

A Program of



Community Action Committee
of the Lehigh Valley

April, 2011

Dates To Remember:

The Operations Committee meets at 8 am on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This committee addresses the Food Bank's property, the building and equipment, and general logistics (delivery and pick up of product).

Member agencies are always welcome to attend these meetings.

Advocacy and Agency Update

1.1 News You Can Use

News from the Director, Ann McManus

Annual Head Count

Have you returned your census form? Please complete the form which was included in last month's Update. We need an **unduplicated** count of all the people you served in March. Please return the form by April 15. You can mail it to Second Harvest, 2045 Harvest Way, Allentown, PA 18104, fax it to 484-821-2282, or email it to amcmanus@caclv.org

Save CSBG

Have you contacted your Senators and Representative to support CSBG funding in the federal budget? See information below and the templates included with this mailing for talking points and contact information.

Coming Soon:

We are planning for our annual training opportunity for member agencies. Please watch for a separate mailing with dates and times. All agencies that receive food from federal sources (USDA, CSFP) are required to receive civil rights compliance training which will be included in these sessions.

1.2 Save Community Action

The Fight Goes On . . .

The Community Services Block Grant, the core funding source of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Second Harvest's parent agency is in danger of being cut in half. A cut of this magnitude would have a crippling impact on CACLV's ability to serve low-income families and promote economic development in the Lehigh Valley. It will also impact Second Harvest's ability to meet the nutritional needs of those requiring food assistance in our community.

You can help prevent this from happening by collecting support letters from your volunteers and participants. Template letters are included in this Update.

Please Send Letters to
Elisa Zaehring
1337 E. 5th St.
Bethlehem PA, 18015

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2.1 Cooks' Corner

Ingredients

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- salt to taste
- 6 ounces egg noodles
- ground black pepper to taste
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup crumbled buttery round crackers
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sour cream

Directions

1. Poach chicken in a large pot of simmering water. Cook until no longer pink in center, about 12 minutes. Remove from pot and set aside. Bring chicken cooking water to a boil and cook pasta in it. Drain. Cut chicken into small pieces, and mix with noodles.
2. In a separate bowl, mix together mushroom soup, chicken soup, and sour cream. Season with salt and pepper. Gently stir together cream soup mixture with the chicken mixture. Place in a 2 quart baking dish.
3. Melt butter in a small saucepan, and remove from heat. Stir in crumbled crackers. Top casserole with the buttery crackers.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for about 30 minutes, until heated through and browned on top.

<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Chicken-Noodle-Casserole-I-2/Detail.aspx>

2.2 State Food and the 2011 State Budget

Governor Corbett announced his proposed budget on March 8, 2011. He included drastic cuts to programs related to human services, education, and community development. We are grateful that the Governor proposed level funding for the State Food Purchase Program.

It is important for us to educate our leaders about the work that we do to help those struggling with food insecurity in our community. We must also spread the word about the importance of the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) to our work. There is still a long budget battle ahead and we must be ready to fight for adequate funding so that we can continue to serve those suffering with food insecurity in our communities.

Stay tuned for ways that you can help advocate in support of this vital program. Please call Elisa at 484-353-9541 or email her at ezaehringer@caclv.org to learn about how you can involved.

3.1 Proposed Cuts to CSFP Shock College Student

Here is another journal entry from one of the Muhlenberg Interns who is working on the 2011 Hunger Study as well as advocacy campaigns in support of federal and state nutrition programs. I hope that you enjoy her insights about how the proposed cuts to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program would impact our community.

“Through my work as a volunteer for Second Harvest, I have come to learn about a current budget cut that the House of Representatives passed on February 19, 2011. The budget cut is aimed to reduce government spending by \$60 billion within the next seven months. Out of this, \$20 million is going to be cut from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This program provides boxes of food to low-income senior citizens and low-income women, infants, and children once a month. If the Senate approves this bill, then Second Harvest will be forced to cut back the program. Consequently, 283 senior citizens would not receive food next month.

As a college student, I was shocked by the prospect of 283 losing access to their box of food and decided to take action. I researched the program and called my Senators asking them not to support any proposed cuts to CSFP. From a student’s perspective, it is interesting that I would not know about the specifics of this budget cut had I not been assigned to an advocacy project through an internship. College students often seem to forget about the “real” world outside the campus and the harshness that we will have to face when we “grow up.” We have access to a myriad of resources and yet we take everything for granted. That makes me think: I can only imagine how many senior citizens do not know about the budget cuts. I’m astounded that in a country where everyone has access through the internet and the media, we are, at times clueless to what our government is doing – I wonder how many individuals actually know that they can go to the local library, go online, and find out about these sorts of budget cuts that impact them. In school, we are taught how to use computers and books to conduct research; younger generations today rely completely on the World Wide Web. However, I wonder if our community’s senior citizens were ever taught how to take advantage of such new technologies or even have access to them. Furthermore, do low income families have members that are attending or have attended school and obtained this type of information? Many low-income individuals do not have the ability to pay for cable television or internet access in their homes; even more, some families have no home. The younger members of low-income families often have to work rather than attend school to be able to support their families.

This really gave me an appreciation for the individuals that work hard every day to advocate for the voiceless. It also added to my, already profound, appreciation of our nation’s public schooling system and the teachers that work to improve the lives our youth by equipping them with essential life skills.

Maybe it’s time for us to educate each other.”

-Anvi

Section 3.1

Anvi’s Journal



SECOND HARVEST Food Bank

of Lehigh Valley
& Northeast
Pennsylvania

A Program of

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of the Lehigh Valley

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4.1 Save the Date

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches' Justice and Advocacy Committee will hold its annual Spring Workshop, "Hunger at Home: Food for our Neighbors" on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 8:30AM -3:00PM.

The program will include workshops on Bread for the World's 2011 *Offering of Letters* campaign as well as presentations on local food and hunger issues. Second Harvest's Advocacy Coordinator, Elisa Zaehring, will present two workshops, "The Face of Hunger in the Lehigh Valley, and "How-To: Public Advocacy 101."

The 2011 *Offering of Letters campaign* will encourage both parties in Congress and the President to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance to address hunger, health problems, and child malnutrition in developing countries.

The April 9th workshop will offer materials, information, and creative learning experiences to equip you to organize an *Offering of Letters* campaign in your church, campus, or group.

Hope to see you there.