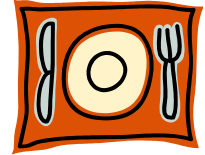
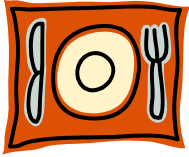

Bringing More to the Table

Greater Berks Food Bank

January 2017



Our Staff:

Peg Bianca,
Executive Director

Tim Becker,
Operations Manager

Deb Gehris,
Business Manager

Doug Long,
Marketing &
Development
Manager

Lori Lowery,
Agency and Volunteer
Services Coordinator

Deb Mest,
Agency and Volunteer
Services Manager

Brenda Miller,
Agency and Volunteer
Services Coordinator

Herb Schultz,
Operations Director

Jamie Sheriff
Data Entry Specialist

Jane Vitalo
Customer Service Rep.

David Bradbury,
Warehouse/Driver

Phil Ciofalo
Warehouse Lead

Francis Delauretis
Warehouse/Driver

Phil Demeo
Warehouse/Driver

David D'Ginto
Warehouse

Tom Marsh
Warehouse/Driver

Ronny Perez
Warehouse/Driver

Alex Putt
Warehouse/Driver

Rob Wertman
Warehouse Supervisor

Hunger is still present

The Greater Berks Food Bank would like to send out a very big "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteers and agency personnel for all their help and dedication during the **very busy** 2016 holiday season. With folks still struggling, the Greater Berks Food Bank has been fortunate to continue to receive donations of both food and money from businesses, places of worship, schools and individuals to support our mission to feed the hungry. These donations along with the help of volunteers at our location and those in the network allowed us to help you help those in need in your communities. The holidays are over, but hunger is not over, so we must continue to work together and provide for those who need it. Thanks for making a difference. Best wishes for a strong and cooperative 2017 as we strive to end hunger in our area.

Reminders as we begin a new year!!

- ⇒ Please remember to have volunteers available to help with your delivery or pickup. GBFB is not able to stay at your site and carry products inside. We will come to the site and drop the pallets at the door and move on to our next site. If you do have a doorway that allows us to bring the entire pallet inside, we will do that, which means we have a waiver on file to do this at your location.
- ⇒ Recurring deliveries and pickups will only be scheduled if your agency is positive the scheduled date and time will be utilized every time it is on the calendar (i.e. if you have a once a month delivery, you must use that delivery every month or give us at least three weeks' notice that you will not use it). If we are not notified in a timely manner that you will not utilize your delivery or pickup, you will be removed from recurring appointments and will have to schedule your delivery or pickup each time you need one. We cannot guarantee the time slot you need will be open.
- ⇒ Monthly statistics are due the 5th of every month. This rule is for each and every agency. This is an important part of our ability to obtain funding and report properly to State and Federal entities. Please be sure to submit your stats no later than the 5th of the month every month. For pantries, please make sure to send in all self declarations and pantry recipient forms for each month as well.
- ⇒ Remember you may have folks referred to your pantry if it is the closest pantry location to their home. If a recipient is from out of the area, please serve them one time and have them call the office for a referral to a location closer to their home.
- ⇒ As always if you have questions or concerns, please call the Agency and Volunteer Services Department for help. We will do our best to get you an answer to your issue.



In Case of Bad Weather...

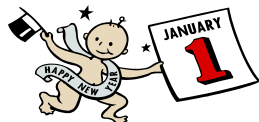
It is the time of year when you may wake up in the morning to a blanket of the white stuff on the roads. If your agency is unsure as to whether GBFB is open or not, simply call 610-926-5802 and dial ext. 0. If we are closed, there will be a message updated by 6:30 am on our phone line telling you what time we will open or if we will be closed for the day. If we are open, GBFB will contact your agency in the event that we are running behind with deliveries or if we have decided to keep our trucks off the road for safety purposes. If your agency decides to close, please let us know *as soon as possible* so that we can adjust our schedule accordingly. Also remember to **please** be sure to clean off your parking lot so our truck has access to make deliveries. Let's hope this winter is not too rough for us all. **THANK YOU!**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Date When Celebrated: The third Monday in January.

Born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. grew up to become one of the greatest Social Activists the world has ever known. At 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee.

His birthday became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983. Many consider it a day to serve their community. We here at GBFB are having a local packing with some community members from Royal Bank America and from the Wyomissing H.S. Basketball team helping us on this day. We appreciate the folks wishing to help with service projects that fulfill the community's needs and make this day a day of service.



SAVE THE DATE...

AGENCY ORIENTATION

Monday January 9, 2017, 9:00-10:00am

Held at GBFB, RSVP is required...

Please contact either Deb Mest ext. 205, Lori Lowery ext. 206 OR
Brenda Miller ext. 207.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

- **January 5th—12:30-1:30pm webinar**
- **January 10th— 1:00pm-2:00pm**
- **January 12th— 9:00pm-10:00am**
- **January 18th— 2:00pm-3:00pm**

Serv Safe Certification

Is your Serv Safe Certification still current or do you need to have someone certified? The Berks Agricultural Center has Serv Safe courses offered throughout the year at different times so you can fulfill these requirements. They are located in the Leesport area. In order to be considered passing, must receive a 75% or higher on the test. The next date for the course is scheduled for March 6th and 13th 2017 from 9-4pm each day. You can register online through their website at:

<http://extension.psu.edu/food/safety/courses>; the cost is \$185.00.

We must have a copy of your certificate on file here once you receive it in order to stay in compliance with GBFB regulations. This is mandatory for agencies that prepare and serve food. If you have questions please contact Lori at extension 206.

Annual Dues Invoices Coming..

Be on the look out for 2017 Annual Dues Invoice coming in January 2017. The dues amount will remain the same again this year at \$50.00. In addition, we will also be mailing the current contact, billing, shipping and administrator information we have on file for your agency. Please take the time to review that information and let us know if changes need to be made. If you have any questions regarding your membership dues or the contact information we have on file, please feel free to contact Deb Mest at ext. 205.



JANUARY QUOTE

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Lord Tennyson Alfred

Facts about JANUARY

Most of the world uses the Georgian calendar, which has January as the first month of the year. It is named for Janus, a Roman god. Roman legend has it that the ruler Numa Pompilius added January and February to the end of the 10-month Roman calendar in about 700 B.C. Pompilius gave the month 30 days. Romans later made January the first month. In 46 B.C., the Roman statesman Julius Caesar added a day to January, making it 31 days long. The Anglo-Saxons called the first month Wolfmonth because wolves came into the villages in winter in search of food.

In the northern half of the world, January is the coldest month. Nature is quiet and the birds travel less. The woodchucks and bears sleep day and night, in hibernation. The plants are resting, waiting for the warmer temperatures of the Spring. In the southern half of the world, January is the warmest month. Animals are very active, and plants are growing. The garnet is the birthstone for January while the snowdrop is the flower for January as it blooms many times in the snow.



Information taken from World Book Millennium 2000

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS—

PHILIP DEMEO

Phil Demeo started at the Greater Berks Food Bank as a temporary employee and was hired full time in October as a Driver/Warehouse worker . Phil has been out on the road delivering orders to our various agencies for some time, learning the routes and getting to know the people. On a personal note, Phil has been married to his wife for 34 years and comes from a large Italian family, with two daughters and four grandchildren. The family is very close. Phil loves to cook and pass on Italian traditional cooking to his family, especially at the holiday season. Phil was in the Marine Corps for 8 years. His one grandson is in the Marine Corps currently, while another is going to college and the third is a terrific athletic, especially in football. His granddaughter wants to be a police officer. When asked why Phil wanted to come to work at the Greater Berks Food Bank, he said “this is the exact right fit for me. I love people and appreciate the opportunity to help them. It is good to see people helping people in today’s world.” He also enjoys his coworkers and says “it is a pleasure going to work each day knowing there will be laughter and good, honest, hard work as a team.” Next time you see Phil out and about say hello and welcome him to the group. We look forward to having him here for some time to come.

Greater Berks Food Bank
117 Morgan Drive, Reading, PA 19608
610-926-5802

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*Bringing More to
the Table*
Greater Berks Food Bank



*Bringing more to the table is
brought to you through a
joint effort*

We'd love your input

*of Greater Berks Food Bank
Staff*

*Editor: Lori Lowery
llowery@feedingamerica.org
ext. 206
(610) 926-5802
117 Morgan Drive
Reading, PA 19608*

WEEKENDER PROGRAM—NUMBERS FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

The weekender program has been up and running since October 2016 with the bags being packed on Tuesday mornings each week at 9am here at GBFB. With the help of some 24 volunteers each week, we have been able to pack bags for the 18 sites within 2—2.5 hours. The numbers for the program have been growing steadily and now hold at approximately 1,440 bags weekly. Since this is our first year packing all the bags internally we were a little concerned about how well it would work out and it seems we did not have to worry about it after all! The schools have not had any complaints. The number of volunteers has not been a concern for packing and we have been able to offer some great options for the kids. The items we have offered have ranged from fruit snacks, fruitfuls, chicken noodle soup, instant potatoes, cereals, pancake mix, pasta sides, macaroni and cheese, ravioli, canned chicken and cranberry juice concentrate. We would love to expand the program to other sites as we have many who have expressed interest but the funds are not available at this time. If you have any feedback or concerns please feel free to reach out to any of us in the Agency & Volunteer Services Department. Thank you for your continued support!