



State College Area Food Bank News

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

Spring/Summer 2011

<http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>

Volume eighteen Issue 1

Executive Director's Report

By Linda Tataliba

Spring and Summer — A Great Time for Fundraising!

Spring and summer are busy seasons in Centre County, and here at the Food Bank we are grateful for the many community groups who take time to hold fundraising events that benefit our clients.

Empty Bowls 2011, sponsored by the State College Area High School, was a great success and brought in more than \$2,600. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal of gourmet soup, artisan breads, salad, dessert, and coffee or tea served in unique bowls and cups handcrafted by pottery students.

Jabco-Maggi Isuzu, located on Benner Pike in State College, sponsored a "Community Support Event Car Sale" in which the State College Area Food Bank received \$50 for each car sold. Thanks to Jabco-Maggi for selling 50 cars; our food bank received \$1,250.

Local fundraising events like these mean more than ever now, in these difficult economic times. Community support accounts for more than 80 percent of the Food Bank's supply, while government programs provide about 20 percent. The Food Bank continues to face delays and a decline in state and federal dollars and free food commodities. At the same time, we are serving 35 percent more families than we served in 2004. We would not be able to provide the level of services that we do without the support of our community, so thank you to all of you who donate and hold fundraising events.

Because the State College Area Food Bank is part of the Feeding America Program, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, fundraisers make even

more of a difference: For every donated cash dollar we receive, we can purchase an additional \$4 worth of food. Your generosity goes a long way, and we are deeply appreciative.

Enjoy your summer! ■



Roger Fetter and Linda Tataliba at the Volunteer of the Year Banquet, held in April at the State College Elks Club. Roger was selected by Food Bank staff for the Volunteer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Centre County Human Services Council. As a State College Downtown Rotarian, he initiated and coordinated the Farmers to Food Bank Project. Roger was honored nationally by the Rotary Club for developing this one-of-a-kind program. Each Friday evening from June through November, Roger and his fellow Rotarians pick up leftover produce, cut flowers, baked goods, and dairy products from the downtown Locust Street Farmers Market. These items are then distributed to our very appreciative clients!

Call to Volunteer!

(814) 234-2310

Did You Know

By Ernest Boyd

The State College Area Food Bank is bursting at the seams! Currently we are operating out of two locations — one at the Hamilton Square Shopping Center and one at the Nittany Mall. While we are very grateful for the space we have, we could serve our clients more efficiently if we had one convenient location with everything under one roof. To that end, we've begun a space search.

We are looking for a facility that would give us 6,000 -7,000 square feet, compared to the approximately 3,000 square feet we have now. The space would also need to be conveniently located for

volunteers and clients, and accessible for delivery vehicles.

As well as being more convenient and efficient, a more spacious facility would give us the option to convert to a "client choice" food bank. As food banks across the country look for ways to reduce waste and better serve their

clients, many are switching to this system. A client choice food bank is set up much like a grocery store. Clients become more engaged in the food selection process, and they come away with food that they've chosen carefully for themselves and their families. Volunteers guiding clients through the

aisles become facilitators, helping them make their selections.

The client choice system has advantages over the traditional practice of distributing bags of preselected foods to clients. It helps reduce waste of valuable resources to purchase foods that clients may not want or need; clients appreciate having the choices that most of us take for granted at the grocery store; and volunteers enjoy more interaction with clients as they accompany them through the aisles.

If you know of any lots or buildings that might be available and meet our space needs, call Linda Tataliba at (814) 234-2310 or email ltataliba@gmail.com.

To learn more and see an example of a successful client choice food bank in Ohio, watch this video on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztD_UobB0yE ■

"A client choice food bank is set up much like a grocery store. Clients become more engaged in the food selection process, and they come away with food that they've chosen carefully for themselves and their families."

How to Give

By Linda Tataliba

We appreciate donations of all kinds. Grocery gift cards in any amount are especially welcome. We use gift cards to maintain our food inventory and supplement what we don't receive in food donations. Using gift cards also supports our local grocery stores and jobs here in Centre County. And the best part is, gift cards hardly take up any space!

Other current Food Bank needs include canned beets, carrots, and potatoes; canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.); canned tomato products; canned mandarin oranges and fruit cocktail; muffin mixes; granulated sugar; mayonnaise and Miracle Whip; salad dressings; cooking oil; coffee and black tea; laundry detergent; personal

hygiene items (toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, etc.), and baby items (baby food, diapers, formula, etc.). ■

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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!



Like 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.



Helping Neighbors

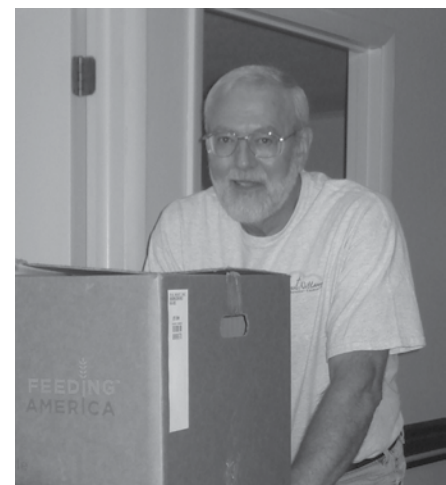
Many volunteers make it possible for non-profits like the State College Food Bank to fulfill our missions. Penn State students and organizations, Rotarians, church groups such as Trinity Lutheran, and school groups such as the Friends School middle school students volunteer regularly, sorting and shelving food donations.



Craig Millar and Mike Williams unloading “Trash to Treasure” donations. Many of these dorm food items end up with YMCA and Easter Seals summer camps.

We’re also grateful for our year-in, year-out core of local volunteers who, among other things, serve clients during service hours. Some of these faithful volunteers work behind the scenes, unloading food shipments, transporting donations between our storage sites, and picking up donations and delivering them to the Food Bank.

Craig Millar volunteers several days every week, picking up bread and pastries for service hours and transporting the considerable Sam’s Club donations to the Food Bank every Friday. Roger Wurst, who wears many Food



Roger Wurst, a retired State High science teacher, delivering the Sam’s donation. Roger helps during client service hours and helps to unload our food shipments.

Bank hats, delivers Sam’s Club items on Tuesdays. Lefty McIntyre (see photo, back page) also picks up donations and takes food to other food pantries in Centre County. And Mike Williams has recently joined the can-do crew. He, like Craig, Roger, and Lefty, transports donations and unloads food shipments. ■

Thank You



Lefty McIntyre unloads a large donation of soup from Sam's club, clearly a work in "Progresso." Read more about Lefty and other volunteers in the Helping Neighbors section on page 3.

A Member Agency of:

**Centre County
United Way**

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Way**



The Centre County United Way, through its partner agencies, provides services to one in three people in Centre County. We are proud to be one of those partner agencies, and we thank the United Way for their financial support. We also appreciate their encouragement and ideas, training and workshops, and use of their equipment and facilities. Without the United Way's support, we wouldn't be able to serve our clients nearly at the level we do. Thank you, Centre County United Way!

Call to Volunteer!

(814) 234-2310

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The State College Area Food Bank



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