



Food For Thought

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2021



Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
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IN 2020, WE SERVED MORE THAN 200,000 FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS AND CHILDREN PER MONTH



VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FOR A MILITARYSHARE DISTRIBUTION

A SUSTAINED RESPONSE

The unexpected challenges of 2020 tested our resolve and inspired innovation. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is now serving more than 200,000 people per month, up from 135,000 pre-COVID — providing hope in response to a frightening situation.

We remain committed to helping everyone whose lives were upended in the last year. Economic recovery will likely take months or years; **but our generous community has shown they will be there, helping us to fulfill our mission of fighting hunger, improving lives, and strengthening communities.**

We received a special honor at the end of 2020, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC's Catalyst Award for what we've done in the Harrisburg region to make it a better place to live, work, and play. Our Executive Director, Joe Arthur, was recognized among the visionary leaders and businesses for "creating positive change" through his leadership of the Food Bank through 2020 and for the sustained impact his work has had in the community for the past decade.

"Provoking positive community change is baked into our mission," Joe said. "The pandemic shined a spotlight on how important it is for us to lead the charge toward ending hunger and doing more to change the root causes of food insecurity. It is not enough to merely distribute more pounds of food, we need to provide better, more nutritious food, ensure better access, and foster better collaboration."

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a major increase in the need for emergency food assistance, significantly disrupted the food supply chain, and posed health risks to staff, volunteers, and clients. We rapidly deployed new tactics to respond to the demand and keep everyone safe. Though challenges remain in the new year, the Food Bank team has a strong, unshakable belief that every person deserves access to quality, nutritious food. We continue to increase capacity to offer fresh, healthy food; capitalize on efforts to rescue good food from going to waste; help veterans and military families through our MilitaryShare program; and increase the reach of the Food Bank in our Northern Tier counties.

"The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is honored to earn the distinction as a catalyst for positive change, but we know there is more work to be done as we sustain our response to this crisis throughout 2021. **So many in our community are great supporters and when it comes to fighting hunger in central Pennsylvania, we truly are, better together,**" said Joe.

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**JOE ARTHUR,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

JAVA WITH JOE

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Welcome, 2021! I have always enjoyed the fresh beginnings of a New Year, but never more so than this year. Goodbye, 2020, you were ... exhausting. Even the normally joyous Holiday Season seemed strained at our Food Bank, humbled as we were by the devastating losses suffered by far too many of our neighbors. Thankfully, with your truly inspiring support, we at least were able to provide enough healthy food to everyone who reached out to us for help.

As our nation and world continue to grapple with the health challenges and economic damage of the pandemic, we continue to focus on making sure our most vulnerable

neighbors have enough nutritious food as we enter Pennsylvania's winter months. In our work, we call this the "heat or eat" season, when meeting the basic needs of food, clothing, and warm shelter top the long list of worries for families trying to make ends meet. We are encouraged that our nation's economy continues to recover, but we also know that not every community and not every individual and family is benefitting. Know we will continue to work tirelessly with our partner organizations to make sure everyone has a seat at the table.

I will repeat a forecast I made in our last newsletter: we believe it may take several years for our economy to return to the levels we knew a year ago. In the meantime, we have much work to do and many more families, children, seniors, and veterans to help. Fortunately, as highlighted in the enclosed financial report, your continued contributions, volunteer support, and advocacy have positioned us well to meet these challenges.

Thank you for giving hope and joining us on the journey to end hunger ... together.

HUNGER ISN'T SELECTIVE: MEET JEANINE

Last year taught us that anyone, at any time, in any circumstance, can face hunger. As many visit food pantries for the first time, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank remains committed to serving the needs of everyone who is hungry in our communities. People like Jeanine, who worked as a single mother to raise three children but is now unable to work due to disability.

Jeanine now finds it hard to make ends meet each month and make payments on bills. "When rent and heat bills went up, it took away from my food money," she said.

Jeanine turned to the Food Bank for help and was connected to the American Rescue Workers. **"Knowing I can get help for food, that's a plus. It's not there to replace everything, but it's there to help you along."**

Jeanine believes the Food Bank is a "vital part of the community" and encourages selfless giving and sharing. "Sharing is very,



JEANINE TURNED TO THE FOOD BANK FOR HELP WHEN BILLS STARTED MOUNTING DUE TO DISABILITY

very important," she says. "I believe it's really something everybody should learn to do in their life."

With the food Jeanine has been able to get from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, she has made many delicious meals. "The produce is amazing! Every time I see those vegetables and all of that produce, I think of the things I can do with it — make a salad, etc."

Jeanine is thankful to everybody involved in helping to provide food, not just for her, but for others in similar situations, especially throughout the pandemic. "This has been wonderful because everybody gets a meal."

2021 Report to the Community

BY THE NUMBERS (FISCAL YEAR 2020)

Support & Revenue

SUPPORT

In Kind Product, Contributions, & Grants	\$106,274,200
Shared Maintenance & Program Fees	\$6,175,748
Food Purchase Program	\$6,250,582
Investment & Other Income	\$649,364

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE \$119,349,894

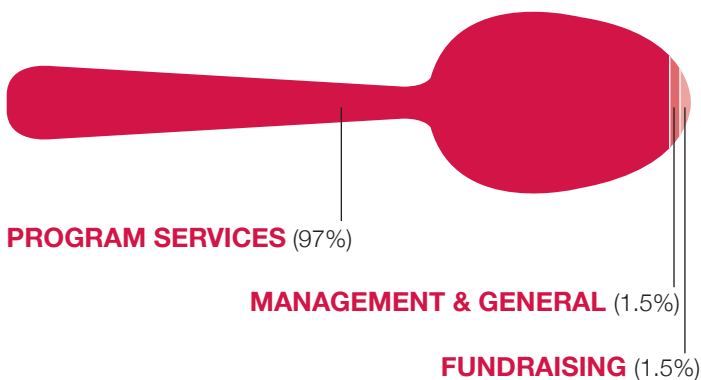


Expenses

Program Services	\$106,700,056
Management & General	\$1,615,329
Fundraising	\$1,662,753

TOTAL EXPENSES \$109,978,138

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$9,371,756



The Impact of Your Generosity

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SERVED PER MONTH
200,000

This is 65,000 more served than a typical month. More than a third of newly food insecure individuals are children.

58 MILLION LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED
1,500 truckloads

Since COVID-19 struck, the Food Bank saw a 40% increase in food distribution. Which equates to more than 13 million additional, healthy meals.

CRISIS RESPONSE BOXES DISTRIBUTED
324,000

Boxes are filled with healthy, non-perishable items. Produce, dairy and meat are also being distributed.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

As soon as you walk into the pop-up pantry of United Christian Ministries in Middlebury Center in Tioga County, you are overwhelmed with a sense of calm and acceptance. The same energy comes from its founder, Virginia, who also goes by "Sister Jenny." A small woman with wispy blonde hair and a soft voice, Sister Jenny opens her heart and her shelters to anyone in need. "We have clothing, furniture, household items ... practically anything anyone would need ... and now we are able to give food," she states.



United Christian Ministries started small and has grown tremendously through the years. Sister Jenny remembers the ministry's humble beginnings fondly. Her first degree was in Business Administration, so she owned many businesses. When Sister Jenny felt she needed to do something else with her life, she sold her businesses and invested the money in the buildings that now serve as a beacon of hope to so many in the community.

"About two and a half years ago, we bought this place and it became our outreach center." The outreach center in Middlebury Center has clothing for those in need, and more recently, has become a pop-up food pantry for families in the area who need help gaining access to food.

"When the [Food Bank] was doing the emergency food distribution due to COVID-19, that's what was apparent- that there was something that we needed to do in this area, too," comments Sister Jenny. "And so, we started doing just that. Our first experience was 456 cars!"

Sister Jenny says she is so grateful for the partnership United Christian Ministries has with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. "I think it's a wonderful thing," she comments. Thanks to this partnership, United Christian Ministries has been able to meet the needs of so many families during this time. "There are a lot of people who may not be able to admit they are having trouble making ends meet and feeding their families." Sister Jenny says of the distribution site and the Food Bank, "our concern is the need. All we want to do is pass the blessings on." Together we can do just that!



TOP TASTE UPDATE

When the Top Taste event was cancelled, our sponsors generously agreed to fulfill their sponsorships and support the Give Hope End Hunger Campaign. We are humbled by — and grateful for — their continued support. With the generosity of our sponsors and donors, we exceeded our goal and raised **\$225,000**. Thank you to our sponsors (listed below) for their commitment to our mission.

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Presenting Sponsor
M^{1st} MEMBERS 1st
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Food Sponsor
GIANT.

Sponsors







**Capital BlueCross • Highmark Blue Shield and Penn State Health
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Volunteer With Us

15-XCP-0121-N

"Volunteering is a great way to give back to a community that gives to me and I enjoy seeing how many pallets we can complete during a shift! Recently, I heard a lot about food scarcity and I see intensive efforts through my community to ensure our neighbors have enough food to eat. It takes a village."

~ Lisa, volunteer at our Harrisburg Healthy Food Hub.

To learn more about how you can volunteer at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, please visit the Give Time page at www.centralpafoodbank.org.

In order to safely adhere to CDC guidelines, volunteering is only available at our larger, off-site facility in Harrisburg at this time.