

# Food FOR Thought

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF LEHIGH VALLEY &

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

## 2013-2014 Annual Report

By Ann McManus

A well-known public radio figure always starts his monologue with “It’s been a quiet week.” and so, taking a page from his script, I will paraphrase and say that it has not been a quiet year at Second Harvest.

Second Harvest Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the national network of Food Banks, and a program (one of the oldest) of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV). A snapshot of the our accomplishments from the last fiscal year, spanning July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, was included in the CACLV Annual Report which was unveiled at the October 1, 2014, agency Annual Meeting. In the following pages, we will expand on that report so that you, our dedicated supporters, can see the work we are doing to end hunger here in the Lehigh Valley.

During the year, Second Harvest distributed 6.88 million pounds of food valued at more than \$11 million. The largest portion of that nearly 7 million pounds was distributed to our member agencies at no cost to them. Our Emergency Food Providers (shelters, soup kitchens, and food pantries) in all six counties had their costs covered by your donations to Second Harvest!

Our food solicitation efforts were responsible for more than 1.8 million pounds of the food we received and distributed. This is a 90% increase over the previous year in the amount of food generated at the local level. It represents the commitment of the local community, through producer and grower donations and the hard work and dedication of staff to the fight to end hunger.

Through our Fresh Foods Initiative and Free Friday distributions, Second Harvest dispersed more than 811,000 pounds of produce, 381,000 pounds of high-quality perishable protein (turkey, fish, chicken, and other meat), and 222,000 pounds of perishable dairy products. Fresh foods, defined as produce, refrigerated, and frozen products, amounted to nearly 1.8 million pounds of the food distributed in 2013-14, or 26% of all food distributed.

Through our growing network of nearly 200 member agencies, we provided food assistance to 71,698 individuals in March, 2014, our “census month.” That’s an increase of approximately 4% over the numbers reported in March, 2013. The increase in participation at emergency food providers’ outlets has slowed to 5%. This may be attributed, in part, to the harsh winter weather that forced many pantries to remain closed and made traveling to food pantries difficult for participants.

At both ends of the age spectrum, Second Harvest provided food assistance to vulnerable populations. Through the SUNshine (Serving UnderNourished Seniors) Box program, our distribution of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), we distributed 23,030 supplemental food packages to low-income seniors, five-year-olds, and new mothers. Through our Backpack Buddies program, 372 children received a total of more than 19,000 packages of food to tide them and their families over from Friday’s school lunch to Monday’s school breakfast.

Besides distributing food, Second Harvest provided formal nutrition education through our partnership with Cooking Matters, a program of Share Our Strength. We conducted 33 Cooking Matters courses to teach cooking, nutrition, and budgeting skills to low-income children, families, and seniors. Through our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) hotline and outreach efforts, we assisted 371 households in completing their SNAP applications and provided troubleshooting assistance to more than 911 households who had previously applied on their own.

*(continued)*





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



**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, Carbon County*

John Buckley  
*Attorney*

Robert Donatelli  
*Attorney*

Maria Gaspar  
*Bank of America*

Donald Hayn  
*Community Advocate*

Maryann Haytmanek  
*Northampton Community College  
 New Choices*

Valerie Lane  
*Retired, Muhlenberg College*

Yulliana Lugo  
*First Niagara Bank*

David Rubright  
*Lehigh Career Technical Institute*

John Savchak  
*Viamedia*

Royal "Chip" Snyder  
*Allentown Rescue Mission*

Michael Tukeva  
*Pocono Alliance*

Ilene Wood  
*Community Advocate*

*(continued)*

We are looking forward to next year and what it may bring. We are anticipating a move to a larger facility that is located closer to the center of our assigned region. More space means more possibilities to expand programming and distribution. New, larger freezer and cooler capacity means a further increase in the amount of perishable food we can accept and distribute. All of this is made possible by the generosity of our donors and, for that, we are incredibly grateful.

Thank you,



Ann B. McManus  
 Director

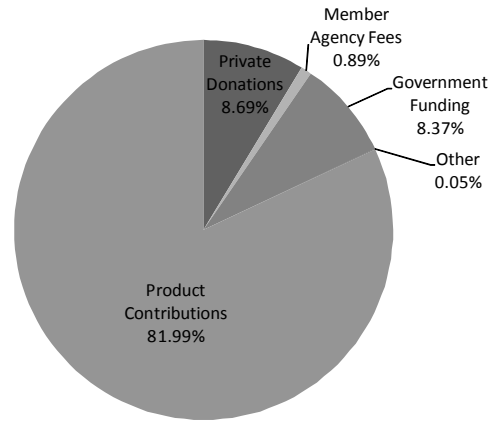
\* Feeding America sets the average value of food for the food bank network. This value was \$1.69 per pound in 2011-12.

**Mission Statement**

Our mission is to obtain food and distribute it to people in need through area non-profits and to provide research for education and advocacy to end hunger.

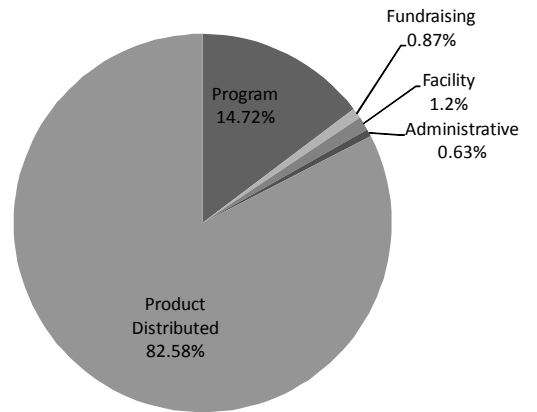
**2013-2014 Income**

Product Contributions	\$9,594,267	81.99%
Private Donations	\$1,017,450	8.69%
Government Funding	\$979,585	8.37%
Member Agency Fees	\$104,616	0.89%
Other	\$6,100	0.05%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,702,018</b>	<b>100%</b>



**2013-2014 Expenses**

Product Distributed	\$9,594,267	82.58%
Program Expenses	\$1,709,785	14.72%
Facility Expenses	\$139,868	1.2%
Fundraising Expenses	\$100,520	0.87%
Administrative Expenses	\$73,736	0.63%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,618,176</b>	<b>100%</b>



**2013-2014 Net Assets**

Total Income	\$11,702,018
Total Expenses	\$11,618,176
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$83,842</b>

## Special Distribution Programs:

Through our SUNShine Box program for low-income seniors, we distributed more than 736,000 pounds of food. Registered participants receive a monthly box filled with cereal, juice, canned vegetables and fruits, shelf-stable and powdered milk, pasta, peanut butter, protein (beef, chicken, or tuna) and cheese. We distribute more than 1,900 boxes each month through 71 sites throughout the six counties of our service area.

Through our Backpack Buddies program, more than 370 kids received a weekly bag containing cereal, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits, soup, macaroni and cheese, canned one-dish meals, and healthy snacks. We administer this program through established after-school programs, including the Easton Area Community Center, the Salvation Armies in Easton and Allentown, the Slater Family Network, Lincoln Elementary School, the Boys and Girls Clubs in Allentown and Bethlehem, the Lehigh County Conference of Churches ASPIRES program, and Casa Guadalupe.



Second Harvest relies on volunteer groups to pack the SUNShine boxes and Backpack Buddies bags of food. Pack events are held twice each month.



## Food and Fund Drives:

This year, local individuals and community groups organized more than 120 food and fund drives to benefit Second Harvest. These food drives resulted in more than 130,000 pounds of food. Volunteers sort and inspect the donations that are collected for Second Harvest before they are made available to our member agencies to supplement the cases of product they order.

(Left) Students from the Arts Academy Elementary Charter School organized a food drive in February that resulted in more than 900 pounds of food. A small group of students came to deliver the food and tour the Second Harvest facility.

## Member Agencies:

Second Harvest is proud to welcome nine new organizations to its network of member agencies. Most of the new agencies are located in the northern part of our service territory where we focused efforts to increase our presence to meet the needs of people seeking food assistance. We are pleased to be able to provide food to these agencies now so they can help feed the hungry in their communities.

(Right) Second Harvest distributes food through its network of nearly 200 member agencies. Agencies include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and child care and rehabilitation centers.



Member agency representatives came together in March for the first annual Hunger Action Workshop to learn tips and best practices from Second Harvest and each other.

## Hunger Action Workshop:

Second Harvest hosted its first ever Hunger Action Workshop for our member agencies in March. Through two conference like meetings, one in Allentown and one in Lehigh, we provided a central location for our member agencies to come together to hear about updates, learn best practices, and to network with each other. More than 200 people attended the workshops, representing nearly 70 percent of our network. We're looking forward to holding this event for our member agencies on an annual basis.

## Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

distributes food and grocery product to more than 72,000 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 nearly 7 million pounds of food through these agencies.

Second Harvest Food Bank is a program of the Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley (CACLV) and a member of Feeding America, the nation's Food Bank network and largest hunger relief organization.

A copy of the official registration and financial information for the Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley, Inc., and its programs and subsidiaries can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling, toll-free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## STAFF

Director  
Ann McManus

Operations Manager  
Michael Smith

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator  
Janet Ney

Agency Relations Coordinator  
David Cool

Development Coordinator  
Sharon Alexander

Inventory Clerk  
Patricia Kelly

Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator  
Kathryn Hoffman

Nutrition Educator  
Ainsley Benner

Nutrition Educator  
Carrie Spero

Project Coordinator  
Janet Meyer

Warehouse Coordinator  
Bruce Pope

Warehouse Workers/Drivers  
Robyn Bleicher  
Anthony Johnson  
Stephen Kuzman  
Shawn Moser  
Richard Quinones  
Robert Thomas

## Volunteers:

Volunteers were once again an essential piece of Second Harvest's support network this year. Hundreds of volunteers completed 4,967 hours of service, the equivalent of nearly three additional full-time staff members. This year, we also recognized our "VIP Volunteers," those who have dedicated more than fifty hours of their time to Second Harvest activities.

*(Right) To kick off Hunger Action Month in September, we presented some of our "VIP Volunteers" with special t-shirts. These dedicated individuals have devoted more than fifty hours of their time to Second Harvest volunteer activities.*



## Cooking Matters:

Our Nutrition Education department, partnership with Share our Strength, conducted 33 Cooking Matters classes to teach cooking, nutrition, and budgeting skills to low-income children, families, and seniors. We had nearly 400 Cooking Matters graduates complete the course this year in Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties. We also conducted seven "Cooking Matters at the Store" tours to help course participants apply what they learned in a store setting. To assist with the coordination of the Cooking Matters classes, Second Harvest hosted a Cooking Matters AmeriCorps member this year. Carrie completed her term and joined our staff full-time to continue her work with this program.



*Chef Scott, a Cooking Matters volunteer, teaches knife safety to course participants.*



*Former Cooking Matters AmeriCorps member, Carrie Spero, provides nutrition education materials to a participant at a Healthy Kids Fair sponsored by Giant Food Stores. Carrie's term ended in June and she has since joined the Second Harvest staff full-time as a Nutrition Educator.*

## Empty Bowls 2013:

Nearly 200 guests attended our Empty Bowls Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction in October. This event, held annually in the Food Bank warehouse, featured a chili buffet, prepared by volunteers from Sodexo and served by "Celebrity Guest" servers from the Lehigh Valley, a silent auction of beautiful artisan bowls and loaded gift baskets, music and entertainment by The BC Combo, and a fantastic fireworks display donated by Celebration Fireworks. Empty Bowls 2013 raised more than \$25,000 for our mission to end hunger.



*Volunteers from Sodexo prepare a delicious buffet of chili and chicken pot pie for Empty Bowls. The meal is made using ingredients similar to those one might receive at a Second Harvest food pantry. This year, we had "Celebrity Guest Servers" to help dish up the meal to guests.*



*Our Empty Bowls fundraiser is organized each year by a group of dedicated volunteers and we are grateful for their continued support. Some of the members of the 2013 Event committee are pictured here.*