

NOURISHING NEWS

Helping Harvest's bi-annual newsletter
JANUARY 2025



2024 HELPING HARVEST HIGHLIGHTS

2024 was an incredible year for Helping Harvest. From January 1, we distributed more than 10.5 million pounds of food to our neighbors in Berks and Schuylkill counties, including a record-breaking distribution for Schuylkill county in November, and an increase in overall food distribution for the third year in a row.

In 2025, we will continue our mission to feed the hungry in Berks and Schuylkill counties with the help of our community. The year will hold exciting new things like the opening of our new location in downtown Reading, the expansion of our programs, and our continued mission to feed the hungry in Berks and Schuylkill counties.

IN THIS ISSUE

**2024 HIGHLIGHTS FROM
HELPING HARVEST**

**JOIN THE COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

SAVE THE DATES

MOBILE MARKETS

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN
UPDATE**

**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
WITH US**

Join the Community Garden Giving Club!

Helping Harvest is excited to announce its new monthly giving club, The Community Garden! This group is made up of those that make a monthly contribution of any amount to Helping Harvest. Members of this club will receive exclusive communication from Helping Harvest, behind-the-scenes looks at our some of our new programs, and access to special incentives. To join, you can go to the donation page of our website and select “monthly gift” or call Blake Reed at 610-926-5802 ext. 222.



Save The Date For Our Helping Harvest Events!



Be sure to save the dates for our Celebration of Community & Hope Events in Berks and Schuylkill counties in 2025!

Schuylkill County- April 24, 2025
Mountain Valley Golf Course, Barnesville

Berks County- October 9, 2025
Doubletree Hotel, Reading

Mobile Market Volunteering

Looking for a fulfilling way to interact with others in your community? Look no further than joining us at a Mobile Market! Mobile Markets are pop-up food pantries located in Berks and Schuylkill county. In 2023, volunteers distributed over 1.7 million pounds of food at Mobile Markets. In 2024, that number has increased to over 2.3 million! Mobiles are held outside approximately 25 times a month at 23 different locations. We can't meet the increasing demand of our community without your help! If you're able, try a Mobile Market! That's where we consistently need the most help!



UPDATES ON THE HELPING HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The Helping Harvest Community Kitchen is moving toward completion and is scheduled to open in the next few months. This facility, located in the Goggleworks II building on Washington Street, will be used to prepare, cook, and package heat-and-eat ready meals for our neighbors facing food insecurity. The Helping Harvest Community Kitchen will allow us to accept bulk donations that were not previously able to be accepted for distribution. Once open, the kitchen is anticipated to produce 2,500 meals per week for seniors in our community that struggle with food insecurity.

Another exciting feature of the new facility is the culinary arts training program, which will allow culinary students to gain hands-on experience with food preparation and packaging, as well as access to a state-of-the-art facility, highly qualified instructors, and top of the line equipment. Curriculum will focus on food safety, proper skill techniques, and working in a kitchen environment with others.

In addition to the kitchen and classroom space, the Community Kitchen will house offices for several staff members, including referral specialists for programs like WIC and SNAP, a nutrition educator, and an outreach coordinator. The relocation of these services to downtown Reading will make them more easily accessible to the members of our community that are facing food insecurity.

We are very excited about our new facility and the resources it will provide to the downtown Reading area. For updates on construction progress and our official opening date, you can check out our social media pages or join our email list!



Get Involved with Helping Harvest



Advocate

Helping Harvest and Feeding America are dependent on government officials passing laws that help our communities to overcome food insecurity. You can contact your local, state, and federal officials to urge them to support legislation that help us feed the hungry.



Volunteer

If you are looking for a way to give to Helping Harvest and make a difference in the lives of those experiencing food insecurity, you can volunteer with us in our warehouse, at our mobile markets, and in other ways! To explore volunteer opportunities, visit our website.



Make a Gift

Making a monetary contribution to Helping Harvest is the best way to support our hungry neighbors. Donations are used to purchase food at a lower-than-market price. This allows us to make the most of the monetary value to feed the hungry in our community.



Donate Food

Donating food is a great way to provide food to our neighbors. You can purchase food or host a food drive to help fill the shelves in our warehouse. Donations can be dropped off at our warehouse between 9am and 3pm on weekdays.



Scan Here to Give Today!

