



Celebrating PASS at Weaver's Orchard

On May 19, Helping Harvest joined Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, State Senator Judy Schwank, Feeding Pennsylvania CEO Julie Bancroft, and Weaver's Orchard President Ed Weaver to celebrate a decade of the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS)** — a program connecting farmers with food banks to get nutritious food to Pennsylvanians facing hunger. Our President, Jay Worrall, had the opportunity to speak, and guests enjoyed refreshments prepared by our culinary team — all made from local products sourced through the PASS program itself.

New Strategic Plan & Board Members

This year, Helping Harvest welcomed John Powers, President of Commercial Lines Insurance at Tobash Insurance Agency, Tim Santoro, Divisional VP at The GIANT Company, Hyo Jin (Jinnie) Lee, Esquire, of Barley Snyder, and Andrew (Drew) Laskowski, CFO of Berks Community Health Center, to our Board of Directors. They join us as **Helping Harvest launches a new strategic plan guiding the organization through 2030**, setting the course for our next chapter as we work to deepen our impact, expand our programs, and meet a level of need that shows no signs of slowing.



WHAT'S ON OUR PLATE at Helping Harvest

FALL 2026



Help Our Community Garden Grow with Monthly Gifts!

The Community Garden is Helping Harvest's monthly giving community — and one of the most powerful ways to support neighbors facing hunger in Berks and Schuylkill counties. Members make an ongoing monthly gift that creates a reliable source of funding our team can count on. That consistency matters: it means food on shelves, bags packed for kids over the weekend, and meals served through the Community Kitchen — not just when the need spikes in high-demand months, but all year long. Members also receive behind-the-scenes access and regular updates from our staff throughout the year, so you'll always know the difference your gift is making.

Interested in joining? Scan the QR code below or contact **Bethany Ream** at bream@helpingharvest.org or 610-926-5802 x217.



NEW MEMBERS
RECEIVE A
FREE WELCOME
GIFT!



Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce Give \$1 Million to Helping Harvest

Ahead of their highly anticipated wedding in July, Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce donated an incredible \$26 million across 20 charitable organizations nationwide. Among the recipients: Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank! Our share of that generous gift was \$1 million, and for us, that was, as our President Jay Worrall wrote to the newlyweds directly, “different than any gift we’ve received in the 40-plus years we’ve been doing this work.”

Taylor grew up right here in Berks County, a stone’s throw from our warehouse and Community Kitchen. The communities we serve every day are the same ones she called home for many years, making her gift even more meaningful to us and our community.

The need behind this gift is real. Inflation, rising fuel costs, and cuts to SNAP have forced families to make impossible choices: rent or groceries. Gas or dinner. Medication or meals.

This gift will be invested in infrastructure, transportation, and our Spring Township warehouse - building the capacity to accept more food, reduce waste, and reach even more families across our two-county service area. We distributed a record 12.4 million pounds of food within the last fiscal year. We’re now on pace to surpass 14 million pounds by the end of this year.

As Jay wrote to Taylor and Travis, “Thank you for bringing your generosity and success home - and for using your platform in a way that will benefit real people for a long time to come.”

That’s how all of us feel. And we are grateful beyond words.





OUR IMPACT *At a Glance*

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Reading Eagle Guest Editorial by Helping Harvest President Jay Worrall Runs Throughout the Region

Every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. But that potential has a foundation — and simple as it sounds, the foundation starts with food.



The demand for food assistance has been steadily increasing since the pandemic. In 2025, Helping Harvest distributed over 11.1 million pounds of food across Berks and Schuylkill counties, our biggest year on record.

Many of us hoped that was a peak. It wasn't.

In each of the first four months of 2026, we surpassed one million pounds distributed — a pace that will shatter last year's record. Demand is not declining. It is accelerating.

Children are bearing the weight of this crisis in ways that will follow them for years. That's why we've made a deliberate commitment to meeting children's nutritional needs at every stage of development — through our Weekender Program, which reaches over 4,200 students each week; our School Pantry Program inside middle and high schools; and our Maternal Health Program, which delivers nutrient-dense food directly to food-insecure pregnant and postpartum individuals, because good nutrition begins before birth.

The children growing up in our communities today are tomorrow's workforce, neighbors, and leaders. Their ability to thrive depends on the foundation we give them now. Hunger is a solvable problem — and it requires all of us.

Read Jay's full editorial at readingeagle.com.

Featured on May 29, 2026.



New Meals on Wheels Partnership

On July 1, Helping Harvest launched a Meals on Wheels partnership with Berks Encore and the Berks County Area Agency on Aging — and the first two months alone were remarkable. **We distributed 34,576 meals** (nearly 78,000 pounds of food), including 5,030 hot congregate meals delivered daily to six Berks Encore Senior Centers and 29,546 frozen meals delivered twice weekly to those same centers and Boyertown Area Multi-Service for home delivery — each accompanied by a quart of milk and a bag of sides packed by our volunteers.

Program Expansions in Schuylkill County

Helping Harvest is growing in Schuylkill County — and more neighbors than ever are feeling it. We now partner with **114 food distribution partners** across the county, operate **Mobile Markets in nine communities** (Orwigsburg, Auburn, Girardville, Pine Grove, Minersville, Pottsville, Shenandoah, Tamaqua, and Valley View), bring the **Weekender Program to 23 elementary schools and pre-schools**, and have launched **School Pantries inside six schools** — Pottsville Middle School, Pottsville High School, Minersville High School, Schuylkill Haven Middle School, Tamaqua Middle School, and McAdoo Kelayres Elementary School — putting food directly where families already are.



Introducing the Sowing Circle Legacy Society

This year, Helping Harvest launched the **Sowing Circle Legacy Society** — our first-ever program for supporters who have chosen to include Helping Harvest in their estate plans. It began organically: donors kept telling us they had already written us into their wishes, and when those conversations kept coming, we knew it was time to build something worthy of that commitment. If you'd like to learn more about the legacy you can leave, contact our Chief Development Officer, Dave Delozier, at ddelozier@helpingharvest.org or 610-926-5802 x212.

