



Nourishing News: E-Edition October 2025

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

[Donate Now](#)



Celebrating Community & Hope in Berks County

On October 9, we held our 3rd annual Celebration of Community & Hope in Reading!

Highlights included an appetizer station with food prepared exclusively by our chefs, speakers including PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, videos featuring our fabulous volunteers and our culinary team, a special artwork partnership with Olivet Boys & Girls Club, and so much more!

Thanks to everyone who joined us (including the **Reading Eagle**) to raise awareness and funds as we pursue our mission to feed neighbors experiencing food insecurity!

Stay tuned in the weeks and months ahead for announcements of dates for the spring 2026 Celebration of Community & Hope in Schuylkill County, and the 2026 date for Berks County.

[Learn More](#)



SNAP Cuts Threaten Our Ability To Feed Local Families

With the suspension of and uncertainty around SNAP (aka food stamps) due to the federal government shutdown, over 88,000 children, seniors and families in our community face a substantial challenge. While some funding has been restored or redirected, it's simply not enough.

We are already seeing a significant increase in the number of people coming to us for help.

Please consider **making a financial donation** so that Helping Harvest can provide more food for our neighbors during what will likely be the greatest crisis in food insecurity since the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are also other ways to help. Please consider **donating food** or **volunteering** in the warehouse, at a Mobile Market, or in the Community Kitchen.



Volunteer of the Month: Kurt

For over 6 years, Kurt has dedicated his spare time to helping community members in need.

After learning about volunteering by coming in with a group of his coworkers, he found that he could always find ways to fit volunteering into his schedule, so he was hooked!

While Kurt admits the staff is wonderful at all the locations, his favorite activity is at the warehouse sorting frozen donations. He said, "It's like a treasure hunt! You have no idea what you may find!"

Of why he keeps coming back, he said, "There are times when you meet someone who is genuinely grateful for what we are all doing. That's a wonderful feeling."

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Preparing & Packaging 15,000 Thanksgiving Meals

As we speak, the chefs and volunteers at the Community Kitchen are putting the finishing touches on the 15,000 Thanksgiving heat-and-eat ready meals that will be distributed to neighbors throughout Berks & Schuylkill counties, largely seniors. Yes, you read that right...15 *thousand*.

The complete, microwave-ready meals include sliced turkey with scratch-made gravy, sweet potato mash, cranberry sauce, and green beans.

The chefs began preparing components of the meals back in September and spent the entirety of October cooking and packaging Thanksgiving meals, and only Thanksgiving meals.

These meals are being distributed in addition to the Thanksgiving pantry boxes we typically distribute.

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Pepperidge Farm & Campbell's Donate Truckload of Bread

On October 20, we received a call from the Campbell's warehouse in Norristown - they had a tractor trailer full of Pepperidge Farm bread products they wanted to donate to us! Always appreciative of a food donation from a retail partner, we quickly went and picked up the bread, and our volunteers and staff unloaded the bread trays and repacked the items into boxes for storage in our warehouse. The products included bread, bagels, rolls, stuffing, and more! Thank you, Pepperidge Farm/Campbell's!



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