

Second Harvest Food  
Bank of Lehigh Valley  
and Northeast Pennsylvania

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# Second Harvest is Seeking Volunteers for the 2011 Hunger Study

*Attention all Second Harvest supporters interested in an exciting  
volunteer opportunity:*

Elisa Zaehring, Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach at the Food Bank, will soon be collecting interviews for the 2011 Hunger Study and we need your help! The Hunger Study is a large-scale survey of the Lehigh Valley's emergency food networks participants. We are seeking volunteers to help conduct face-to-face interviews of pantry and soup kitchen participants.

The face of hunger is often difficult to recognize. The Hunger Study reveals the plight of people struggling to make ends meet in our community and helps us and our supporters understand the challenges that low-income people face daily amidst a nation of extreme wealth.

Interviews will start January 18, 2011 and will be collected through March. Day, evening and weekend hours are available for volunteers and scheduling is flexible. Training will be provided prior to survey administration and constant support will be given to all volunteers during the survey period.

If you are interested in getting involved with this research project, please contact Elisa at [ezaehring@caclv.org](mailto:ezaehring@caclv.org) or 484-893-1106 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. so you can learn more about this exciting opportunity.



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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Bethlehem, PA  
Permit No. 111

# Food FOR Thought

Winter 2011

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF LEHIGH VALLEY &

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

## The Spirit of Giving Runs Deep in Second Harvest Supporters

*Thank you for the support that gets us through the year's ups and downs.*

By Ann McManus

As the New Year begins and many are traveling home from holidays spent with loved ones, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the year past and what we have seen and experienced here at the Food Bank. At Second Harvest, we play a crucial role in providing hunger relief to families in need throughout our six-county region. Recently, our mission has been made even more challenging due to increased demand caused by rising unemployment rates and a severe economic downturn. Today, some who once were able to contribute to local food pantries now find themselves in the uncomfortable position of requesting assistance from those same agencies.

The demand for food assistance is rising and, unfortunately, resources are shrinking. Funding for the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP), a critical source of financial support for many Food Banks, is down. The State Food Purchase Program is a grant program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), that allows receiving Food Banks to purchase and distribute more nutritious food than what may have been donated to the organization. The amount of money that is distributed to each county is determined by the PDA based on poverty indicators for that area. The Food Banks then purchase product for distribution to member agencies based on their participation rates.

The State Food Purchase Program is an approved line item in the state budget; however, the Pennsylvania General Assembly determines the spending level annually. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, SFPP was funded at \$15.8 million state-wide, a 12% decrease from the \$18 million allocated for 2009-10. This cut was made despite a reported 30% increase in the need for food assistance. Now, there are more mouths to feed, and less funding with which to do so.

To add insult to injury, the delivery of the checks from this program was delayed. The quarterly payments that were supposed to begin in July did not arrive at Second Harvest until late November.

Fortunately, Second Harvest is in an enviable position among our fellow Pennsylvania Food Banks. The incredible generosity of our donors over the years has allowed us to create a comfortable reserve. This Fall, we took a giant leap of faith and began the ordering process for the new fiscal year before the state funding had arrived. We knew that, thanks to our supporters, we would be able to pay our vendors.

Although the issue of hunger gets much attention during the winter holiday season, our fight is a year-round battle. Things will probably continue to get worse before they get better. Despite this, we are confident that the Second Harvest Food Bank network will provide consistent support to individuals who already have so little because we have your help. Be sure to check out page three of this issue of Food for Thought for a look at some of the organizations in the community that have donated to Second Harvest this season. We rely on your contributions, both money and food, to help those in need during these difficult times and in the years to come until we can find a permanent solution to the problem of hunger. Thank you.



2045 Harvest Way  
Allentown, PA 18104-6793  
Phone 610-434-0875  
Fax 610-435-9540  
www.shfbv.org

SHFB distributes food and grocery product to more than 63,000 people in need in six counties through a network of more than 200 member agencies. These include emergency pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and child care and rehabilitation centers. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 5.4 million pounds of food through these organizations

#### Advisory Board Members

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

Rev. James Anderman  
Chair  
Salem United Methodist Church

Alan Wiener  
Secretary/Treasurer  
A-1 Restaurant Supply

Sandy Beldon  
Community Advocate

Barbara Bigelow  
Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra

Kim Custer  
Planned Parenthood

Robert Donatelli  
Attorney

Tom Ehrets  
Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

Linda Epstein  
Community Advocate

Jeff Etchason  
Lehigh Valley Health Network

Pam Gallagher  
Allentown Area School District

Donald Hayn  
Jordan Lutheran Church

Maryann Haytmanek  
Northampton Community College  
New Choices

John Keiter  
Shepherd House

Margie Maldonado  
Casa Guadalupe

Nancy Martin  
Community Services for Children

Anthony Muir  
Attorney

R. Scott Oesterle  
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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.

## 2010 Empty Bowls: A Feast of Understanding

The Second Harvest warehouse was recently transformed into the setting for the harvest-themed festivities at our ninth annual Empty Bowls: A Feast of Understanding on October 23, 2010. This event is held every year at the Food Bank to give people a glimpse at the inner workings of our facility and to remind people of the hunger right here in our neighborhoods.

Musical entertainment by The BC Combo and a silent auction featuring beautiful artisan bowls and an array of bountiful bowls filled with donated goods and services from area merchants provided a fun evening for all. Volunteers from

Sodexo Dining Services prepared and served a delicious buffet-style dinner of chili, pot pie, salad, and corn bread. During the meal, Diane Giffels, a Food Bank volunteer, was presented with the 2010 Hunger Hero Award for her work in organizing and implementing a Field Gleaning program. To cap off the night, guests were treated to a finale fireworks show courtesy of Celebration Fireworks.

Empty Bowls is organized each year by a group of dedicated volunteers who start

planning in late January and meet regularly throughout the year. The 2010 Event Committee members include committee-chair Linda Epstein, Jane Altobelli, Pat Beldon, Susan Bennett, Barbara Bigelow, Connie Boyle, Denise Sam Cali, Laraine Demshock, Arjana Etchason, Paul Fite, Kathleen Forte, Chantal Fulton, Mary Gedney, Erica Hyman, Lynne Khubchandani, Carol Koenig, Suzanne Lyons, Jo Jo Muir, Tracy Roth, Rita Scheller, Rachel Strauss, Sheryl Strelecki, Heather Strencosky, and Lynda Somach. If you are interested in joining the 2011 Empty Bowls committee, contact Second Harvest at 610-434-0875.

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend or contribute to this year's Empty Bowls. We are grateful for our Food Bank friends, new and old, and for the awareness and funds raised by the event.



Ann McManus, SHFB Director, welcomes guests to the ninth annual Empty Bowls: A Feast of Understanding.



A regular feature of Empty Bowls every year is the silent auction of artisan bowls. This year's auction also included a "Bountiful Bowls" section of gift baskets filled with goods and services donated by area merchants.

# Food Drives Don't Take a Holiday

As the weather turns cold and the holidays approach, Second Harvest is graced with an outpouring of support from the community around us. We receive dozens of calls from individuals and organizations interested in planning a food or fund drive to benefit those in need. This past November and December, we accepted over 36,000 pounds of donations from the food drives that took place during the holiday season.

Now that the holidays are over, our hope is that the community will continue organizing and contributing to these food drives. Our participants are still in need of food assistance and Second Harvest needs help to fill that gap the rest of the year.

Organizing a successful food drive during the "off season" can be easy if you plan ahead. Coordinating your food drive around popular events like St. Patrick's Day gives you a convenient theme to work with.

For more tips, here is our **Food Drive 101:**

- *Plan Ahead* – Decide when you want to hold your food drive and contact Second Harvest at 610-434-0875. We can provide you with promotional posters and other materials to make your drive a success.
- *Set a Goal* - Competition brings out the best in people, so if you are working within a group or organization, it helps to set goals and award prizes. The rivalry and the support within the group will encourage donations more than working on an individual basis.
- *Encourage Financial Contributions* – Forget to bring cans? Allow people to write checks. Every \$1 donated allows us to distribute 7 meals. We will happily send receipts for tax purposes to anyone who wishes to donate money to your drive, just be sure to collect their contact information.
- *Deliver your donations* – All food drive donations can be dropped off at our warehouse between 7:00 AM and 2:30 PM. For larger donations, or for help locating one of our member agencies that is closer to you, contact Second Harvest.
- *Celebrate Your Success* - Organize a ceremony at the conclusion of the food drive to recognize and thank all of your donors.

While we appreciate all donations, there are some things we cannot accept at Second Harvest. We cannot take perishable items, food in open containers, or beyond safe consumption. We also cannot accept home canned or home processed foods. For the things we are always looking for, please see our wish list.

## SHFB Wish List

*Items we are always in need of here at the food bank:*

- 
- Cereal
  - Tuna
  - Rice
  - Pasta
  - Canned Vegetables
  - Canned Fruit
  - Canned Meats & Stews
  - Soup
  - Peanut Butter & Jelly
  - Salt & Sugar
  - Diapers
  - Laundry Detergent
  - Personal Care Items—  
Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo, etc.

## Check out the groups that are already supporting Second Harvest through Food and Fund Drives!



Jenna Carmon, a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee at Moravian College, dropped off 50 pounds of food and \$210 the group collected at one of the school's basketball games.



Deborah Carey of Lafayette Ambassador Bank (left) presents Ann McManus, SHFB Director (right) with food and funds they collected for Second Harvest. The group raised \$413 and donated 76 pounds of food.



Students at the Discovery Preschool & Kindergarten in Emmaus collected 195 pounds of food through their drive.



Tracy Gregory (second from right), Employee Communications and Community Services Coordinator at Olympus Corporation of the Americas in Center Valley, recently presented a check for \$7,500 to Alan Jennings, CACLV Executive Director (far right), Sharon Lee Hall, SHFB Development Coordinator (far left), and Marsha Eichelberger, Sixth Street Shelter Director (second from left). The funds will be distributed among four CACLV programs, including Second Harvest. Olympus employees also contributed 485 pounds of food that was collected through a food drive.



Employees at Lutron Electronics celebrate after meeting their goal to collect a ton of food for Second Harvest. Their donations totaled 2,000 pounds of food exactly.



Representatives from Altria Sales and Distribution, District 1471 dropped off 317 pounds of food they collected for Second Harvest.