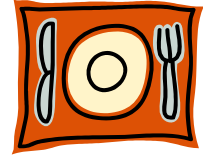
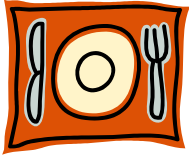

Bringing More to the Table

Greater Berks Food Bank

February 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

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

Perishables, Perishables, Perishables

Because we are receiving more and more donations of fresh, perishable products, we are now opening our doors Monday through Friday 9-11am and 1-3pm for our agencies to come and pick up these fresh, nutritious products, effective January 13th. There are a few important things to remember:

- ◇ ***We will only serve you during the hours of 9-11am or 1-3pm – if you come at any other time you will be turned away.***
- ◇ ***This is for fresh, perishable products only – we will not fill orders for any other products.***
- ◇ ***Please only take quantities that are equal to the amount of people you serve. These products are ONLY for those in need.***
- ◇ ***There will be a list of products that you can choose from. You cannot pick through cases, you must take the whole case.***
- ◇ ***You MUST have your agency name and number and MUST be an authorized person on the Agency Account.***
- ◇ ***This is first come, first served. You cannot call ahead to see what we have or to pre-order. You must come to the Food Bank and wait in line, if there are multiple agencies picking up.***

Thank you for helping us bring more foods to encourage to those in our community in need!

"Groundhog found fog. New snows and blue toes. Fine and dandy for Valentine candy. Snow spittin'; if you're not mitten-smitten, you'll be frostbitten! By jing-y feels spring-y." *Old Farmers Almanac* about February

MOBILE MARKET UPDATE

In April of 2016, GBFB was thrilled to open its' first Mobile Market in front of the Berks Community Health Center on Penn Street. Throughout the summer months we continued to expand and were distributing to 4 different areas once a month. What is the Mobile Market? We fill our truck with fresh, nutritious foods and go to a pre-arranged area and set up our tables. Our volunteers help us hand out the products to those in need in the area we are distributing. We are proud to say we have one in Oakbrook, Wernersville and Auburn (Schuylkill County). The purpose of the Mobile Market is to bring products to those areas that have limited access to fresh, nutritious foods. The Program runs April through October. We were very fortunate to have our friends in Auburn offer their Fire Co. social hall so we could continue the distribution through the winter! Look for us to expand this fantastic program to other areas in need in both Berks and Schuylkill Counties. The feedback from the clients has been nothing but positive and thankful. We can't wait to add areas to this distribution!

BULK ITEMS AVAILABLE

If your site is a soup kitchen, snack program or shelter, consider accepting bulk items from GBFB. The food bank receives many different bulk items throughout the year which might be useful for programs that deal with larger groups of people. The bulk items we receive are of a great variety—ranging from items like sugar, flour, oil, cereal, applesauce, tomato sauce, snack packages and more. We don't want these bulk items to be wasted. Another plus is that these items are free—which is a tremendous bonus for our agencies that can use these items. If you would like to be placed on the list to receive bulk items, please reach out to Brenda Miller in the Agency and Volunteer Services Department at ext. 207 or email her at gfbfcoordinator@feedingamerica.org.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



SAVE THE DATE...

AGENCY ORIENTATION

Monday February 13, 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

- February 3rd—12:30-1:30pm webinar
- February 7th- 1:00pm-2:00pm
- February 9th- 9:00am-10:00am
- February 15th- 11:30pm-12:30pm webinar

**PLEASE NOTE GBFB IS CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB. 20th**

What is President's Day ?

President's Day is the popular and commonly used name for the United States federal holiday officially called [Washington's Birthday](#).

It is celebrated annually on the third Monday of February. President's Day honors and celebrates the life and achievements of George Washington, the first President of the United States (1789-1797) and 'The Father of his Country'. The day is, in practice, often used to honor and remember all past US presidents, and in particular Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson. President's Day was created in 1879, first celebrated the following year. It was originally held on Washington's actual birthday (February 22). In 1971 this was changed to the third Monday of February. It was the first federal holiday to be created in honor of an American citizen.

President's Day is an occasion for community celebrations and parades. Many stores and businesses hold special sales. The [Purple Heart military badge](#) (which carries an image of Washington) for soldiers injured in the course of duty is awarded on President's Day.

Taken from Calendarpedia.com

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE—

****State Grant and TEFAP food allotments have been updated for all Berks county pantries. Allotments are determined by looking at the average number of unduplicated households served, spanning a pantries last twelve (12) months of distribution. If you have questions regarding your allotment please contact Deb Mest, Agency and Volunteer Service Manager ext. 205.**

Sweet Ride Scooper Bowl

Ok, ice cream lovers, who is up for the Sweet Ride Scooper Bowl I challenge?!?!? What a fun and delicious way to not only help the Greater Berks Food Bank but maybe win free ice cream for a year!

Throughout January, visit Sweet Ride Ice Cream in West Reading and for \$20 you will receive a Sweet Ride t-shirt, a \$2 coupon for your next purchase and a 3 scoop Scooper Bowl Sundae to attempt to eat as fast as you can. The top 8 fastest eaters throughout January (in 4 categories – adult, partners, teen, kid) will be invited back for the Scooper Bowl finals on February 4. Each category winners wins free ice cream for a year! Best part, all proceeds from the contest benefit the GBFB. Check out Sweet Ride's Facebook page for more info!

DID YOU KNOW?

*Groundhog Day falls on February 2 in the United States. It is a part of popular culture among many Americans and it centers on the idea of the groundhog coming out of its home to “predict” the weather. The groundhog plays an important role on Groundhog Day. **What Do People Do?***

Groundhog Day is a popular observance in many parts of the United States. Although some states have in some cases adopted their own groundhogs, the official groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives at Gobbler’s Knob near Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The town has attracted thousands of visitors over the years to experience various Groundhog Day events and activities on February 2.

Thousands of years ago when animalism and nature worship were prevalent, people in the area of Europe (now known as Germany) believed that the badger had the power to predict the coming of spring. They watched the badger to know when to plant their crops. By the time the first German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania they probably understood that this was not true but the tradition continued. Unfortunately, there were not many badgers in Pennsylvania so the groundhog was substituted for the badger. Tradition has it that if the groundhog sees its shadow on February 2 it will be frightened by it and will then return to its burrow, indicating that there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If it does not see its shadow, then spring is on the way.

Punxsutawney held its first Groundhog Day in the United States in the 1800s. The first official trek to Gobbler's Knob was made on February 2, 1887. It is said that Punxsutawney Phil (the groundhog) was named after King Phillip. What will Punxsutawney Phil say this year? I guess we will have to wait and see.



**excerpt from
Timeanddate.com*

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*

PRODUCE 4 KIDS

At the beginning of every school year we are able to start to distribute perishable items with our Produce 4 Kids program and this year is no exception. Since September we have been able to distribute 29 times to local schools in the Reading Area (as of January 27th), with some wonderful perishable items for the kids.

Some of the items offered were apples, potatoes, watermelons, lettuce, celery, tomatoes and more! The total pounds distributed was almost 86,000 pounds of food with a value of over \$112,000.

This program gives us a wonderful opportunity to bring these perishable items to those in the city whose families may not be able to purchase them frequently or at all because of the costs. This year we have had many new volunteers complete their clearances in order to assist with this program. This has been such a blessing as we have been able to hold multiple distributions at schools in the same week and even three in the same day! The volunteers continually say that the kids are so excited to receive the bags and they are eating the items before they are off of school grounds! We appreciate everyone helping us to give these kids some healthy nutritious and delicious food items.

THANKS AND LET'S KEEP ON DOING WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE EVERY CHILD HAVE MORE BROUGHT TO THEIR TABLE.