# WHAT'S ON OUR PLATE *October 2026*

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

**Donate Now**



## A Legacy of Giving Back:
## David & Jackie Lurio Donate $200,000 to Helping Harvest

David Lurio's family has been part of this region for four generations. His great grandfather co-founded what would become Elbeco Inc. in Reading in 1907, and the family built it into one of the country's largest uniform manufacturers.

When the company was sold in 2022, David and his wife Jackie didn't walk away from the community that made it all possible.

After seeing neighbors and families lined up at a Mobile Market and then visiting our Community Kitchen in downtown Reading to meet the people that do the work every day, the Lurios were moved to make a $200,000 gift that will reach neighbors across Berks and Schuylkill counties for years to come.

"We are blessed to be able to pay it forward in some small way," David said.

**Read the Full Story**

## Volunteer of the Month: Patty

Patty is one remarkable person, and we are so grateful to have her on our team! Over the past 5 years, she has volunteered at the warehouse, Mobile Markets and the Community Kitchen -

stating she likes the variety of options (though her favorite is the direct contact with neighbors at Mobiles!) After retiring, Patty knew she wanted to volunteer somewhere she could have a direct impact on her community.

When she's not volunteering, Patty prioritizing physical fitness by kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking and skiing! She also treasures family time (especially with her granddaughter.) An avid traveler, she loves to travel to National Parks with her husband; they just came back from British Columbia and are heading to Glacier soon!

"I have encountered so many wonderful people over the last few years. Helping those who are fighting food insecurity is very fulfilling. I love Helping Harvest!"

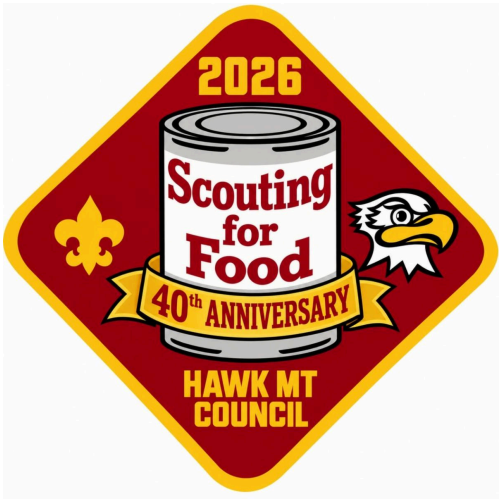
Thank you, Patty — we couldn't do what we do without you!



**To join Patty and learn more about becoming a volunteer, you can click the button below!**

**Learn More**

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## Hawk Mountain Council Scouting for Food Drive Returns for 40th Year

This November, the **Scouting America Hawk Mountain Council** Scouting for Food Drive returns for its 40th year, and Helping Harvest is so proud to be part of it. Four decades of Scouts, families, volunteers and neighbors working together to make sure no one goes hungry.

Here's how it works:

- **November 7** - Scouts drop door tags in your neighborhood
- **November 14** - Leave food items marked with a tag by front door or mailbox for pickup




## Then and Now: A Look at Rising Diesel Costs

In the 2026 fiscal year, our drivers logged over 149,000 miles delivering food across Berks and Schuylkill counties.

At today's diesel prices — more than double what they were in 2019 — that's tens of thousands of dollars in fuel costs just for driving. And that doesn't count the refrigeration units on every truck, which run on diesel too!

We're moving twice the food we moved six years ago. Every pound matters. Every mile costs more than it used to.

Financial gifts are helpful too - because we purchase food in bulk, every dollar stretches further than it would at the grocery store.

Food or funds, every contribution helps another neighbor in need.

**Learn More**

When you support Helping Harvest, you're not just helping to buy and provide food. You're keeping the trucks running and the food moving too.

Even the smallest gifts count - click the button below to make a donation today!

**Donate**

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## Celebrating Community & Hope in Berks County



On October 1, we celebrated community and hope with nearly 400 of our closest friends!

We were honored to have Divisional VP of **The GIANT Company** and Helping Harvest Board Member, Tim Santoro, as our host, as well as Dr. Susan Looney, President of **Reading Area Community College**, as our guest speaker at our 4th annual Celebration of Community & Hope in Berks County.

We were also treated to a very special Taylor Swift medley from the **Berks Youth Chorus** and the **Olivet Boys & Girls Club** to celebrate the incredible donation we received from her this summer, which received a standing ovation from our guests!
The entire event was an uplifting experience featuring tributes to our volunteers and staff as well as an overview of the impact we've made over the years and the bright future ahead for Helping Harvest.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, attendees, partners, volunteers, staff, donors, supporting restaurants, and everyone else who came together to make this event possible. Together we really can end hunger in our community!

**Read the Full Recap**

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