Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

STAFF Director

Ann McManus

Business Manager Colleen Williams

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator Janet Ney

Agency Relations Coordinator David Cool

Cooking Matters Coordinator Ainsley Benner

Development Coordinator Sharon Lee Hall

Inventory Clerk Priscilla Acosta

Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator Kathryn Hoffman

Project Coordinator Lindsay Deemer

Warehouse Coordinator Michael Smith

Warehouse Workers/Drivers Terry Pernsley Bruce Pope Robert Thomas Matthew Woll

Thanks for Checking Out Hunger!

Throughout the year, area grocery chains host "check out" campaigns to raise funds for Second Harvest. The programs all have different names including "Check Out Hunger," "Fight Hunger," or "Bag Hunger," but all have the same general concept. Customers are given the opportunity to add a certain amount of money, usually \$1, \$3, or \$5, to their grocery bill. That money is then donated to the Food Bank. Some stores, like Weis Markets, also collect food during this time.

We would like to thank all of the stores and their customers for making this year's campaigns successful yet again. While we were still waiting on final totals when this issue went to print, we can report that your efforts have raised over \$120,000 for Second Harvest; an incredibly significant contribution to our fight to end hunger and we could not have done it without you. THANK YOU!!



Weis Markets recently presented Second Harvest with \$40,000 in store gift cards to be used for our Backpack Buddies and Cooking Matters programs. The money was raised through the chain's "Fight Hunger" campaign held in the fall.



A program of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley



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Starting Our Own Food Revolution

By Ann McManus

Have you ever had a fresh apple? What a silly question, and yet, many children who live in our service area may not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. This is especially true if they live in the inner cities where food shopping opportunities are limited. It's even more likely if their families rely heavily on the Second Harvest pantry network for the food that they consume.

Jamie Oliver, British chef and food revolutionary, traveled to the US in 2010 to work with children and school meal personnel in Huntington, WV. He found first graders who misidentified common foods like tomatoes, but knew what tomato ketchup is. The puzzled looks on their faces when he showed them potatoes were priceless!

showed them potatoes were priceless!

This past summer, the Allentown Health Bureau, with funding from a Community Services Development Grant and private donations, distributed

donated fresh fruits and vegetable for several weeks at the city's playgrounds much to the delight of the playground program participants. Second Harvest will pick up where the green cart left off by offering fresh fruit and vegetables through its member agencies in our six-county service area. To help accomplish this, a new walk-in cooler (see page 2)

allows us to accept fresh foods we previously had to refuse.

We also happily accept gardeners' excess produce. Have more fruit on your trees than your family can consume? Bring it on! It will find a home and will probably be consumed very quickly by a family whose "fruit" would otherwise have been canned applesauce.

And why is this important? Fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables contain fiber and other nutrients that may be absent in canned or frozen products. The canned or frozen variations often contain added fat, sweeteners, and sodium not present in fresh from the garden or farm produce.

There is a growing epidemic of obesity and nutrition-related illnesses among all demographics. To us at the food bank, it is important to include fresh foods with our offerings as much as possible in order to fight that increase.

Thanks to the generosity of major donors and supporters like you, we can help level the playing field for vulnerable populations.



Warehouse staff and volunteers sort through fresh potatoes that were recently donated to Second Harvest. A new walk-in cooler allows us to accept larger quantities of fresh produce to distribute through our member agencies.



Families in our six-county service area will now have access to fresh produce like these apples from a local orchard.



2045 Harvest Way Allentown, PA 18104-6793 Phone 610-434-0875 Fax 484-397-6901 www.shfblv.org

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

SHFB 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

Kim Custer Planned Parenthood

Robert Donatelli Attorney

Tom Ehrets Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

Linda Epstein 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

John Keiter Shepherd House

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.





Empty 'No' Bowls

On Friday, October 28, 2011, volunteers from the 2011 Empty Bowls Event Committee transformed Second Harvest's warehouse into a beautiful party setting, perfect for our annual fundraiser, Empty Bowls: Hunger in our Neighborhood, scheduled for the next evening.

Mother Nature, however, had a different plan. Committee members and staff awoke Saturday morning to the flurry beginnings of what would become the heaviest October snowfall in the area's history.

We elected to cancel Empty Bowls for the safety of our supporters planning to attend. We are heartbroken we had to call off the event, but we would like to thank everyone who supported us by donating items for our silent auction, purchasing tickets to attend, volunteering their time, or just sending in a donation. We know the evening would have been a great success and we could not have done it without your support.

All the silent auction items and decorations have been stored away for the 2012 event which has been scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 6:00-9:00 PM with a rain (or snow!) date of Monday, October 8th at the same time. We hope you will be able to join us for the 11th annual Empty Bowls as we commemorate 30 years of fighting hunger!

Special Acknowledgements:

We'd like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their donations and assistance.

Sodexo Dining Services Thanks to the staff members of Sodexo Dining Services and their families for volunteering their time and efforts in preparation for the meal.

Action Party Rentals – Tables and Linens
Banko Beverage – Beer
Bennett Automotive Group – Parking Lot Shuttle
The BC Combo – Entertainment
Celebration Fireworks – Fireworks Display
Central Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses –
Guest Parking
City of Allentown Fire & Police Departments –
Fireworks Standby & Parking Lot Attendants
Dave Fegley – Centerpieces
Suzanne & Ted Lyons – Wine Co-Sponsors
Jo Jo & Tony Muir – Wine Co-Sponsors
Post Sputnik – Second Harvest Video
Sherry Tomaine, Smashcakes – Cupcake Display
Kim Weinberg – Event Decorations
Jennifer Weinstein – Event Favors

Special Thanks to the 2011 Empty Bowls Event Committee:

Chantal Fulton (chair)
Pat Beldon
Susan Bennett
Barbara Bigelow
Denise Sam Cali
Linda Epstein
Arjana Etchason
Paul Fite
Kathleen Forte
Carol Front
Mary Gedney
Ken Heaton
Suzanne Lyons
Jo Jo Muir
Ellen Ozimek
Tracy Roth
Rita Scheller
Heather Strencosky

2011 Empty Bowls Sponsors

Event Sponsor: Bank of America

Forklift Patrons: American Fence Rob Bennett Barbara Bigelow & Leon Peters Howard & Linda Epstein Jeff Etchason, MD, Lehigh Valley Health Network

Pallet Jack Friends: Edith Ritter Ruggiero Excavators, LLC Scheuermann Excavating Inc John & Sandy Soler

Hand Truck Supporters: Dr. John & Jane Altobelli

Asphalt Maintenance Solutions
Pat & Sandy Beldon
Sharon & Howard Cohen
Tom & Laraine Demshock – Fishburn
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Mary B. Gedney
Nancy & Bill Holbrook
Dave & Sally Keehn
Judith & Joe Kaminski
Suzanne & Ted Lyons
Joan M. Moran
David & Kathy Patterson – QNB "Your
Community Bank"
Paige & Payton Santiago
Richard & Vicki Schiff
John P. Servis
Judy & Larrie Sheftel
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shuman
Steckel and Stopp – Attorney & Mrs.
Charles Stopp
Judge Bob & Linda Steinberg

Thanks to the Artists and Merchants Who Contributed Items for the Empty Bowls Silent Auction, including:

Allentown Art Museum Polly Barr Susan Bennett Barbara Bigelow Elite Island Resorts Eric Claypoole Clay Studios Comprehensive Chiropractic Da Vinci Science Center Divine Redesign Jonathan's Spoons Dr. R. Kevitch Lehigh Country Club Pro Shop Linda Epstein Arjana Etchason Kathleen Forte Chantal & Glen Fulton Gwyn & Jim Gedney Mary Gedney Debbie Heeps Iron Pigs Charities
J & J Affordable & Luxury Transportation Don Kuhns Landau Jewelry Roberta London Suzanne & Ted Lyons Ann McManus Jo Jo Muir Mark & Catherine Muszynski – Curious Goods at the Bake Oven Inn Rodale Charles Sorrels State Theatre Timothy Richard Fine Jewelry Viamedia Renee Vostinak – The Worth Collection
Susan Ward
Wildlands Conservancy
Sean Williams
Syb's West End Deli

Make Way for the Fresh Foods!

Recently, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony to introduce our new 4,400 cubic foot walk-in cooler, generously funded by TD Bank and The Century Fund, and we officially launched our Fresh Foods Initiative to bring more fresh fruits and vegetables to our member agencies. To kick off the program we filled the new cooler with a truckload of fresh Pennsylvania produce which was purchased through a grant provided by Hunger-Free Pennsylvania (formerly the Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks) and Walmart.

Dozens of Food Bank supporters crowded into the rear of our warehouse to watch as Stephen Patterson, TD Bank's Regional Senior Vice President for the Lehigh Valley region, and Pastor Serge Jean-Pierre of the food pantry at Eglise Evangelical de la Renaissance Church, cut the ribbon officially opening the cooler doors for business. The cooler was promptly filled with apples and pears purchased from Bechdolt's Orchards in Hellertown and potatoes, yams, onions, cabbage, and



Together, Stephen Patterson of TD Bank and Pastor Serge Jean-Pierre of one of Second Harvest's member agencies cut the ribbon to open the doors to the Food Bank's new walk-in cooler.



The new cooler was promptly filled with thousands of pounds of fresh, Pennsylvania produce including these cases of apples from Bechdolt's Orchards in Hellertown.

squash purchased from Kegel's Produce in Lancaster.

Fresh produce has more nutritional value, but because of a higher cost and shorter shelf life than canned or processed foods, fresh fruits and vegetables are often luxury items for those seeking assistance from local food pantries. Since the cooler's installation, we have distributed more than 100,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. Our goal is to make fresh produce more accessible to our member agencies so they can distribute it to area families in need.

Donor Spotlight: Holiday Food and Fund Drives

At Second Harvest, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a community with unwavering support for the work we do. This is evident especially around the holidays when we receive dozens of calls from individuals and organizations interested in planning food and fund drives to benefit those in need. This past holiday season was no different.

In November and December, there were more than 70 documented food drives that were organized by our friends and supporters and we accepted more than 81,000 pounds of food and grocery products as a result. Other organizations stopped by the Food Bank to present us with monetary gifts in honor of clients and customers. Here is a look at some of the groups that joined us in the fight to end hunger this year.



Temple Beth EI Chanu-can – Students and staff at Temple Beth EI in Allentown recently held a "Chanu-can" event where they built elaborate structures, like a giant dreidel, out of canned goods. The event educated students about Chanukah and hunger in our area. Afterwards, the cans were donated to Second Harvest – 11,991 pounds total!



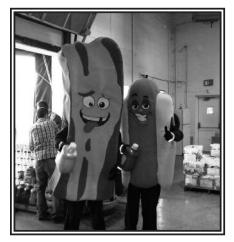
Employee Incentive Food Drive – H.T. Lyons in Bethlehem collected 1,065 pounds of food and groceries through its first "incentive food drive." Employees received three raffle tickets for every item donated. The raffle tickets were then used in a Chinese Auction style drawing for prizes including gift certificates, merchandise, and a paid day of vacation!



M&T Bank – Representatives from the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation visited Second Harvest to present us with \$10,000 to help alleviate hunger in our area.



National Pierogie Day – Representatives from Mrs. T's Pierogies stopped by with a check for \$1,080 that was raised through the "Serving up Smiles" program at area school districts.





Toyota Tundra Food Drive - Lehigh Valley Toyota Dealers and the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs "hauled away hunger" when their convoy of Toyota trucks delivered 5,753 pounds of food and groceries to Second Harvest. Representatives from both organizations, including the playful Iron Pigs mascots, helped with the delivery.



Holiday Donation – In lieu of sending holiday cards to their clients, the attorneys and employees of Fitzpatrick, Lentz, and Bubba, P.C. made a gift of \$10,000 to Second Harvest to help us in the fight to end hunger.