



Nourishing News: E-Edition November 2025

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

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Making Thanksgiving Brighter for 20,000+ Neighbors

Amid rising levels of food insecurity, we helped ensure that neighbors experiencing food insecurity had food on their tables this Thanksgiving.

We prepared 14,386 Thanksgiving heat-and-eat ready meals at the Community Kitchen, which were largely distributed to seniors.

The menu for the heat-and eat-ready meals featured smoked turkey with house made gravy, sweet potato mash, green beans and cranberry sauce. Meals were prepared and assembled by the chefs, staff, and volunteers during October.

Staff and volunteers at the warehouse were also busy preparing for Thanksgiving. With a dedicated Thanksgiving box packing volunteer shift on October 25, we prepared 4,752 pantry boxes filled with products that are typically found on holiday tables. Additionally, we distributed 3,632 whole turkeys and 2,252 turkey breasts.



A Visit from Feeding America

At the end of October, we were pleased to welcome our Feeding America Member Engagement Director Shannon Coker for a multi-day visit at both the warehouse and Community Kitchen.

As a Partner Food Bank of Feeding America, we undergo a Network Standards Review (NSR) every couple of years to ensure that Helping Harvest is in line with other food banks in the Feeding America Network and meeting the standards laid out by Feeding America.

A visit with Shannon is always a great opportunity to explore what we are doing well, examine areas of opportunity, and hear about the great work that our peers are doing!

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Volunteer of the Month: Carol

Averaging over 200 hours a year, Carol has really found her niche volunteering with us over the last three years! She got her start filling weekender bags and packing senior boxes but was quickly recruited by our office staff to do clerical work and data entry.

After retiring from a rewarding social work career, Carol set to continue the example her parents set for her of helping others.

When she's not crunching numbers, Carol enjoys hiking in the woods and visiting family with her long-term partner and rescue pup. She also enjoys reading, playing games, taking African drum lessons, and live music.

"Volunteering here means I'm doing my small part to support the noble mission of Helping Harvest. It's a pleasure, and I am thankful for it," she said.

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Britt's Milestone: 3,000 Volunteer Hours!

Congratulations to our all-star volunteer, Britt, for hitting the amazing milestone of 3,000 volunteer hours with us during the week of November 17!

We celebrated Britt with sweet treats and flowers alongside her fellow volunteers after we were done serving neighbors at the November 21 Pottsville Mobile Market. She was also kind enough to pose for some photos with other volunteers and our driver, Fran.

Britt's contributions are so valuable to Helping Harvest. She often takes on one of the more challenging and time-consuming volunteer roles at Mobile Markets - registering neighbors as they arrive.

Way to go, Britt! Thanks for all of your hard work! We couldn't do what we do without you!

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Expanding our School Pantry Program to Meet the Needs of Older Students & Their Families

In addition to the Weekender Program, which provides a bag of easy to prepare meals and snacks for younger students to eat over the weekend, we are actively expanding our School Pantry Program for older students.

Crimson Cabinet opened at the D.H.H. Lengle Middle School in the Pottsville Area School District last school year in March. The Spartan Station in the Wyomissing Area School District Jr/Sr High School and Hurricane Cabinet at Schuylkill Haven Area Middle School are brand new this school year.

School pantries offer students food assistance in a familiar environment. The school pantry model is flexible to meet the needs of the school and their community. We are working to expand this program throughout our service territory to meet the needs of older students and their families



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