



Nourishing News: E-Edition August 2025



Helping Harvest Community Kitchen Opening Celebration

While we've been up and running since April, on August 7, we celebrated the opening of the Helping Harvest Community Kitchen. Because what big project is *actually* complete without a celebration to honor those who helped it come to fruition?

The event, which was featured by the **Reading Eagle** and **WFMZ**, included snacks prepared by our chefs, brief remarks, and tours of the kitchen. Thank you to all who attended and all who have contributed, both financially and otherwise, to this dream over the last few years.

We look forward to exploring the new opportunities this facility will present as we continue to find innovative ways to serve our neighbors.

[Learn More](#)



Chef's Corner: Mrs. T's Pierogies

Join Chef Melanie for this month's Chef's Corner as she shares a simple and delicious way to prepare Mrs. T's Pierogies.

We are fortunate to benefit frequently from the generosity of Mrs. T's in the form of food donations. Neighbors will often receive these products from one of our programs or agency partners.

Chef Melanie demonstrates how these pierogies can become a yummy side dish - or even the main event for your next meal - by utilizing just a few ingredients, minimal kitchen equipment, and a simple cooking technique.

[Watch Now](#)



Volunteer of the Month: CRAIG

For over a decade, Craig and his wife Diane have been volunteering with us. After retiring, Craig was looking for ways to make good use of his time. He found he gravitated to volunteering at Helping Harvest because of the flexibility and fulfillment associated with giving back to his community.

While he was once in the warehouse, he has found his calling directing traffic at our Mobile Markets, accumulating over 1,000 hours of volunteering!

Of his role at Mobile Markets, Craig said, "I get to meet and greet everyone with a smile, kind word, or just the wave of a hand. I hope that brightens their day just a little bit."

[Learn More](#)



New Helping Harvest run Pantry at Oakbrook

We were so pleased to be a part of the Reading Housing Authority's Grand Opening of the Oakbrook Center for Community Services on August 14.

The Center features a new Helping Harvest run pantry that will be open the second Tuesday of every month, starting in September, and other facilities for residents.

This client-choice pantry, which enables neighbors to have a more traditional shopping experience, choosing products that are useful for their family, will replace the walk-up Mobile Market that was previously held at Oakbrook.

Neighbors are encouraged to **make an appointment** to visit the pantry by calling Helping Harvest at 610-926-5802 x206.

[Learn More](#)

September is Hunger Action Month!

September is **Hunger Action Month**. At Helping Harvest, we pride ourselves in being a leader in the fight against hunger in our community.

For the month of September, you can **double** your impact. Every gift made this month will be doubled, making double the difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Watch your email and our social media accounts in the weeks ahead for more Hunger Action Month content. And join us in wearing **ORANGE** on Hunger Action Day on September 9 to show your dedication to the fight against hunger!

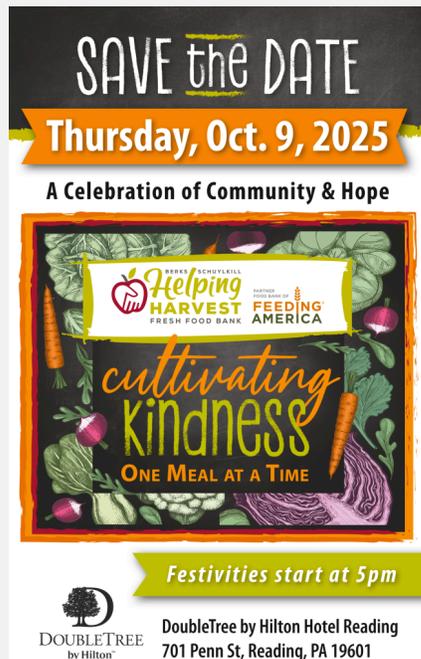
[Donate Now](#)

Help us Make Thanksgiving Brighter for Area Families

Help us make Thanksgiving brighter for area families by donating Wish List items. These items will be used in the preparation of Thanksgiving boxes that are distributed to neighbors. Please, no glass!

We'll also be preparing Thanksgiving heat-and-eat ready meals in the Community Kitchen. Our chefs have a special ingredient request: fresh sage!

Thanksgiving Wish List: Canned Pumpkin, Cranberry Sauce, Cornbread Mix, Stuffing, Gravy, Biscuit Mix, Potato Flakes, and Fresh Sage



Celebration of Community & Hope Sponsorships & Tickets Available

Our next Celebration of Community & Hope – Berks County will be held on October 9, 2025.

Festivities start at 5pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading (701 Penn Street Reading, PA).

Sponsorship information and tickets are available on our [News & Events page](#).

Questions about the event may be directed to Jen Bauman, Development and Stewardship Manager, at jbauman@helpingharvest.org or 610-926-5802 x228.

We hope you can join us for this special evening, helping to *cultivate kindness, one meal at a time!*

Support Helping Harvest: Boscov's 29th Annual Friends Helping Friends Fundraising Event

Helping Harvest will again be participating in Boscov's largest annual fundraising event, **Friends Helping Friends**.

During this one-day event on October 22, Boscov's offers its biggest sale of the year, 25% off its lowest sale prices. To access this exclusive event, customers receive a shopping pass after donating \$5 to a partnering non-profit organization like Helping Harvest.

The best part? We get to keep 100% of the shopping pass donation proceeds and use them to support our mission of feeding the hungry in Berks & Schuylkill counties!

How it works: Click the button below to purchase your \$5 shopping pass between now and the sale. You can pick it up from us or we'll mail it to you. You can then take the pass to a Boscov's store on October 22 and shop their sale, as well as enter to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card.

[Get Your Ticket](#)



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