



# Food For Thought



Central Pennsylvania Food Bank  
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November | 2020

## GIVE HOPE NOW

2020 has been a year none of us would have ever imagined. Over the past year, the demand on the charitable food network increased by nearly 50 percent. In partnership with our member agencies, we are feeding more than 200,000 families, children, seniors and veterans per month. Many are visiting food pantries for the very first time. We anticipate the need will continue at these all-time high rates for many months to come.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our community stepped up in truly inspiring ways. During Hunger Action Month this September, we proudly introduced our class of 2020 Hunger Heroes, individuals and organizations who are truly committed to ending hunger in our communities.

### This year, we honored:

- Longtime volunteers Wanda and Harry Hurst
- Chris Gilbert and the Friends of the Food Pantries in Tioga County
- Corrie Lingenfelter, chef of the Downtown Daily Bread soup kitchen in Harrisburg
- Grace House Ministries of Harrisburg
- The New Love Center in Lycoming County
- Congressman Dan Meuser
- Caryn Long Earl of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Blake Lynch, Harrisburg Bureau of Police
- WGAL News 8 and its viewers in the Susquehanna Valley
- Penn State Health
- Miles Smith of Dauphin County
- FedEx Freight
- Helping with Pride
- Dairy Farmers of Pennsylvania
- Mel Curtis, Moshannon Valley YMCA
- Charline Pulizzi of Williamsport, PA
- PNC
- UGI

Please take a moment to read more about each of these Hunger Heroes and the ways in which they serve our community by visiting [www.centralpafoodbank.org/HAM](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org/HAM).

**Our community has come together in a remarkable way this year. But, the road ahead will be a long one. As we head into the holiday season, we are thankful for our blessings, including you and your support.**



**JUST A FEW OF OUR 2020 HUNGER HEROES.**  
Please note, some pictures taken prior to March 2020.

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## JAVA WITH JOE

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

As we approach the 2020 holiday season, I think we can all agree this year has been a whirlwind of challenges and change. But in our mission, this has also been a year of profound inspiration as we witnessed several thousand new Central Pennsylvania Food Bank friends join with our loyal donors, volunteers, and partners to generously help our neighbors most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its disastrous economic damage. **The amount of food assistance required during this crisis has been staggering at almost 50 percent more than the prior year, but with your support, our Crisis Response has been up to the challenge.**

Looking forward, we will continue our resolute efforts to help those whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated by this crisis, knowing that it may take several years for our economy to return to the levels we knew a year ago. And as we shared in our last issue, please know that the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank family grieves for our neighbors lost to COVID-19 and to other conditions exacerbated by the pandemic.

Blessedly, this is a mission that thrives on hope, caring, and resilience, so I think that you will enjoy the stories our Team has selected for you in this issue. This is actually a hard task ... we have so many amazing Friends doing remarkable work in our communities!

From our Family to you and your loved ones, we hope that you find peace and joy this holiday season despite the pandemic. **Please Give Hope Now, so that we can feed families in need throughout the holidays and into 2021.**

## HUNGER ISN'T SELECTIVE

**The COVID-19 pandemic reminds us that anyone, at any time, in any circumstance, could need a little extra help keeping food on the table. Many Americans, including those in central Pennsylvania, live paycheck-to-paycheck each month and are one bad break away from being in a tough spot.**

**Meet a few of your neighbors who were brave enough to share their stories of how the coronavirus pandemic has changed their lives.**



### A sudden job loss ...

Fatima's story was all too familiar – one spouse working while the other stayed home with the kids. But when the coronavirus hit, Fatima was no longer able to continue her job as a care provider for students in schools. And since she was not trained for homecare, her employer laid her off. Now the family of 7 had to find help as their only income was gone and finding the means to purchase healthy, fulfilling foods

became a concern. Thankfully, through a local pop-up food distribution in cooperation with the Food Bank, they have access to the food they need.

"It means a lot to me that I am able to reach out to a facility that will help me in this time of need," says Fatima. "I am very grateful and fortunate that I was able to go there."



### Difficulty finding new work ...

In March, Lois and her family moved from Texas to Pennsylvania to be closer to family. When COVID-19 hit, it made getting a new job impossible in a small rural community and they experienced financial hardships. With their savings almost depleted, they connected to a food pantry and have been able to alleviate some of their worries by



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

So many of our partner agencies had to find a new way to distribute food when the pandemic hit, including New Hope Ministries which provides food to 9,000 families in Cumberland, York and Adams counties. The pantry implemented a drive-through mobile distribution, where families would remain in their vehicles and staff would load food boxes into their trunks.

**The pantry is fully stocked thanks to the support of the community, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, and to Joanne Fortney, the Food Program Manager at New Hope Ministries, who never works the same day twice.** While her job involves anything from driving the truck, loading/offloading food, to doing paperwork, perhaps her favorite thing to do is simply talking with her guests, even from behind a face shield. Joanne intentionally calls the people who rely on New Hope's services 'guests' instead of 'clients,' because she believes volunteers and staff such as herself are inclined to treat someone who is their guest with even more compassion, empathy, and love.

Joanne is certainly looking out for the guests who are struggling to get back on their feet and she knows it may take some time to fully recover. As the holiday season approaches, Joanne is already thinking of how to make Thanksgiving extra special. Often, what ends up making holidays like these wonderful for those who cannot afford to celebrate is the generosity of the community. One Thanksgiving miracle, Joanne shares, was the time a donor provided a truckload of turkeys for the people at New Hope as a holiday surprise.



"We were needing turkeys one year," Joanne explains. "And I had no idea where I was going to get (them) — I believe it was somewhere along the line between 50 and 75 turkeys. And I was sitting in our manager's office, and she has a window up front. And down the side of the building comes this pickup truck full of turkeys!"

Like so many of our partners, the doors at New Hope Ministries continue to be open to offer help to those in need. The staff continues to make a difference in the lives of their guests, but, Joanne says, the guests have an impact on the staff as well.

**"I think the guests make a difference in our lives," she says. "They change us; keep us humble. I've learned so much from them about life in general. Most of the people would give you the shirt on their back. Not just because you need one, but because they would rather give than receive."**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: TOM HORVATH

Helping others in the community can be rewarding and fulfilling. **For Tom Horvath, volunteering at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is this and so much more.** As a young boy in the Boy Scouts, he was able to volunteer and serve at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. During this time, he found volunteer work to be "a very rewarding thing to do and a good use of my time." It wasn't until about a year and a half ago that Tom found himself back at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. **"I found I had some extra time on my hands and felt like I needed to do something to help the community out and started looking at a few volunteering programs. Once I saw the Food Bank needed help, and I remembered how much I enjoyed it, I decided to come help out."**

In addition to helping those in need, Tom believes his volunteer work has helped him grow as a person. "Volunteering at the Food Bank has made me feel like I have been making some sort of difference out in the world," he says. "During the pandemic, I decided I was going to work at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank a few nights a week to help as much as I could. I learned a lot from that experience and felt I grew more as a person."

Tom says he was nervous to volunteer at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank at first. Since he was the new person on the crew, he didn't know what to expect or who he would be working with. **"After I started helping on the floor, everyone started to become very personable and made me feel welcomed. This is one of the reasons why I enjoy going back time and time again."** Since volunteering at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Tom has been overwhelmed by the support of all the volunteers. **"One thing I have always noticed when volunteering is the sense of community there. I always feel everyone enjoys working together and feels they are making a difference."**

The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is incredibly thankful for the volunteers who give their time to help serve those in need in their community. Tom says the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank "has a great team of workers. You can tell they are passionate about what they do and care about everyone who is volunteering." **Thank you to all the amazing volunteers of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank! You are truly a gift to us.**



If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit the Give Time section of our website, [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org).

## HUNGER ISN'T SELECTIVE CONTINUED

having food on their table.

"It's nice to have people out there that help other people, because that's what we did in Texas. We would donate to food banks and now we need help," said Lois.



### Your employer downsizes ...

Susanna's husband worked for a company for many years. With the economic strain from COVID-19, the company had to make some cuts, and as a result, he was let go.

When he lost his job, they worried how they would be able to pay their mortgage or if they would lose their home and how would they eat. When they found their local food pantry, they were relieved. "It means a lot," Susanna says. "We really appreciate it. And it keeps us going. It really keeps us going."



### You're expecting your first child ...

Austin and his wife are expecting their first child together. When he lost hours at his job as a butcher, they

became nervous about where they were going to get the money to purchase all the baby items they needed plus have enough food for their family. They found a local food pantry and sign-up was easy.

They say their favorite part about the food bank is the delicious, healthy produce they can get. "We love it," Austin says. "There's lots of produce, and that's our favorite part. We love squash!"

## JOIN US FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE!

This year, the Annual Extraordinary Give is more important than ever as we continue to face increased demand. Mark your calendars for November 20, and make a donation that will be stretched by extraordinary sponsors and make a difference in the lives of thousands struggling with hunger. A gift of just \$10 will help us provide 60 healthy, nutritious meals.

Support Our Organization During


# THE EXTRA<sup>TM</sup> ORDINARY GIVE

**NOVEMBER 20**  
**EXTRAGIVE.ORG**

On November 20, donate online at [ExtraGive.org](https://extragive.org) and your generous gift will go even further thanks to the Stretch Pool and Prizes from the Community Foundation and our extraordinary sponsors.

**Help us go the EXTRA mile together!**

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# Thank you!

For all YOU have done during this incredibly challenging year to support those struggling with hunger. Your unwavering support has literally changed lives. From all of us at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, we wish you a wonderful and blessed Holiday Season.