UPCOMING EVENTS

Hunger Action Month – September

Asking for help isn’t easy but helping can be. We are calling on you to take action—a donation, a volunteer shift, or a social media post—to end hunger one helping at a time. Follow #HungerActionMonth and connect with us on social media to find ways to take action.

Take Out Hunger – September 19

Save the date as we launch our first ever Take Out Hunger event which supports our local restaurant community and Second Harvest, too! Supporters can dine with local restaurants, who will be donating a percentage of sales back to Second Harvest in support of Hunger Action Month. Visit Facebook.com/Shfblv.org for more info.

Greenway Farmers’ Market – Fridays until Sept. 25

There’s a new farmers’ market on the South Bethlehem Greenway; 2-6 pm every Friday until September 25th. Enter the market on Polk Street between E. 3rd and E. 4th Streets. Connect with local farmers and merchants and enjoy fantastic food from local businesses. Stop by the Second Harvest and Seed Farm table to say hello. Don’t forget your mask.

Giving Tuesday – Tues. Dec. 1

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement. We know there are many deserving nonprofits, but we hope you’ll consider supporting our campaign goal of $10,000! Visit shfblv.org for more info.

Empty Bowls – October

With the health and safety of everyone in mind, we will not be gathering for our Empty Bowls dinner in our warehouse. We will miss sharing a meal and a good time with our friends, but hope that you will contribute to our bold goal of raising $40,000 For Empty Bowls! Visit shfblv.org for more info.

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

DONATE ONLINE: SHFBLV.ORG

Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania is a program of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV). CACLV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of CACLV may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A HAPPY “HELLO” GOES A LONG, LONG WAY

The Second Harvest network of nonprofit agencies is 200 strong. Last year, we distributed 11.8 million pounds of food to that network, which serves more than 60,000 people every month. Most member agencies operate solely through the work of volunteers. It is a true labor of love.

The Greater Shiloh Church food pantry in Easton opened in 2013, as an undertaking of Senior Pastor Phillip Davis. The food pantry at Greater Shiloh serves more than 150 families each month, and for the past three years, Marcia Young has served as Director.

At one point, after relocating to the Lehigh Valley from NYC, Marcia and her family fell on hard times and relied on the emergency food system to keep dinner on the table. She remembers feeling ashamed, and says, “The people on the line would cut in front of me at times. Sometimes the volunteers were bossy with attitudes. I didn’t mind, I knew my family had to eat.”

“I ended up on a food pantry line myself. Sometimes in life you end up places you think you would never go.”

Marcia vowed that when it came her time to give back, she would meet every individual and family with compassion and kindness, “I wanted to help out and serve the people with a good heart.” Now, as the Director at Greater Shiloh’s food pantry, she has instilled a “no judgement zone” policy, where every member of the community is welcome without question, and all pantry volunteers are encouraged to lend a listening ear.

Marcia describes the people she serves: “It is a single mom who just paid her rent, so she doesn’t have enough for groceries; a senior citizen who can’t make it on a fixed income; or a disabled person who just lost his job. Everyone who comes through the doors has a story to tell.”

We are proud to announce that Marcia joined our Advisory Board earlier this year. We are very glad to have her expertise to guide us and hope to bring life to her motto, “A happy ‘hello’ and a ‘how are you doing?’ goes a long, long way.”
Kinsey Gensel started her journey with The Seed Farm in 2018 volunteering for the Plant Sale and the CSA Workshare Program. She learned how to harvest and pack vegetables and gained experience working with a farm team. “It helped me learn specifically how much I enjoy carrots which is what I am currently growing the most of this season,” explains Kinsey.

Entrepreneurial endeavors are not new to Kinsey—she has owned a small business for 15 years and knows how to build from the ground up. In 2019, Kinsey took The Seed Farm’s tractor safety course and this April she started her farm, The Pickle Penny Patch, on a half-acre plot at The Seed Farm.

“When I look at the map of my property,” Kinsey says, “I see a lot of space for development.” Kinsey’s largest crop is carrots, but Pickle Penny Patch also grows cucumbers, herbs, peas, and flowers. Following in the footsteps of her great-grandparents who owned a truck patch (or market garden), Kinsey sells her crops locally. “Having a plan but staying flexible is important, as is getting guidance from mentors,” advises Kinsey to those starting out farming. “It’s quite literally just about enjoying the fruits of your labor.”

Follow Kinsey’s farm on Instagram @pickle_penny_patch

Q&A with Kathryn Hoffman, SNAP Outreach Coordinator

Nationally, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps 36.4 million Americans keep food on the table. Second Harvest administers SNAP outreach, helping to enroll eligible individuals and families.

Kathryn Hoffman, SNAP Outreach Coordinator, joined Second Harvest in 2010. When she’s not on the job, she enjoys reading, walking, and traveling.

What does your job entail?

A: I help people apply for SNAP, Medical Assistance, and the LIHEAP heat assistance program, over the phone. I also serve as an advocate for people enrolled in SNAP who are having difficulty receiving their benefits.

Q: Who are the people you are helping?

A: I help many people in all kinds of situations - seniors who cannot get to the county offices to apply for SNAP on their own, working families with low wages and high rents, and people who are abruptly unemployed due to injuries or illnesses. And now, people in need of help buying food for their families due to the pandemic.

Q: What is something you wish everybody knew about SNAP?

A: I wish people knew how vital SNAP has been in helping people during the economy’s ups and downs. Until everyone earns a living wage and can afford the basics, like food, decent housing, and medical coverage, SNAP is necessary.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: I am glad I can respond and help people in crisis. I have called the Area Agency on Aging several times to make a ‘health and welfare’ check on a senior who lived alone and had health and safety issues. And, I can let families know about the extra benefits SNAP has provided during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps millions of low-income individuals put food on the table.

SNAP recipients use their benefits to purchase food at their local grocery store or farmers market. Nationally, there are 35.5 million families with children on SNAP. It is the largest hunger prevention program in America.

SNAP is 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED.

SNAP benefits must be used to buy personal care items: alcohol or cigarettes, prepared foods or medicines.

1.8 MILLION

NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING SNAP BENEFITS IN PA

695,405

are children

687,739

have disabilities

184,406

are senior citizens

17,171

are adults

Children and older adult numbers overlap with disability numbers.

$243

is the average monthly benefit amount for a two-person household

that’s about $4 per person daily

Source: PA Department of Human Services, February 2018.

FRESHFORWARD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

You made it happen!

Our new cooler and freezer units are under construction. The addition will double our refrigerated and frozen storage capacity, taking us from space for 96 pallets to 192 pallets of nutritious, perishable foods!