



STATE COLLEGE FOOD BANK

“One day, no one will go hungry in Centre County”

State College Area Food Bank • 1321 South Atherton Street, State College, PA 16801 • (814) 234-2310 • scfoodbank.org • Spring 2022

A Move with a Mission

Larger facility, expanded reach, improved experiences

In case you missed it, there's big news! The sale of our current building will fund the purchase of a larger facility which will help to serve more people with added space, more parking, consolidated storage, and more. Strong and consistent donor support has played a big role in making this possible—THANK YOU!

The Food Bank has been fortunate that, as the number of our neighbors-in-need has grown, so has the generosity of the community. Staff and volunteers have continually found creative ways to manage this growth at the organization's facility on South Atherton Street, from utilizing off-site storage space at the Nittany Mall to rearranging pallets and shelves throughout the workday to make space for donation sorting and storage and, of course, to make sure that people can move around the building freely and safely. This move will offer a lot more breathing room.

“There are so many benefits to moving to a larger space, and this particular space is perfectly suited to our needs. Plus, the Food Bank is fortunate to own our current facility, the sale of which will help to cover the purchase of the new property.”

The Food Bank will purchase and



We're Moving!

- More space for clients and volunteers
- Ample parking and covered loading areas
- Onsite storage for cold and dry items
- **BETTER SERVICE FOR MORE RESIDENTS OF CENTRE COUNTY**

move into a larger space at 169 Gerald Street, just off of East College Avenue with renovations beginning in the Summer of 2023 and a move to follow when renovations are completed.

“There are so many benefits to moving to a larger space, and this particular space is perfectly suited to our needs,” Executive Director Allayn Beck said. “Plus, the Food Bank is fortunate to own our current facility, the sale of which will help to cover the purchase of the new property.”

When the Food Bank relocated to its South Atherton location eight years ago, the organization transitioned to a service model dubbed “Client Choice” in which clients select their food items from a grocery-store-style pantry, rather than pick up pre-packaged boxes and bags. The need to stock and store more

items has made the logistics of the Client Choice model increasingly more difficult.

“Right now, our Client Choice pantry is essentially a multi-purpose space that's just under 1,800 square feet. In the new location, the pantry area will be much larger, allowing staff and volunteers to serve more clients and to guide them through the space more safely and efficiently,” Beck said. “The new pantry will also enable us to expand our grocery distribution hours and enhance all of our programs.”

Another benefit of a larger facility is increased space for staff and volunteers to do the important work of sorting, stocking, and organizing the donations that come through the doors. “Our amazing volunteers dedicate a lot of time and energy to the work that takes

Continued on page 4

Sharing the Local Harvest

No-cost produce market will offer seasonal fruits and vegetables

“For a while, we tossed around the idea of how awesome it would be to have a free farmers market, then during the pandemic while we were brainstorming ways to reach more people, we decided to try it,” said Business Manager at the Food Bank, Heather Lee.

In the pilot year in 2021, there were three markets total—once a month in July, August and September. This year, the number of markets will more than double with plans for one in June and two each month in July, August and September.

The market requires no sign ups, referrals or income guidelines. All Centre County residents are welcome. “This model helps to welcome people who may be above the income guidelines or may think they are above the income guidelines and who worry about taking something from someone who might need it more,” Lee said.

The markets will be entirely choice-based to assure that people go home with foods they will use and enjoy. This is especially helpful in reducing food waste and accomodating people’s dietary needs and preferences.

Thanks to some extra grant funding,

the program offers another benefit: supporting local farms. “It’s exciting that the market will support the community in several different ways.” Ardry Farm in Howard and several others will participate.

Volunteers from the Downtown Rotary and the Food Bank will support the market and reusable bags will be donated by local grocery stores.

To top it off, the market will have an indoor home at the Nittany Mall, so it can take place as planned, no matter the weather.



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Everybody loves a big check!
Thanks to Jersey Shore State Bank for stopping by with a thoughtful donation toward our mission!



State College Food Bank Board Members

Adam Fleming
President

Jens Thorsen
Vice President

Tara Duff
Secretary

Missy Garvin
Treasurer

Board Members

Seria Chatters

Thomas Eakin

Kelly Ernico

Gail Hurley

Dan Lee

John Lhota

Kelly Loviscky

Rob Pangborn

Food Bank Staff

Allayn Beck
Executive Director

Virginia Meadows
Operations Manager

Heather Lee
Business Manager

Bill Torretti
Operations Assistant



Meet the 7-year-old leading the foodbank birthday revolution

Brady Kaplan is looking forward to his next birthday. It’s a time with family, friends, birthday cake ... and a contest to see if he can beat last year’s Food Bank donations. Every year, his invitations say: “In lieu of gifts, please bring a donation to the Food Bank,” and every year, Brady weighs his gifts to see if he beat the previous year. He looks forward to dropping his donation off at the Food Bank and thoroughly questioning the volunteers. “Will one family be able to take all these Oreos, or can several kids get them?” His excitement is so contagious that several of his friends are planning to collect things to donate at their next party too.

that makes fun memories for their family, and also represents something more foundational. “We want to foster an attitude of service as our kids grow older,” she said. “We have everything that we need. We want to tell them: look for opportunities to serve, to give back. It will make all the difference in your life.”



“We want to foster an attitude of service as our kids grow older. We have everything that we need. We want to tell them: look for opportunities to serve, to give back. It will make all the difference in your life.”

Brady’s mom, Kelly says that the food donations are something

It all started when Brady’s older brother, Noah, was born. He was inundated with gifts, and parents Kyle and Kelly brainstormed ways to simplify and give back at the same time. Noah loves animals, so they started to ask for dog and cat food for his birthday. After his party, he got to go to the local shelter, donate the food and then stay and play. “He loves it!” his mom said.

“It’s been a fun way for our kids to think of their birthdays as not all about themselves, but also as a way to give back. And we’ve all really, really enjoyed it.”



Kelly calls Brady her little foodie and says it was only natural for him to collect for a food bank, first in their hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee, and then here in State College when Brady’s dad Kyle accepted a position at Penn State. “We always ask what the Food Bank needs right now, and then ask guests to bring those items. He loves to see what people bring — he weighs it to see how it compares to last year!”

“It’s been a fun way for our kids to think of their birthdays as not all about themselves, but also as a way to give back. And we’ve all really, really enjoyed it,” Kelly said.

Brady’s Total: 345 pounds!



1321 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801

Return Service Requested

891-42386

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
State College, Pa.
Permit No. 2

YOUR GENEROSITY FULFILLS OUR MISSION



THANK YOU DONORS & CENTRE FOUNDATION!

2022 TOTAL: \$98,872.35



Every year, Centre County residents continue to show their incredible generosity during Centre Gives.

This year's total community impact—counting donations, prizes and stretch pools—is \$2,181,625! 15,578 gifts were made over 36 hours to support the Food Bank and a long list of worthwhile non-profits organizations that benefit our communities!



A Move with a Mission... Continued from page 1

place behind the scenes. This move will allow us to upgrade our work spaces and food storage areas.”

The new facility will consolidate the entire operation of the Food Bank, eliminating the need for an auxiliary storage location and allowing for the much-needed expansion of cooler and freezer space. The additional storage will also help the Food Bank to better assist partner organizations across Centre County.

“With adequate cold and dry storage space, we can more efficiently sustain the grocery inventory in our pantry, which will also strengthen our ability to support local partner organizations

who operate pantries and offer food assistance around the county,” Beck said. “We’ll also be able to improve our donation receiving area and better accommodate donations from large-scale food drives.”

Visitors to the new State College Food Bank facility will also notice an improvement in parking and traffic-flow. “If you’ve driven in our parking lot, you know it can be a challenge. The new parking lot will offer multiple ADA accessible spaces and will largely increase the overall number of parking spaces,” she said. “We will also be able to provide a covered area where

people’s groceries can be loaded into their vehicles, which will be especially wonderful on rainy days.”

Beck said the most exciting thing about the move is that it will help to advance the Food Bank’s mission and vision by vastly increasing its ability to serve the community and to help partner organizations who are serving those in need throughout Centre County.

“Although our name and location are based in State College, our mission and vision extend well beyond that. This move will help us to do even more to make sure that one day, no one in Centre County goes hungry.”