



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 • www.scfoodbank.org • Spring 2017

Together We “Can” Make an Impact

Unique Fundraiser to Combine Art with Charity to Fight Hunger

What happens when groups of architects, engineers, and artists join forces in friendly competition for a worthy cause?

Canstruction®, a unique charity art exhibition featuring elaborate structures made entirely of full cans of food—cans which will then be donated to the State College Food Bank. With six teams participating at the event later this month at the Nittany Mall, it is estimated that enough cans will be donated to this effort to provide more than 10,000 meals for hungry individuals and families in our community.

“This event will bring a significant donation of food to the Food Bank at a time when their shelves typically need restocked,” said Lisa Hayes, co-founder and chairperson of Canstruction®.

Canstruction® will do more than make a significant contribution to the Food Bank. It will help raise awareness for our mission, too.



A Cansculpture® is a piece of art made of entirely of cans, which are then donated to local food banks.

“Food is something that many of us are so fortunate to never have to question,” Hayes said. “But we often lose sight of the fact that we are all one string of bad luck away from very different circumstances and could come to find ourselves in need of the kind of relief and security that the Food Bank provides. No one should have to face that alone.”

Be sure to check out this unique charity event, which will join numerous community members together for a worthy cause.

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“I believe that the spirit of teamwork, the ability to showcase our local artistic and design talents, the engagement of students, and an opportunity for professionals to work in a mentoring role, all while helping to combat food insecurity in our region and raise awareness for the seriousness of the issue, makes this a win for all involved.”

If You Go

Teams will build their Cansculptures® on April 20, where they will remain open for the public to view until April 30. A panel of judges will vote for the best exhibit, and community members are invited to vote in the People’s Choice category.

Special Thanks

Canstruction® Sponsors

Hoffman Leakey Architects LLC
Nittany Mall
Wegmans
M & T Bank
Mission Critical
Glenn O Hawbaker, Inc.
Hospitality Asset Management
Mimi Barash Coppersmith
Panda Express
Restek

Upcoming Events

Centre Gives

May 9-10

Stamp Out Hunger

May 13

By the Numbers (2016)

11,000

Volunteer hours logged

1,693

Unique individuals fed

275

Children benefited from Summer Kids Bag Program

406,076

Pounds of food distributed to SCFB clients (the equivalent of 338,399 meals)

Alarming Statistics

14.9% of Centre County’s

population lived in food insecure households in 2015—the highest

in the state! **That represents**

22,940 individuals

who lacked regular access to adequate food.

Seamless Administrative Work Critical to Successful Operations

Volunteer of the Year Kat Snowe Helps Keep Food Bank Organized and On Track

When Kat Snowe moved to Centre County in 2008, the State College Food Bank wasn't on her radar, but she did want to contribute to the community through volunteer work.

"I was new to town and was looking to get out and meet some more people," says Snowe, who's originally from Klingerstown, in Schuylkill County. "And my parents were always the types to give back to the community."

She found her calling first at the Rotary Club. From there, she learned about the Food Bank.

"The Rotary Club goes to Locust Lane Farmers Market on Fridays during the season and picks up the local produce and takes it to the Food Bank," she says.

That's how Snowe became involved with our organization. The rest, as they say, is history.

Snowe, whose six-year term as the Food Bank's board secretary ended



Kat Snowe

Dec. 31, has become an integral part of the organization. This month, she'll be honored as the Food Bank's volunteer of the year at the Rose Cologne dinner.

"Kat Snowe is amazing," Food Bank Executive Director Carol Pioli says. "She has done so much for the SCFB, including serving as Board secretary."

Of course, like many tireless volunteers, Snowe downplays her own contributions.

"People do a lot more there than I ever did," she says. "There are people there day in and day out working for the Food Bank."

But Snowe perhaps underestimates her own contributions. As a board member, she and the rest of the board were there to give the Food Bank direction.

"I am organized," she says, "so it was no big deal to maintain things like the by-laws, policies and procedures, and the personnel manual. ... Those kind of administrative tasks I could do."

She was also there when the Food Bank desperately needed a new building.

"It probably took two to three years," she says. "It involved new members on the board and getting people who really made it happen. Going through the process of finding and acquiring the new space (at 1321 S. Atherton St.) was interesting."

Finding the new building and relocating was a long, tiring process, but Snowe and the others kept at it because they believed so strongly in what they were doing.

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Snowe is hopeful that the Food Bank will continue to attract dedicated volunteers, and she doesn't like to hear people say that they can't pitch in.

"Even if you think you have nothing to contribute, no special skill, you can still contribute," she says. "There is a lot of work that needs to be done."

State College Natives Bring Love of Community to Their New Roles

New Hires Allayn Beck and Amanda Gentzyl Join Food Bank in Business and Operations

Allayn Beck, Business Manager

Before SCFB: I spent the last 4.5 years working at Discovery Space of Central PA as the Executive Director for the majority of those years. I also currently advise the State High Key Club. Before Discovery Space, I was a 7th grade Science and Language Arts teacher in North Carolina.

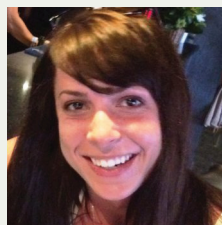


Most looking forward to: Meeting all of the people! I hear amazing things about the staff and volunteers who work at the Food Bank. I can't wait to hear

their stories, learn from them, and work alongside them to make our community a better place.

Amanda Gentzel, Operations Manager

Before SCFB: I was the Shelter Manager with Housing Transitions for two years. Before that, I volunteered for the Community Help Centre for 10 years – another local nonprofit that offers important services to our county. The Community Help Centre, Housing Transitions and the State College Area Food Bank are all



active members of the Community Safety Net, a close group of helping agencies that work together to serve all of Centre County for any needs they may have. This circle of hard-working people are what make this community a unique and special place to live, and I am always grateful to be a part of it!

Most looking forward to: The opportunity to work side-by-side with an amazing network of community volunteers. I have a lot to learn from these highly dedicated folks who work tirelessly behind the scenes, demonstrating to our community residents in need that their health and well-being are of value to all of us.

Clients Have Access to Breakfast Staples Thanks to “Cereal” Donor

Tom Czajkowski Helps Keep SCFB’s Shelves Full through the Game of Couponing

Call it fate by way of Fruit Loops. Or perhaps kismet by way of Kix. Or maybe ... OK, that's probably enough.

Whatever you want to call Tom Czajkowski's work for the State College Food Bank, it's worked out well for all involved over the years. Czajkowski, through his work at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in State College, has been donating food to the Food Bank for the better part of the past decade.

His specialty is cereal. Czajkowski is something of a coupon aficionado. So

“Most of the time, Food Bank doesn't need a can of soup...Not to get Biblical, but man does not live by soup alone.”

when he learned that the Food Bank was in need of cereal, and he realized that coupons for cereals are fairly easy to come by, well, you could say it was serendipity by way of Special K (we had to slip one more in there).

“The church would print in their weekly bulletin that we collect once a month for the Food Bank,” says Czajkowski, a Michigan native who moved to State College due to his work at Corning. “They

were always looking for items, and cereal was always one item that popped up. ... As a stroke of luck, it's something I zeroed in on. I felt that there was a need, and it was an item that they couldn't get.”

And best of all, the need for cereal played to Czajkowski's strengths.

“I'm a coupon game player,” Czajkowski says. “The blessing with cereal is the major manufacturers usually try to compete, and cereal's not a cheap item.”

True enough. In fact, Czajkowski says that certain cereals are too highly priced even with a coupon. But he'll keep going down the aisle until he finds what he wants.

“If the store is running General Mills for \$1.88 per box, and I have a \$1 coupon, you just knocked that price down to 88 cents,” he says. “Anything that's \$1.50 or lower is a good deal.”

If you ask Czajkowski, he'll tell you that he's a Cheerios man. Not the Honey Nut, not the Multi Grain. Not even the Cinnamon Burst. No, he likes the real McCoy.

The other cereal eater in his house is his stepdaughter Erin, who prefers Krispex or Cranberry Almond Crunch. Alas, Czajkowski says that “more often than not, there are no coupons for (those brands).”

Czajkowski donates other items be-



sides cereal. He'll buy goods like rice, pasta or Spam. He also gets personal-hygiene items like toothpaste or shaving cream.

“Most of the time, the Food Bank doesn't need a can of soup,” he says. “I've gone for the drop off, and I've seen cases and cases of condensed milk and soup. What about the other stuff? Not to get Biblical, but man does not live by soup alone.”

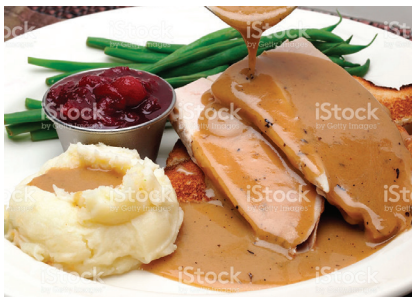
Although he calls his cereal hunting “a game,” Czajkowski knows that the work he and other volunteers do for the the Food Bank is very important.

“Here in State College, 1,000 people (at Corning) lost their jobs,” he says. “So now what do they do? ... If you're struggling, you're going to have needs, especially if you have a family and children. You need to put food on the table.”

Families in Need Receive Christmas Blessings

Food Bank, Elks, and Toys for Tots Join Forces in Holiday Charity Giveaway

More than 40 years ago, the Elks Christmas Charity giveaway began. Today, it's a huge event that's made possible by numerous businesses



Clients benefitted from a traditional holiday meal, toys, and other basic necessities like clothes, shoes, and toiletries thanks to the Elks Christmas Charity giveaway.

and nonprofits in the region. The Food Bank provides the traditional Christmas meal, Toys for Tots gives out toys, and the Elks contribute important items like coats and shoes.

“The Food Bank and the Elks are able to work together and make Christmas possible for a lot of people,” said Brenda Kephart,

“The Elks make the holidays extremely special for our clients,” added Food Bank Executive Director Carol Pioli.

Businesses including Sears, Giant, Wal-Mart, Wegmans, Weis Markets, Pennoni's, Culbertson Financial and Wasson's all helped with the effort, donating clothing, food, and toiletries to the cause.

“If you don't have any money, personal hygiene items are some of the things you're going to do without,” says Kephart, who adds that some children skip school rather than deal with the ridicule that comes with wearing soiled clothing.

In addition to clothes and toiletries, the Elks gave out bikes, bike locks, shoes, hats and gloves. A lot of these giveaways were made possible through a grant provided by the Elks' national office. In 2015, they received \$2,000; last year, they received more than twice that.

“I got a lot of hugs and kisses from a lot of appreciative parents,” she says. “Without the support, they couldn't afford those things.”

In This Issue...

- Together We "Can": Unique Fundraiser to Provide 10,000+ Meals
- There's a "Cereal" Donor in Town
- Volunteer of the Year and New Hires Announced

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who help the Food Bank throughout the year, including...



Classes at Radio Park Elementary made 40 birthday bags, each containing a box of cake mix, a can of icing, and a box of birthday candles. The children also wrote a birthday card to put inside each bag.



State College Educational Support Professional Association members donated more than 250 Holiday Cookie Bags to be distributed to Toys For Tots families via the Food Bank.



Members of the PSU Student Nutrition Association packed 450 Thanksgiving bags in just 1 1/2 hours, helping us to provide local households with a special holiday meal.

Generous Donations Help Feed Hundreds

We'd like to recognize two extremely generous contributions we've received in recent months. Because of these significant donations, we've been able to feed hundreds of households in our community.

Dorothy O'Connor, wife of the late founder and owner of the Tavern Restaurant, left a significant bequest gift upon her passing in 2015. Because of this generous gift, the Food Bank is in the process of creating an endowment to further expand our ability to feed more individuals and families that face food insecurity in our region.

Rob and Alice Thomas of State College made a generous contribution to

cover approximately 800 turkey dinners during the Food Bank's Thanksgiving meal distribution. Because of their generosity, we were able to provide 800 more households with a special holiday meal, including turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, and pies.

Other Ways to Make a Financial Gift

- Donate online at www.scfoodbank.org
- Mail a check to: SCFB, 1321 S. Atherton St., State College, PA 16801
- Drop off cash or a check in person during regular donation hours (MWF 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

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