



# Food Bank *News*

<http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>

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A Publication of the State College Area Food Bank

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Barbara Dreese, *Treasurer*

## Fulfillment of a Mission

By Carolyn Fries Kunz, Board President

With the onset of a beautiful spring season, we enjoy the signs of warmth and fresh life all around us. At the same time, we are cognizant of the various challenges our clients face throughout the year. With the skyrocketing cost of fuel oil, our clients were faced with the task of feeding their families while trying to keep up with the cost of heating their homes this winter. As Spring arrives, they continue to face challenges as gasoline prices rise and the cost of getting to and from their jobs increases.

Fortunately, we have been able to continue to fulfill our mission of providing emergency food for those in need in the State College area through the generosity of the community we live in and with the large numbers of volunteers who commit long hours of service in kind. Once again our Executive Director, Pat Coble and her assistant Ernest Boyd have worked diligently in order to give our clients stellar service and assistance. We are surrounded by dedicated volunteers who help in whatever way they can, whether it be packing groceries, unloading food trucks, sorting food or assisting in our office. The Board of Directors continues to provide guidance and leadership at the forefront of our operation. This year we welcomed Janice Somers to the Board. We are thankful for the time served by outgoing member Jackie Esposito.

On the horizon in 2006, the Food Bank will continue to work toward our goals of better serving the community. We are looking to increase our fresh vegetable and produce resources through various grants and collaboration with the organic program at Tait Farm. Also, in 2006, we face the difficult task of replacing our dedicated Executive Director, Pat Coble. She will be retiring this summer after several years of commendable and undaunted service. All of us at the Food Bank are grateful for her tireless commitment to the success of the Food Bank's mission.

The overall success of the Food Bank comes from the threads of our community. The dedication of the State College community allows the Food Bank to care for area families in need. It is with the help of our caring volunteers and donors that we are able to take such pride in the services we provide.

## Fiscal Year 2005 Operating Budget

Revenues		Expenses	
Federal	\$4,000.00	Salaries	\$69,361.00
Local	107,205.00	Benefits & Taxes	19,207.00
United Way	36,878.00	Operations	60,952.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,083.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149,520.00</b>

# Generous Support Is the Key

By Pat Coble, Food Bank Executive Director

Once again we bring you our annual report for 2005. As can be seen in Table 1, we provided emergency groceries to 2,249 people in 761 households in 2005. Nearly one-third of these households were first time users of our services. We distributed more than 12,000 bags of groceries and weighed in nearly 150 tons of food. As in previous years, more than one-half of our clients used us only once or twice in 2005. In contrast, although still small, the number of households using our services more than six times in 12 months is gradually rising over time (see Table 2). In addition to our direct services, we provide indirect services to those in need in Centre County. We continue to stock a food pantry at the Community Help Centre for the use of county residents who need emergency food when their food pantries are closed and we provide both food and financial support to seven other food pantries in the county. Bob Ott, who oversees the Emergency Food Network in Centre County, has estimated that more than 300 households per month receive food assistance countywide because of our support.

On a positive note, the winter was a relatively mild one, thus, the impact of high heating costs were not as severe as they might have been. On the other hand, the cost of gasoline keeps rising, an emerging crisis for many of our clients who must drive to work due to variable work schedules and/or a lack of access to public transportation

where they live. In the absence of other resources and in the context of low wages, increasing numbers of clients, on the advice of their case managers, are turning to us for groceries so that money that might have been spent on food can be redirected to other expenses including gasoline for their vehicles.

Thanks to the generous support of our community and despite increasing demand, we have been able to carry out our mission and provide high quality food including an increased amount of fresh produce to our clients. As noted elsewhere, our volunteers commit enormous time and bring a great deal of talent to our organization allowing us to operate with only two full-time paid staff and a part-time treasurer. Our volunteers are the backbone of our operations. In like manner, our donors are our lifeblood. The amount of food and money contributed by our donors exceeds 70%. Our dependence on government sources for food is less than 30% (Figure 1). Likewise, less than 3% of our fiscal revenue is from government sources (Figure 2). Compared to others in the emergency food business, these are truly astounding numbers. We are extremely fortunate and we want you to be aware that we know it. Thank You!



**Table 1: An Overview of Services for 2003–2005**

	2003	2004	2005
<b>Services Provided</b>			
Number of Households	716	752	761
Number of Persons	2,187	2,212	2,249
Total Number of Household Services (Grocery Orders)	2,116	2,223	2,263
First-Time Users	268	250	248
Number of Grocery Bags Distributed	11,913	11,883	12,139
<b>Demographic Comparisons</b>			
Percent Adults (Age 18 - 59)	53.4%	54.8%	55.2%
Percent Children (Birth - Age 17)	41.0%	39.8%	39.1%
Percent Seniors (Age 60 or more)	5.6%	5.6%	5.7%
Percent Females	55.8%	53.6%	54.1%
Percent Males	44.2%	46.4%	45.9%

**Table 2: Number of Visits Per Household for 2003–2005**

	2003	2004	2005
1 – 2 Visits	52.9%	51.9%	52.2%
3 – 4 Visits	22.6%	23.8%	24.4%
5 – 6 Visits	20.1%	19.4%	16.8%
More Than 6 Visits	4.3%	4.9%	6.4%



## Our Volunteers

By Ernest Boyd, Assistant Director

The generous contributions of many, many people make it possible for the State College Food Bank to fulfill its mission of

providing quality food to those in need in our community. Among these are our volunteers who contribute not only their time, but a wealth of talent in the service of our clients. Volunteers of all ages fill our

clients' grocery orders, weigh, sort and shelf donations, and pack bags for client distribution. Volunteers unload trucks, pick up donations locally, provide a range of clerical and technical skills, and perform many other essential functions, including

service on our Board of Directors. Our volunteers log in approximately 6000 hours of service to the community annually



*The Volunteer Recognition Banquet was well attended by a large variety of people and groups.*

at the State College Food Bank! Many other groups contribute time that is not formally recorded in the service of our mission. Among these are members of the State College Elks Club and local Marines who contribute food & toys and host our Holiday

distribution in December, the Postal Carriers, Scouts and Penn State Students who collect and contribute many tons of food for our facility every year, High School students and local clay artists who give hours of time as well as their talent to the annual Empty Bowls event, and many other individuals, congregations and groups who collect food and sponsor fund raising events for us.

In appreciation, Pat and Ernest serve our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. The event also gives our volunteers who work at different times and in different roles a chance to meet one another and share their experiences. This year more than sixty very special people attended our Volunteer Recognition Banquet.

**Figure 1: Sources of Food**

Federal Commodities

5.7%

State Food, etc.

10.7%

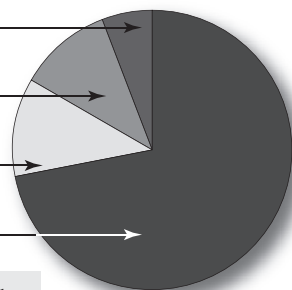
Milk, Eggs, etc.

11.6%

Donated Foods

72.0%

TOTAL = 284,249 lbs.



**Figure 2: Sources of Income**

1 Donor Income = 69.7%

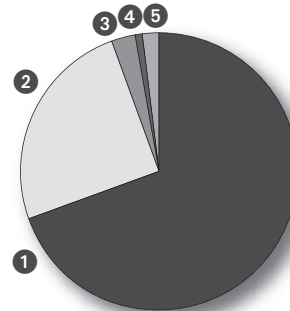
2 United Way = 25.0%

3 FEMA = 2.7%

4 CCCF = 0.9%

5 Miscellaneous = 1.7%

TOTAL = \$148,083



# A Note of Thanks

By Pat Coble, Food Bank Executive Director

As many of you have probably heard, I will be resigning my position at the Food Bank and entering the ranks of the full-time retired this summer. Yes, I really am that old! I look forward to spending more time with my family, but will also continue my commitment to the community as an active member of the service organizations to which I belong. It is difficult for me to express in words how meaningful my association with this organization has been to me. Not only did I develop a real passion for the Food Bank's mission and a first-hand understanding of the struggles faced by the people it serves, but my role afforded me the opportunity to make the acquaintance of many, many wonderful people and to reconnect with this community in ways that I could never have imagined and will always value. I know that I



leave an organization that is strong and vibrant and one that will continue to embrace those in need in our community. My thanks to all of you for your many kindnesses and unfailing support over the past six years.

A Member Agency of:

**Centre County  
United Way**



The Food Bank phone number is

**814.234.2310**

Please call now to volunteer!

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
State College, Pa.  
Permit No. 270

The State College Area Food Bank  
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