekends and holidays, when children lose access to the free and reduced meals they rely on at school.

Visit parklandcaresfp.org for more info.

Local Parkland soccer team stocking the shelves with items collected during their food drive.
FreshForward

In order to best serve the community and provide the healthiest food possible, we’ve launched our FreshForward fundraising campaign. The funds raised will enable us to add an additional cooler/freezer unit, doubling our refrigerated and frozen storage capacity and allowing us to accept, store, and distribute more lean proteins, dairy, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

The addition of the new unit will grow our current frozen storage capacity from 48,000 cubic feet to 96,000 cubic feet, increasing storage capacity from 96 pallets to 192 pallets of refrigerated and frozen products.

The $525,000 project goal includes site preparation, electrical work, construction materials and labor, and racking for the pallets. If Second Harvest has the very good fortune to receive an overwhelming response from the community, funds received in excess of $525,000 will be used to build refrigerated and frozen storage capacity within our network of 200 nonprofit member agencies.

“Thanks to support from foundations and individuals in our community, we’ve raised more than 75% of our goal! Your contribution to FreshForward will help us ensure that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food.”

- John Savchak, FreshForward Campaign Chair

Contact Erin Dallago at edallago@caclv.org or 484.893.1137 to learn more about our FreshForward campaign.

BY THE NUMBERS

During program year 2018-2019...

We distributed 9.4 million pounds of food and more fresh produce than ever before with our fleet of 4 trucks.

840 kids weekly

Our Backpack Buddies program provides a weekend’s worth of food to hold kids over until they return to school for free breakfast and lunch.

2,470 seniors monthly

Our SUNshine box program improves the health and nutrition of low-income senior citizens by providing them with a box of groceries.

428 kids, teens, and adults yearly participate in our six-week Cooking Matters nutrition education program, which empowers families to shop for and prepare healthy, delicious meals on a budget.

For every $1 donated we can provide 6 meals to the people that need them most.

LITTLE BITES

Since 2015, Second Harvest’s refrigerated and frozen food distribution has increased from 1.5 million pounds per year to 2.6 million pounds per year – an increase of 74%.
Growing New Farmers for the Future

We’re excited to announce that The Seed Farm is now part of Second Harvest Food Bank!

Since 2010, The Seed Farm has been cultivating the next generation of farmers by providing new farmers with access to intensive training, equipment and land. Their new farmer training and agricultural business incubator programs help start and maintain new, sustainable farms in the Lehigh Valley, facilitating the development of a vibrant, local food system.

In addition to farmer training and farm entrepreneurship programs, The Seed Farm runs a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program with St. Luke’s University Health Network. Employees at each St. Luke’s campus can sign up for a half or full share for an entire growing season (approximately 20 weeks), and veggies are delivered from the farm each week. This program enables The Seed Farm to provide fresh, healthy food to the community.

Staff Spotlight

Q&A with Brad Pollock, Farm Manager at The Seed Farm

Brad has been with The Seed Farm since March of 2018, but has been in farming much longer; he and his sister started growing and selling pumpkins and fall ornaments at their grandparents’ farm in the late 90s and still share the business today. When he’s off the farm he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, and brewing hard cider.

Q: What does your job entail?
A: I grow produce for our 60 member CSA, maintain the grounds and equipment, raise plants for the spring plant sale, and assist the incubator farmers when needed.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?
A: Being out in the fields in early morning when everything is still quiet and calm.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges that emerging farmers face?
A: Access to land. With the increasing cost of land, it makes it more and more difficult to pay to buy or rent with farm income alone. Some of the other challenges are cost of infrastructure and equipment, and mentally preparing yourself for the stress and obstacles that may arise.

Q: What is something you wish everybody knew about farming?
A: How much time, energy, and money it takes to be successful. When you farm, you wear many hats from laborer to weatherman, to mechanic to salesman. You never stop learning new things and finding new challenges to overcome.

“...Our programs make it possible for a new generation of farmers to enter the profession and grow it in new ways, demonstrating the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit of the Lehigh Valley. These new farmers will protect our cherished farmland, restore our food security, and improve our collective health.”

-Lindsey Parks, Program Administrator at The Seed Farm

Interested in touring The Seed Farm’s 42-acre site in Emmaus? Contact Lindsey Parks at lparks@caclv.org or 484.866.6076.
For every $1 donated, we can provide six meals to the people that need them most.

Donate online at shfblv.org