

HELPING HARVEST 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of Helping Harvest is to feed the hungry.



Accomplishments of Helping Harvest's programs in 2021 include:

- More than 8.25 million pounds of food, valued at \$11,762,685, was distributed through our network of 320 charitable food programs in Berks and Schuylkill counties. This represents a 15% increase from the 6.6 million pounds distributed in 2019--representing a continued response to the increase in need due to COVID.
 - More than 125,000 different individuals were nourished by food received from Helping Harvest.
 - Of the food distributed, 3.57 million pounds (43%) were fresh and frozen foods - the foods typically the most nutrient-rich but often the most lacking in the diets of those in need.
 - 92,732 food assistance packages distributed at food pantries.
 - 878,716 meals and snacks served with food partially or fully supplied by Helping Harvest at area shelters.
 - Another 324,084 meals and snacks served at area soup kitchens and meal programs.
 - 31,385 bags full of food were sent home through this program to nearly 1,800 children in Berks and Schuylkill counties. In 2021-2022 school year, the Weekender Program grew from serving low income children at 18 elementary schools to its current enrollment of nearly 40 elementary and middle schools.
 - 10,650 bags (64,065 pounds) filled with fresh and nutritious foods were distributed through Produce 4 Kids, which provides healthy foods to elementary students in the Reading School District.
 - More than 1,800 low-income senior citizens received a food tote monthly through the federally supported Pennsylvania Senior Food Box Program (administered by Helping Harvest for Berks and Schuylkill Counties).
 - 1,308,031 pounds of nourishing foods were distributed through the Mobile Market program in 2021. Now in its sixth year, our Mobile Market program has nearly tripled in size since March 2020. Currently, there are food distributions at 19 sites monthly throughout Berks and Schuylkill counties.
 - 14,560 volunteer and community service hours (equivalent to 9 full time Helping Harvest staff) were worked by 1,780 volunteers.
 - Nearly 310,000 pounds of fresh and frozen perishable foods were delivered to senior citizens living in low-income housing through the Mobile Direct program
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