



WHAT'S ON OUR PLATE *March 2026*

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

[Donate Now](#)



Expanding the Weekender & School Pantry Programs in Schuylkill County

We now have a presence in every school in Pottsville! As we work to expand our Weekender and School Pantry programs, we are thrilled to be able to improve and increase our reach to vulnerable populations in Schuylkill County.

The Weekender Program, which supplies a bag of easy to prepare meals and snacks for students to eat over the weekend, is offered at John S. Clark Elementary in the Pottsville Area SD, at the Pottsville and Pottsville 2 Head Start centers run by Child Development, Inc., and at Gillingham Charter.

The School Pantry Program, which offers middle and high school students food assistance in a familiar environment, is at D.H.H. Lengel Middle School (pictured above) and Pottsville High School.

Elsewhere in Schuylkill County, there is a school pantry at Minersville Area Jr/Sr High School and at Schuylkill Haven Area Middle School.



Warehouse Welcomes WEEU for Live Radio Broadcast with ACS

On March 26 at the warehouse, we hosted both the American Cancer Society for their Daffodil Days fundraising event pickup and **Feedback WEEU** for a live broadcast and the kickoff of their annual Phood Drive!

That day was a busy one, with around 140 volunteers deployed across the warehouse, Community Kitchen, a Mobile Market and a pantry distribution.

We so appreciate our partnerships with other wonderful organizations in the community like ACS and WEEU and are always thrilled when we can help each other out!

You can listen to our team - SNAP & Outreach Coordinator Melissa Beltran Del Rio, COO Jess Umbenhauer, and Development & Stewardship Manager Jen Bauman - on the WEEU broadcast at the link

We receive no government funding to support the Weekender Program and none of the Schuylkill County school pantries receive government support.

below, with the Helping Harvest segment starting at 39:30.

[Listen Here](#)

[Learn More](#)



Volunteer of the Month: Louise

Ms. Louise started to volunteer with us during the peak of the pandemic (6 years ago!) and has been with us ever since! 750 hours later, she's established herself as a reliable, friendly and incredibly helpful presence everywhere she goes.

Lately, she's been crushing it at the Community Kitchen packaging meals, but she also loves bagging Weekender at the warehouse.

When she's not volunteering, you can catch Louise at the gym, shopping, going to church, and taking as many day trips as she can! She also covets game nights with her family, going out to eat and traveling! Next on her list is a cruise to Alaska, and a trip to Hawaii!

"It gives me a great feeling that I am helping others," she said of her time volunteering.

[Learn More](#)



Community Kitchen Surpasses 100K Meals

In the 11 months since we opened, the Community Kitchen has been busy. Rarely a moment goes by that you won't see our chefs and volunteers at some stage of making a new dish: prepping, cooking, or packaging (and sometimes all three simultaneously).

All that hard work has paid off. We recently passed the amazing milestone of 100,000 meals prepared by the Community Kitchen and distributed by our partners and programs!

When we moved in last April, our goal was to produce 2,500 meals per week by the end of our first year of operation. At just 11 months in, we've had single volunteer shifts come close to that!

As we approach the first anniversary of the Community Kitchen, we are so proud of how far we've come in a short time...and excited for what's ahead!

[Learn More](#)

Adding New Members to Our Board of Directors

We recently added new members to our Board of Directors. John Powers, President - Commercial Lines Insurance at Tobash Insurance Agency in Tamaqua, and Tim Santoro,

Divisional Vice President at The GIANT Company, both joined the Board in late February 2026.

In 2025, Scott L. Gruber, retired president and CEO of Tompkins Community Bank and Executive Director of Economic Development of Our City Reading, and Kenneth W. Weik, Portfolio Manager & Secretary/Treasurer at Weik Capital Management, joined the Board as new members.

[Read More on BCTV](#)

You're Invited: 3rd Annual Schuylkill County Celebration of Community & Hope on April 30

There's less than one month to go until our **3rd Annual Schuylkill County Celebration of Community & Hope** on Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 5-7:30pm at Mountain Valley Golf Course (1021 Brockton Mountain Dr, Barnesville, PA).

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SECURE SPONSORSHIPS AND PURCHASE TICKETS!

Join Mrs. T's Pierogies, AmeriHealth Caritas, Lehigh Valley Health Network, and more as a sponsor! Information on sponsorship opportunities is available in our **2026 Sponsorship Packet**. Individual tickets and sponsorships can be purchased using [this form](#).

For additional questions about the event, or to discuss sponsorships, please contact Jen Bauman, Development and Stewardship Manager, at jbauman@helpingharvest.org or 610-926-5802 x228. You can also find out more on our [News & Events page](#).

If possible, please purchase tickets by April 24, 2026.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR BERKS CELEBRATION:

Our 2026 Berks County Celebration of Community & Hope will take place at 5pm on October 1, 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading (701 Penn Street Reading, PA).

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