



# WHAT'S ON OUR PLATE *January 2026*

*You can help feed neighbors experiencing hunger in Berks and Schuylkill counties. Please support our mission today.*

[Donate Now](#)



## 2025 Helping Harvest Year in Review

2025 brought us a number of challenges and triumphs. From funding cuts to a government shutdown, food banks had to be agile, constantly responding to unprecedented challenges.

We're proud to say that with the support of our community, volunteers, supporters, and staff, we met these challenges head on and continued to find new ways to support our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

In 2025, we distributed 11,102,818 pounds of food valued at \$21,855,778. This is the largest amount of food we've distributed in a single year since our founding in 1983 (including during the pandemic).

We look forward to another year of continuing our mission to fight hunger in Berks & Schuylkill counties.

Read more about the Top 10 highlights of 2025 at the link below.



## Community Kitchen Chefs Shine at PA Farm Show

On January 16, the chefs of Helping Harvest got to show off their skills in a new environment: doing a **cooking demo** at the Pennsylvania Farm Show's PA Preferred Culinary Connections stage.

The chefs demonstrated how to prepare Chef George's recipe of stuffed pork loin with potato and brussel sprout hash and apple purée using fresh, Pennsylvania ingredients. The farm show's featured ingredient of the day was pork.

After the demo, the audience had the opportunity to taste the complete dish. The recipe was also included in the **PA Preferred cookbook**, which was available to farm show attendees.

[Learn More](#)



### December Volunteers of the Month: Dennis & Joyce

Joyce and Dennis, an unmatched husband and wife volunteer team, celebrated three years of volunteering in January! They've amassed over 1,700 hours--with Dennis three hours ahead of Joyce as we write this.

If you've been to a Mobile Market, you've surely spotted them as Joyce helps register neighbors and Dennis is on traffic control!

After a friend of theirs recommended getting involved with Helping Harvest, Joyce and Dennis couldn't help but notice the impact our organization had on the community.

When they're not getting to know their neighbors, these two try to go every Penn State game possible. As well as spend time with their family and travel.

"We derive great satisfaction in making a difference in service to others. We also love the relationships we've developed with volunteers and staff!"

[Learn More](#)



### January Volunteer of the Month: Joe

Once a paid temporary employee during the pandemic, now turned volunteer, Joe has been sharing his time with us since 2020.

Despite still working part-time doing catering, Joe has still managed to volunteer over 850 hours. What keeps Joe coming back?

He says, "I enjoyed the tasks I performed while temping. I loved interacting with the people - whether it was neighbors, HH staff, or fellow volunteers."

Joe has really found his calling assisting at Mobile Markets...his favorite volunteer opportunity. He does admit, however, that the Community Kitchen is a close second!

When he's not working or volunteering, Joe is getting his passport to start traveling more, as well as singing in his church's guitar choir. He also enjoys walking and hiking.

[Learn More](#)

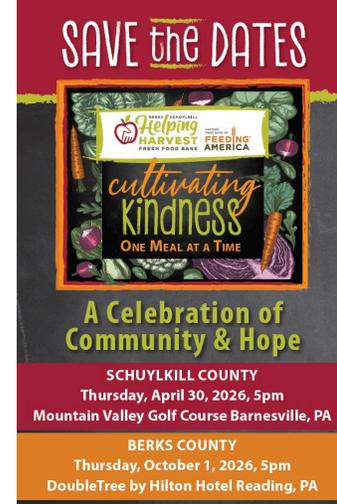
## Save the Dates: 2026 Celebrations of Community & Hope

Mark those calendars! The dates and locations are set for our Schuylkill and Berks County annual dinners this year. We hope you will join us at one or both of these events to celebrate community support for our mission to fight hunger.

The **Schuylkill County Celebration of Community & Hope** will take place Thursday, April 30, 2026 beginning at 5pm at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville, PA.

Our **Berks County Celebration of Community & Hope** will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2026 beginning at 5pm at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Reading, PA.

You can find out more, including information on sponsorship opportunities, on our [News & Events page](#).



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