



Food Bank *News*

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<http://hscouncil.centreconnect.org/Foodbank/>

A Publication of the State College Area Food Bank

World Food Day and the Hunger Cafe at PSU

By Pat Coble, Food Bank Executive Director

The first ever Hunger Café in State College was held in Café Laura on the Penn State Campus on Monday evening, October 13th. The event was a collaborative effort to highlight world and local hunger issues and to raise money for hunger relief. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds raised by the event will come to the State College Area Food Bank and 25% will go to Heifer International. Attendees paid \$10 for a ticket entitling them to a dinner of a privileged or underprivileged individual in one of five countries. Dinner guests did not know beforehand what their meal would be, but received a profile of the type of meal they had received with their meal when it was served. Posters produced by students covering issues of world and local hunger were on display as well as a number of informational tables including one from our Food Bank. An after dinner program featured entertainment by the Essence of Joy Choir and an interactive theater piece by student actors. Food Bank Executive Director, Pat Coble, was included on the program to welcome



guests. It was a very moving and worthwhile event that everyone hopes will be offered on a larger scale again next year.

In consultation with the Food Bank of the State College Area, Inc., Cafe

Hunger involved collaboration among the following Penn State units: International Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences; the Arts and Health Outreach Initiative; Penn State Cooperative Extension's "NutritionLinks" program; the Departments of Food Science, Nutritional Sciences, and Hotel, Restaurant and Recreation Management; and a number of student groups (National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, Food



Science Club, Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society, etc.). Donors for Cafe Hunger included Wegman's and Giant Food Stores, Inc. In-kind support came from: Over the Moon Farm, Rebersburg, Pa.; Tait Farm Foods, Boalsburg, Pa.; Ten Thousand Villages, Ephrata, Pa.; and Tuscarora Organic Growers, Juniata River Valley, Pa.

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Director's Note

The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for us here at the Food Bank. Our clients find it even more difficult to make ends meet due to extra expenses associated with heating costs and the holidays. In November and December, we will provide grocery orders to more than 400 households. During November, we will distribute a free Turkey and an extra bag of holiday foods for Thanksgiving with every food order we give out. In November and December, we will also be busy registering children for the Toys for Tots Program and signing up families for Christmas food baskets provided annually by the State College Elks Club.

The generosity of our donors allows us to provide assistance to those in need all year long. Donations tend to rise at this time of year making not only our basic services, but also our holiday "extras" possible. Many individuals, groups and organizations support us financially or conduct food drives or special events to raise money for us during the holidays and throughout the year. At this special time, we want to extend our thanks to our supporters as we wish one and all a Joyous Holiday Season!

*The Food Bank phone number is 234-2310.
Please call now to volunteer!*

World Food Day ... continued from page 1

(Right): Professor of Graphic Design, Kristin Sommese, and her students touring Dr. George McGovern (first United Nations' Global Ambassador on Hunger) through an exhibition of the posters on hunger that they designed. Dr. McGovern is specifically reacting to the student poster showing that 2,100 people in State College received food assistance from the Food Bank of the State College Area, Inc. last year. (Photo provided by Emyrn King of PSU's Arts & Health Outreach Initiative)



The Clothes Closet Box

By Ernest Boyd, Food Bank Assistant Director



Luke Marion installs his box.

In addition to providing food to those in need, the Food Bank makes good quality used clothing available. But since the Clothes Closet does not have set hours, donations come in when there are no Food Bank or Clothing Closet volunteers to deal with them. This



Volunteers Diane Gustine and Michelle Rivera emptying the Clothes Closet box.

sometimes resulted in a cluttered and untidy entrance to St. Andrew's Parish Life Center. We now have a drop-off box for clothing that has alleviated much of the problem. For his Eagle Scout project, Luke Marion designed, secured material donations for, and built a box for receiving clothing donations. Luke met with me and members of St. Andrew's to design an appropriate receptacle. Clothing donors can now place donations in the box and volunteers can empty the box later for sorting and distribution to the public. Luke installed a sturdy and attractive drop-off box that fits the need and fits the space. Our thanks to Luke and the many Eagle Scouts who have benefited the Food Bank.

Food Bank Responds to Recession and Local Food Needs

By Carolyn Kunz, Food Bank Board Member

State College has not been immune to the increasing needs for food assistance resulting from the national recession and local business closings.

Recent plant closings of Rutgers Organics and Corn-ing-Asahi and overall recession trends have caused a rise in food assistance needs in State College, which parallel those around the United States. The Depart-

ment of Agriculture recently released its Household Food Security in the United States, 2002 report. The report states that eighty-nine percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year 2002, meaning that they had access, *at all times*, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households were food inse-

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cure at least some time during that year. The prevalence of food insecurity rose from 10.7% in 2001 to 11.1% in 2002, and the prevalence of food insecurity with hunger rose from 3.3% to 3.5 %. Pennsylvania has a rate of 9.4% of food-insecure households reflecting a rise of 1.1 % in 2002.

The weakening of the economy and the loss of area jobs has left many families in need of immediate food assistance. The State College Area Food Bank is aware of the increasing needs of our community and is continually looking for new ways in which we can better serve our clients. We are pleased to announce that during the holiday season we have increased our

service hours from three days a week to five days a week. The increase in Food Bank hours will allow us to better serve the community's influx of needy families throughout the holiday season, when the demand for our services is always high. Our service hours are from 1 – 6 p.m. on Monday and from 1 – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The new hours began November 3rd and will be in effect through December 31st. Food donations are welcome during service hours. If you would like to make a donation when the Food Bank is not open, please call in advance to assure that a volunteer will be there to meet you. The Food Bank maintains two offsite storage facilities so there are times during off hours when no one is available at our St. Andrew's site to receive your donations.

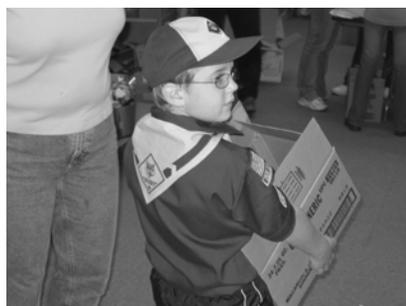
Making Donations to the Food Bank

By Karen Rohde, Food Bank Board Member

It's the time of year when many of you who are friends and supporters of the State College Area Food Bank are considering making a donation. There are many ways that you can accomplish this goal.

Food Donations

Donations of food are always welcomed by the Food Bank. These donations can be brought directly to the Food Bank, or may be put in specially marked drop boxes at local churches and other



organizations in our community. The Food Bank also receives food donations from annual drives sponsored by the Boy Scouts, Letter



Den 5, from Cub Scout Pack 82 helped sort food collected at the annual Scouting for Food Drive benefitting the State College Area Food Bank.

Scouts usually collect over 40,000 pounds of food annually of which more than 25,000 comes to the State College Area Food Bank.

Carriers and numerous other organizations. By supporting them, you are supporting us. Because our needs fluctuate from week to week, you can consult our current needs list at our Web site: <http://hscouncil.centreconnect.org/foodbank> to see which items are currently most needed.

Financial Donations

Your cash donations enable us to purchase fresh milk, eggs, meat and produce to include with the nonperishable items provided to our clients. We use some monetary donations to obtain food items such

as cereal, salad dressings, canned foods and some frozen meats from Second Harvest for just pennies. We really get tremendous value from these dollars. Cash donations as well as donations of grocery store gift cards also allow us to be sure we never run out of basic, essential foods, when the supply on our shelves gets low.

The Food Bank has also established a fund with the Centre County Community Foundation. By contributing to this

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MORE FOOD BANK WISHES GRANTED

Our thanks to an anonymous donor for granting our wish for a carrying case for our laptop computer and a very special thanks to donor John Raiser who worked with the owners of Office Plus in State College to grant our wish for safety step stools.

FOOD BANK WISH LIST

- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- New CD's (RW) for data storage
- Heavy Duty Garbage Bags 33 Gal. or Larger

Diane Gustine, a faithful volunteer and one of the several "vertically challenged" in our setting, is featured here atop one of the three step stools that these kind donors provided. Life around here got a whole lot easier for some of us (our Executive Director included) because of this kindness!



Making Donations ... continued from page 3

fund, you can insure the Food Bank's future operation. Your contributions to the United Way also support the Food Bank, a Centre County United Way member agency.

Volunteering

You can contribute to the Food Bank by volunteering some of your time. The holiday season is one of our busiest times. Because of increased demand for our services, we have increased our hours of operation to Monday through Friday during the months of Novem-

ber and December. If you can give a few hours of your time, please call us at 234-2310 or e-mail us at ernestboyd@hotmail.com

Thank you for your donations to the Food Bank in whatever form you choose to make them.



A Member Agency of
the Centre County United Way

Phone: 814.234.2310

<http://hsconnect.org/Foodbank/>

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