



Nourishing News: E-Edition June 2025



A Record-Breaking Day in the Community Kitchen

On June 18, our Community Kitchen volunteers brought their A-game. We produced a total of 1,125 meals. In one day. Two months after opening. Wow!

This included our hard-working volunteers packaging a record ***672*** meals of spicy sausage skillet potatoes and vegetables during the morning shift alone!

A single day's work means that 1,125 lives that will be made brighter with a nutritious, delicious meal.

We are so grateful for the hard work of our volunteers, the passion of our chefs, and the generosity of our food donors, as we've watched this big dream of our become a reality.

[Learn More](#)



Chef's Corner: Introducing Chef Melanie

Meet Chef Melanie Galarza, the newest member of the Community Kitchen team!

Originally from Puerto Rico, she brings with her years of experience in kitchens, including as a culinary instructor.

"Working at the Community Kitchen perfectly combines my loves of cooking and teaching, as well as helping others. Being able to cook in this beautiful, new kitchen is like the ultimate playground for a chef," said Chef Melanie.

In this month's Chef's Corner, join Chef Melanie as she demonstrates the proper way to dice an onion, a useful skill for any professional or home cook!

[Watch Now](#)

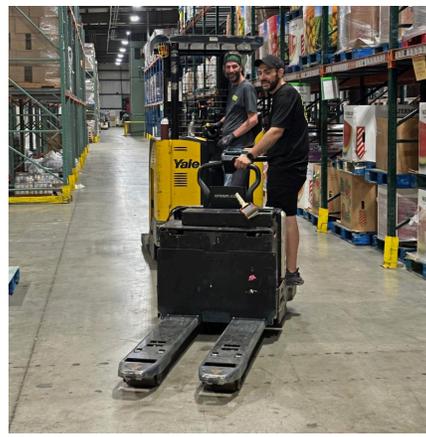


Showing off the Community Kitchen

Since we moved into the Community Kitchen in April, one of our favorite things to do (aside from producing delicious, nutritious meals for our neighbors, of course) has been to show off the new space to partners, supporters, and other community members.

In the past month, we've had visitors including the **BCIU Leadership Team** (thanks to their team for volunteering, too), **Schuylkill United Way**, **Goggleworks Center for the Arts board & staff**, **Berks County Commissioners**, and more.

[Learn More](#)



Happy National Warehouse Workers Day!

We couldn't let June 28 go by without recognizing the very heart of our organization - the guys that keep the warehouse running and the trucks on the road - for National Warehouse Workers Day! Without them, we simply could not feed our neighbors experiencing hunger.

So, Bryan, Luis, Jose (aka Pito), Erik, Tyler, Jose, Danny, Hector, Anibal, Yariel, Sandy, Dwight, James, Dave, Ed, Fran, Phil, Mike, and Tim - THANK YOU for all that you do in support of Helping Harvest and our communities!

[Learn More](#)

SAVE the DATE
Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025
 A Celebration of Community & Hope

Helping Harvest Feeding America
 FRESH FOOD BANK

cultivating kindness
 ONE MEAL AT A TIME

Festivities start at 5pm



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading
701 Penn St, Reading, PA 19601

Sponsor Opportunities Coming Soon!

Save the Date: Celebration of Community & Hope - Berks County

Mark those calendars! 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).

Information on Sponsorship Opportunities will be available later in July.

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!*

Advocacy Corner: SNAP Cuts in the Federal Budget

This week, the U.S. Senate passed its version of the budget reconciliation bill. Like the House version, it contains deep reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.

Preliminary estimates show the Senate version cuts nearly \$200 billion from SNAP—realized through cost-shifting to states, increased work requirements and limiting the ability to update benefit levels.

The House will now quickly proceed with a vote on the bill. Citizens have a very limited window to influence the final outcome. Due to provisions that would impede access to food and health care and worsen hunger in America, we encourage you to use this [email template](#) or call 1-800-708-8229 to urge lawmakers in the House to oppose this bill.



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