



State College Area Food Bank News

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

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<http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>

Volume sixteen Issue 1

Executive Director's Report

By Linda Tataliba

In the midst of our country's continuing recession, we at the State College Area Food Bank are experiencing ever-increasing demands on our resources as families struggle to get by. Higher food costs, as well as high energy prices, housing costs, and health care expenses all contribute to our ongoing and escalating need.

In 2008, we served nearly 30 more households than in 2007, for a total of 771 households, and we served 217 new first-time users. Many families found themselves needing to visit the Food Bank more often—nine or more times during the year.

Over the last year we've also distributed a greater number and variety of optional items, such as flour, sugar, salad dressings, and coffee, to our clients. We tried as always to meet our clients' special dietary restrictions, and we found ways to distribute additional food to our families during holiday seasons. And speaking of holidays, please see the "On the Web" section of this newsletter to read about how the generosity of individuals and groups from our community helped our client families celebrate the 4th of July by supporting our "Fun Food for the 4th" campaign.

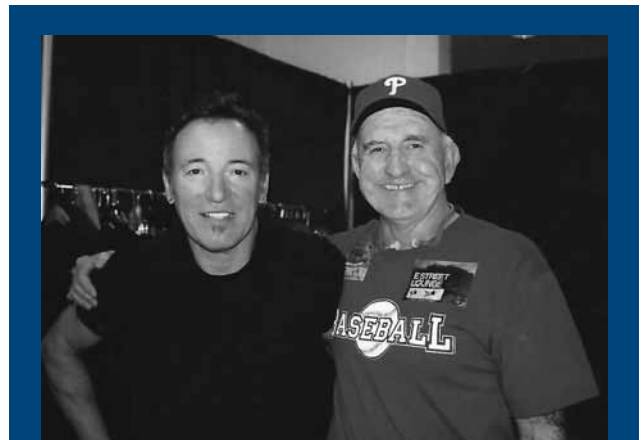
We always appreciate food donations, and sometimes we get so much that our facility is bursting at the seams! Using about 1,800 square feet of working space, our staff and volunteers manage to store, sort, pack, and distribute food to our families. We put every inch of space to use. One of our dreams is to acquire a larger facility that would make our operations more efficient and allow us to offer workshops on topics such as food budgeting and preparing nutritious meals.

As you can see, the demands on the Food Bank are ongoing and substantial. But thanks to everyone's

generous support, both financially and with food items, we are meeting the increased demands resulting from the current economic conditions. Over the past year, the Food Bank was able to maintain its service level, despite increased numbers of families requiring support. On behalf of our clients, we cannot thank you enough! Your ongoing support and donations are the mainstay of our program.

In 2009, we must find ways of continuing to serve the working poor population, those who are no longer able to subsist from paycheck to paycheck. They may have lost full-time employment and are now working only part-time. They may be in jeopardy of losing their homes or defaulting on loans. Many of these families now face needing to use social services for the first time in their lives, just to meet basic living necessities.

Again, we thank you for your donations and support. We couldn't do it without you. Please check our needs list on the website for the most current list of items, and keep those donations coming! Have a wonderful summer. ■



Bruce Springsteen and Ed Temple, concert ticket winner. See inside for full story.

Call to Volunteer!

(814) 234-2310

Springsteen’s Dream Alive in State College

Together, the State College Area Food Bank and Bruce Springsteen are “Working on a Dream.” Weeks before Springsteen’s tour rolled into the Bryce Jordan Center on May 8, the Food Bank was told that his organization would donate four concert tickets for us to auction. Springsteen agreed to match the amount raised. The winning bid of \$5200, from Nicki and Dave Stinebring, was matched by Ed Temple, and Springsteen matched both amounts for a total of \$20,800.

In addition to the ticket auction, we received donations of food, cash, and grocery gift cards from generous concert-goers the night of the event: more than \$4,000 in cash and gift cards and over 200 pounds of food. All concert-goers’ donations will be shared with the other Centre County food pantries.

Thanks to everyone who helped bring this dream to life: The Centre Daily Times, The Daily Collegian, King Printing, and local radio stations and television net-

works provided publicity for the ticket auction; Bryce Jordan Center gave us permission to collect food and cash donations on concert night; board members and volunteers organized collection sites outside the arena; and State High students Liz Fontaine and Allison Hudson made posters to encourage donations. ■



The Stinebring family meets Bruce Springsteen after the concert. Also, Ed Temple’s daughter, Vanessa (far right).

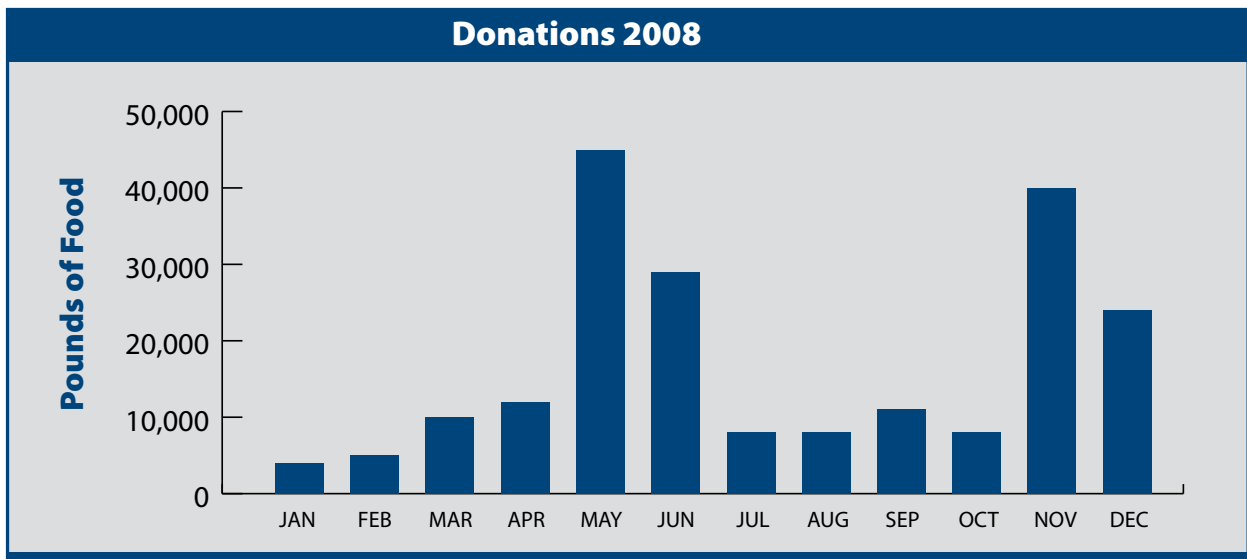
How to Give

By Linda Tataliba

We appreciate your generosity year-round! Our greatest need for food donations is during February, March, April, July, and August. Other times

of the year, it can be a challenge to find room for all the food in our limited-space facility. If you or your organization would like to organize a food drive, email

Ernest at ernestcboyd@gmail.com. And remember, it’s never a bad time for donations of cash and gift cards — we always have space for those! ■



We welcome financial donations in all forms: cash/ checks, gift cards, and gift certificates. And now, making a credit card donation is just a click away. You can donate using your credit card on our secure website with Click and Pledge. Visit our website and simply click on the “Donate Now” icon — it’s safe and easy!

Now it’s even easier to drop off your food donations, with drop-off points all around town. We have updated our website to include our new food drop-off points: The UPS Store, Stor-All Self Storage, and Balfurd Dry Cleaners. Check the website for more details.

Fun Food for the 4th was a huge success! Because of your generosity, we were able to help more than

350 client families celebrate Independence Day with festive food. Each family received a watermelon, hot dogs, and hamburger patties purchased with donated gift cards from individuals and college and community groups. Every family also received a grocery bag that included hot dog and burger buns, mustard and ketchup, marshmallows, chips, trail mix, festive paper supplies, and some “extra fun stuff” for the kids, such as jump ropes, Frisbees, and beach balls.

This is the second year for the campaign, spear-headed by Food Bank board members Deb Murray and Gary Glenn and the dietary/nutrition department at the Mount Nittany Medical Center. Find out more at <http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>. ■

Helping Neighbors

“Yesterday We Had a Job, Today We Don’t.”

A few months ago, two gentlemen entered the Food Bank, clad in business attire and carrying briefcases. They told us that earlier that day they had both lost their jobs, which they’d held for more than fifteen years. Both men hold college degrees in highly skilled fields and earned comfortable

salaries. Both gentlemen also have families with at least one child younger than seventeen. When a former colleague encouraged them to visit the State College Area Food Bank, they were hesitant. “I never thought I’d be in a position to need Food Bank services,” one of them said. “This is a first for

me.” Food Bank volunteers and staff helped the two men with the application process and gave them extra information on other food resources available in the community. They were very appreciative of the help and thanked the Food Bank team for treating them with kindness and dignity. ■



On May 30, Food Bank volunteers distributed hundreds of seedlings to families. Master gardeners were on hand to give planting advice. Special thanks go to Joann and Bob Leonard, who organized this new and forward-thinking program.

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Linda Tataliba, Executive Director
Ernest Boyd, Operations Manager

Thank You

Local Business Donations Help Close the Gap

The State College Area Food Bank is the proud owner of a 2007 Chevy Express cargo van, thanks to Jabco-Maggi Motors, located at 273 Benner Pike, State College! The used van, partially funded by Jabco-Maggi Motors, is in mint condition. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Jabco-Maggi for helping us acquire this van, which will greatly enhance service to our clients.

Another local business, Sam's Club, has been a great help as we face increased food distribution needs. Through the Second Harvest program, Sam's donates products such as frozen meat that allow us to provide more for our clients. Sam's Club managers Tina

Mellinder, Billy Coumy, and Mark Manafó (below) help prepare the twice-weekly donation. ■



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Call to Volunteer!

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