



# State College Area Food Bank News

276 West Hamilton Avenue, State College, PA 16801 • (814) 234-2310

Fall/Winter 2010

<http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>

Volume seventeen Issue 2

## Executive Director's Report

By Linda Tataliba

### Holiday Time at the Food Bank: A Season for Thanks and Giving

This year, the pace of life for us here at the Food Bank picked up earlier than usual for the holidays as we hit record highs in October. For example, we distributed 1,724 grocery bags in October 2010, compared to 1,307 in October of 2009. The number of households also increased as we face a decrease in our State Food Purchase Program dollars.

As I share these statistics with you I think about the working poor. Many are holding down two minimum-wage jobs, and a large portion are single parents. I think about the seniors on fixed incomes, who often must choose between basic food needs and prescription medicines. Most of all, I think about those children who lack basic nutritious food, let alone the special holiday foods we enjoy. We can make a difference—and we do, with the help of our caring donors, volunteers, and community partners. And, now more than ever we need your continued support.

In the weeks before Thanksgiving, we distributed 398 frozen turkeys and bags of groceries that included holiday standards such as cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and canned sweet potatoes. A special thanks goes to the Northland Center Giant, all Weis grocery stores, Wegmans, and the Sam's Club/Walmart and Target stores' Feeding American programs in State College for their generous food drives, cash and grocery gift card campaigns, and paper grocery bag donations.

On the Saturday before Christmas, several hun-

dred families line up at the Elks Club to receive their Christmas food baskets and toys from Toys for Tots. We register the households at the food bank, and the Elks and the Marines distribute the food and toys.

We are deeply grateful for all contributions,



*Food Bank volunteers, Carolyn Trimpy and Jo Ann Summerson, prepare the Feeding America donations from the Atherton Street Walmart.*

including the generous supply (25,000 to 27,000 pounds annually) of donated food items collected by the Boy Scouts. Our mission is to provide food to those in need in the State College area and to support the network of food pantries in Centre County. Without the safety net of a caring community, many among us would face losing a great deal. We are thankful to be able to hold up a part of that safety net and we are thankful for all of you who join us in doing so.

We wish each and every one of you a joyous and meaningful holiday season. ■

**Call to Volunteer!**

**(814) 234-2310**

## Did You Know

By Ernest Boyd

Each year volunteers pack groceries for client distribution, unload food shipments, sort food, and help with other client services. This year many have donated their time, vehicles, and gasoline to deliver food to needy recipients.

Two perfect examples of this type of volunteer are Anita and Lee Morris who not only donate

food but also make fleece blankets for our families and purchase children's gloves for tiny cold hands during the winter. In addition, they also coordinate non-food donations

coming from the North Atherton Dollar Tree!

Our board of directors provides guidance and leadership for our operation. This year we welcomed five new board members—Dennis Fetzer, Barb Loviscky, Kat Snowe, Walter Stanton, and Alicia Wetmiller—while saying a fond farewell with great appreciation to seven outgoing board members for their

many years of dedicated volunteerism and caring: Ron Friedman, Gary Glenn, Howard Heevner, Laura Jester, Kathy Mayberry, Ford McNutt, Deborah Murray, and Carola Rohrbaugh. We also welcome our new board president, Thomas Charles, as we extend many thanks to our former board chair Janice Somers for her kind dedication and leadership. ■



Anita (far left) and Lee Morris receiving appreciation certificates from Linda Tataliba (far right). Between them is Pat Harris, manager of the North Atherton Dollar Tree!



Craig Peery, another Food Bank client who is giving back, serves clients by filling orders and loading their orders into their vehicles.

## How to Give

By Linda Tataliba

**Food drives.** We always appreciate groups who organize food drives. For a successful food drive, we recommend that you check our Web site or call ahead to find out about the Food Bank's needs, how and when to deliver the donation to the Food Bank, and when to hold the drive for maximum benefit. To ensure a smooth process, develop a food drive team that works together to organize participation. If your group has a very large donation, call Ernest at 814-280-3442 to arrange for delivery to our alternate storage site.

**Grocery gift cards.** Grocery gift cards are always welcome donations. Gift cards are used to fill our inventory with those items we need

for client distribution. With our limited storage space, gift cards let us buy what we need, when we need it. And using gift cards supports local businesses and jobs. As with cash donations, please include your name and address with your gift card contribution. You will receive a thank-you and receipt for your donation.

**Cash donations.** Our food acquisition programs can stretch our food dollars dramatically. We can purchase needed items through the Feeding America program and receive up to an additional \$4 worth of food for each dollar spent. Your donations may be tax deductible. Find more ideas on how to give at our Web site: <http://foodbank.centreconnect.org> ■

## Three Ways to Connect!

Donate online – it’s quick, easy, and secure! Just go to <http://foodbank.centreconnect.org/>, click on the “Donate Now” image, and enter your credit card information. It’s that easy!



Find us on Facebook! Just search for State College Area Food Bank.

If you’d like to receive your newsletter electronically, email us at [statecollegefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:statecollegefoodbank@gmail.com).



## Helping Neighbors

By Food Bank client and volunteer Megan Meister

Sometimes we have the mentality that “it will never happen to me.” But what if it does? I don’t think anyone can make it out of poverty without help. People need one another. That’s why I am both a client and a volunteer for the Food Bank.

Over the years, my family and I have faced financial difficulties, and the physical and mental relief that the Food Bank has given me and my family has been profound.

The best way to learn what can be done, who can be served, and how we can serve is to volunteer. So for the past six years I’ve been doing just that, here in State College and at pantries around the county to meet the people we

serve and the people who serve them.

Working in the school district, I see the effects of hunger on students and staff. Hunger manifests itself as illness, unruly behavior, social



*Megan Meister is our Saturday morning volunteer supervisor, overseeing the sorting and shelving of food donations and packing of bags for distribution.*

withdrawal, or inability to focus and participate. No one deserves to go hungry, and food banks help provide food to families and children in a way that is not demeaning.

As a Food Bank client, I’ve been on the receiving end of many small acts of kindness. As a volunteer, I have the opportunity to pass those kindnesses on to others, and it is immeasurably satisfying, physically, mentally, and spiritually. ■

## Board of Trustees & Staff

### Board Officers

Thomas Charles, President  
Lynn Zinn, Recording Secretary  
Alicia Wetmiller, Corresponding Secretary  
Barbara Dreese (staff), Treasurer

Cyndee Graves  
Barb Lovinsky  
Kristi Mattzela  
Heather Pleskonko  
Kat Snowe  
Janice Somers  
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### Members of the Board

Richard Dumm  
Dennis D. Fetzer  
Carolyn Follett

### Staff

Linda Tataliba, Executive Director  
Ernest Boyd, Operations Manager

## Thank You

During this season of Thanksgiving, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity throughout the year:

- Giant, Weis, Wegmans, Target, Sam's Club, and Walmart for your amazing food drives and grocery gift card and cash campaigns.
- Penn State and the State College Area School District for food drives, campaigns, and fundraising efforts.
- Churches for soup kitchens, food drives and allowing us to speak with youth groups about our Food Bank.
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Brownies for all you do!
- Banks in our community for food and cash drives and grants.
- Drop-off points – The UPS Store, Stor-All Storage, and Balfurd Dry Cleaners – for accepting donations when we are closed.
- The Master Gardeners Association and Penn State's High Tunnel Agricultural Center for growing fresh, nutritional produce throughout the summer, and the State College Rotary Club members who collect left-

over produce, baked goods, dairy items and flowers from the weekly downtown farmers market for our families. All of these efforts enrich our families' diets by providing fresh, local, and healthy foods.

- All of our volunteers for their tireless hours of caring. We appreciate your kind hearts and helping hands!
- The Centre County United Way for your invaluable support. We are proud to serve our community as a member of this organization.

Because of the generosity of this community, the State College Area Food Bank has been able not only to continue serving our families in need, but to actually increase the quality and quantity of food we provide to families, in spite of these difficult economic times. We couldn't do it without you. ■

*A Member Agency of:*

**Centre County  
United Way**

**United  
Way**



**The State College Area Food Bank**



P.O. Box 907

State College, PA 16804

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<http://foodbank.centrecconnect.org>

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