

Second Harvest Food
Bank of Lehigh Valley
and Northeast Pennsylvania

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Ann McManus

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Priscilla Acosta

Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator
Kathryn Hoffman

Project Coordinator
Lindsay Deemer

Warehouse Coordinator
Michael Smith

Warehouse Workers/Drivers
Jeff Burk
Terry Pemsley
Brad Piovesan
Bruce Pope
Robert Thomas
Matthew Woll

Save This Date!

Empty Bowls 2012

October 6*, 6:00-9:00PM

SECOND HARVEST
Food Bank

of Lehigh Valley
& Northeast
Pennsylvania

2045 Harvest Way Allentown PA 18104
610.434.0875 - www.shfbvl.org

30 years of fighting hunger!

*Rain date October 8, 2012



A program of the
Community Action
Committee of the
Lehigh Valley

2045 Harvest Way
Allentown, PA 18104-6793
SECOND HARVEST
Food Bank
of Lehigh Valley
& Northeast
Pennsylvania

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Food FOR Thought

Summer 2012

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF LEHIGH VALLEY &

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

US Department of Agriculture Visits the Lehigh Valley

By Ann McManus

On April 30th, Second Harvest Food Bank hosted representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a Social Safety Net Roundtable Discussion. Janey Thornton, Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and Patricia Dombroski, Mid-Atlantic Region Food and Nutrition Service Administrator, led the discussion of different issues and challenges we face locally with nutrition programs offered by the USDA. Ms. Thornton and Ms. Dombroski hoped to engage participants in order to better reach the people who benefit from these programs now and in the future. Leaders and government officials from our local community and with a commitment to ending hunger participated in the Roundtable.

Some of the programs discussed at the Roundtable were those that affect children, including the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and the Summer Food Service Program. Specifically, participants called for improvements to their nutritional guidelines. Ms. Thornton stated that improving "nutrition is an educational process."

With summer fast approaching and school meals ceasing for the next couple of months, we at Second Harvest have a special interest in bridging what is sometimes referred to as the "summer meal gap." We know that participation at emergency food pantries is higher in the summer than any other time of year. School Breakfast and Lunch Programs are suspended for the summer months when school is not in session and the families that rely on those programs find themselves faced with the task of providing an additional ten to twenty meals per child each week. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps to fill that gap by making meals available to youth through area "feeding sites"- community buildings, churches, and playgrounds where children can go for meals during the day.

While applauding community efforts to promote SFSP, participants at the Roundtable discussed common barriers to participation and possible efforts to increase the number of children receiving healthy summer meals. The Summer Food Service Program is available in many communities in our region, but sadly, it is not utilized at anywhere near capacity.

Other USDA programs discussed during the Roundtable were the Farm to School program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Farm to School programs work to improve nutrition and help local farms remain viable by providing an outlet for their products. The term "farm to school" is generally understood to include efforts that connect schools with area producers in order to serve local or regional-



USDA representative, Janey Thornton, speaks to roundtable participants about different nutrition programs offered and the challenges they face.



Second Harvest Director, Ann McManus, give roundtable participants a tour of the Food Bank warehouse.

ly produced foods in school cafeterias. The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides food (commodities) and funds that allow childcare centers, daycare homes, after school programs and emergency shelters to provide nutritionally sound meals to participants.

Second Harvest administers other USDA programs in our area including the Emergency Food Assistance Program which supplies the commodities we distribute through our emergency food providers and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for senior citizens and new mothers. We also provide outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps). We are pleased to be able to offer the programs that address the need of people of all ages and, with your support, we will continue to promote access to those federal nutrition programs.

Second Harvest Food Bank distributes food and grocery product to more than 66,000 people each month through a network of more than 200 member agencies in Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, and Wayne Counties. Agencies include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and child care and rehabilitation centers. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 5.7 million pounds of food through these agencies.

Advisory Board Members

Second Harvest is privileged to be guided by a group of individuals who make up the Advisory Board.

Barbara Bigelow, Chair
Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra

Anthony Muir, Vice-Chair
Attorney

Alan Wiener
Secretary/Treasurer
A-1 Restaurant Supply

Kay Becker
Shepherd House

Kim Custer
Planned Parenthood

Robert Donatelli
Attorney

Tom Ehrets
Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

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Community Advocate

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Chantal Fulton
Liaison Travel

Maria Gaspar
Bank of America

Donald Hayn
Bear Creek Camp for NEPA

Maryann Haytmanek
Northampton Community College
New Choices

Margie Maldonado
Casa Guadalupe

R. Scott Oesterle
Community Advocate

David Rubright
Lehigh Career Technical Institute

John Savchak
Viamedia

The Second Harvest Food Bank of 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.



Record-Breaking Collection for Stamp Out Hunger!

Letter Carriers Deliver More Than 350,000 Pounds of Food to Second Harvest!



On Saturday, May 12th, local members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) coordinated Stamp Out Hunger, an event that has become the largest single-day food drive in the nation and has resulted in more than 1.25 million pounds of food for families in need in the six counties served by Second Harvest Food Bank.

This year, Letter Carriers from NALC Branches 254, 274, and 389 joined forces with Rural Letter Carriers, as well as volunteers from Teamsters Local #778, the Rutgers Alumni Club of the Lehigh Valley, Keenan House, the Northampton County Probation Department, and countless other organizations to fight hunger!

Community members contributed an astounding 357,000 pounds of food to Second Harvest and the pantries in our network, breaking last year's record collection! Thousands of people in need will have nutritious meals thanks to the generosity of postal patrons.

Special thanks to the national sponsors of the drive: Campbell's, Valpak, the United States Postal Service, AFL-CIO, Uncle Bob's Self-Storage, AARP Drive to End Hunger, and Feeding America. We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support from our communities and the many volunteers who make this event successful.

*Scenes from
Stamp Out Hunger
2012*

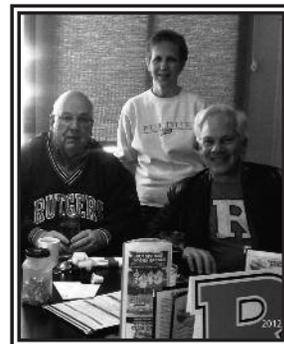
First Annual Lehigh Valley Alumni Club Food Drive Challenge Raises 1,400 Pounds for Second Harvest

Purdue Alumni Club Declared This Year's Winner

Earlier this year, local members of the Purdue Alumni Club issued a challenge to other alumni clubs across the Lehigh Valley to see which group could collect the most food for Second Harvest. The Rutgers Alumni Club and the Penn State Alumni Club rose to the challenge and together the three clubs raised over 1,400 pounds of food for those in need!

To participate in the challenge, club members collected donations, either individually or as a group, and dropped them off at Second Harvest. Here at the Food Bank, we kept a running tally of the donations and posted weekly charts showing who was in first place. The collections were close, but Purdue came out as winner in the end. To cap off the event, club members met up for a friendly happy hour at Brew Works on the Green at the Municipal Golf Course in Allentown.

This was the first year for the food drive challenge, but we'd like to make it an annual competition because it is such a fun and easy way to help those in need! If you are a member of an alumni club and would like to participate in next year's challenge, contact Sharon at 610-434-0875.



Members of the Lehigh Valley Alumni Clubs that completed in the first annual Food Drive Challenge got together for a friendly happy hour at Brew Works on the Green in Allentown to wrap up the competition.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Celebrates 100 Years with a Gift to Second Harvest!

Representatives from Liberty Mutual Insurance visited Second Harvest in late May to present the Food Bank with a gift of \$10,000 in celebration of the company's 100 years of service. The check was unveiled to Second Harvest staff members in a ceremony complete with pompoms and noise makers.

After the presentation, the group had the opportunity to tour the facility to see firsthand what their gift would be supporting. Liberty Mutual will be returning later this summer to volunteer for a day, so before leaving, they hung a company shirt on our "Volunteer Wall of Fame." Thanks Liberty Mutual and Happy Anniversary!!



To celebrate their 100th anniversary, representatives from Liberty Mutual Insurance recently presented Second Harvest with a gift of \$10,000 and a t-shirt to hang on our 'Volunteer Wall of Fame'



Advocacy Corner:

Farm Bill Negotiations Jeopardize Nutrition Benefits

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) has become a prime target for budget cuts in this difficult time of recession, deficits, and resistance to taxes. As Congress turns its attention to the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012, more commonly known as the Farm Bill, SNAP is encountering serious opposition.

The House Agriculture Committee has released its version of the Farm Bill, making over \$33 billion in program cuts to SNAP. No household would be spared from seeing its benefits reduced, and millions of low-income people would be forced out of the program.

The Senate Agriculture Committee has passed its version of the bill out of committee. Despite strong support for SNAP, the Senate's proposal still calls for a \$4 billion cut to SNAP through a limitation on the states' ability to provide additional benefits in high heating cost areas.

The Farm Bill contains a strong nutrition safety net that includes SNAP, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

- SNAP is the cornerstone of nutrition protection, providing over 45 million low-income participants with monthly benefits. SNAP is one of the most effective safety net programs because it expands to meet rising need. In addition, SNAP generates \$1.79 in local economic activity for each \$1 in benefits expended. In our six county service area, nearly 126,000 people are eligible for SNAP benefits.
- TEFAP is a means-tested federal program that provides food to people in need of short-term hunger relief through food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters. As the need for food assistance remains high, a continuous stream of TEFAP is necessary for a steady emergency food supply. More than half of the member agencies in our network are Emergency Food Providers (EFT) and they are serving more than 56,000 people each month. These are people that would not eat if not for the food they receive from our agencies.
- CSFP provides nutritious food packages to approximately 604,000 low income people each month, of which more than 1,900 are in our six-county service area. Most program participants are seniors with incomes of less than 130% of the poverty line (approximately \$14,000 annually for a senior living alone).

The nutrition safety net of the Farm Bill is critical to any efforts to address hunger in the United States. You can make a difference by calling or emailing your members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to ask them to protect and strengthen the programs that affect the ability of many, many families to put food on the table.

Contact Your Elected Officials

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
1-202-223-6324
or <http://casey.senate.gov>

Senator Pat Toomey
1-202-224-6324
or <http://toomey.senate.gov>

Representative Lou Barletta
1-202-225-6511
or <http://barletta.house.gov>

Representative Tim Marino
1-202-225-3731
or <http://marino.house.gov>

Representative Charlie Dent
1-202-225-6412
or <http://dent.house.gov>