



Food Bank *News*

<http://foodbank.centreconnect.org>

Winter 2008
volume fourteen
issue 2

A Publication of the State College Area Food Bank

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We are currently seeking new board members. For more information, please e-mail the nominating chairperson, Carola Rohrbaugh at cokie36@comcast.net

The Food Bank
phone number is
814.234.2310

Please call now to volunteer!

Executive Director's Note

By Linda Tataliba, C.F.C.S., Food Bank Executive Director

Happy holidays, everyone, my name is Linda Tataliba. In mid-July 2006, I came aboard as the new executive director to continue the Food Bank's mission while facing several changes, including moving to a new location. Prior to January 2007, the State College Food Bank was located in the Parish Life Center of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, on the corner of West Foster and South Fraser Streets, where St.



Volunteers — the lifeline of the Food Bank

Andrew's parishioners founded the Food Bank in 1982. We are now located at 276 West Hamilton Avenue, in the Hamilton Square Shop-
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New Insights, New Challenges

By Ernest Boyd, Operations Manager

2007 has been a year of, let's call it, newness for the State College Food Bank. You are aware that we have transitioned to a new location. We have had the assistance of many businesses and community groups to enable and to fine tune our new space. The summer of 2007 also brought some new developments that have concerned the staff and board of directors greatly. These include a marked spike in client need and a dearth of food resources to meet that increase.

For example, for the five and one-half years that I have served the Food Bank we have always had an excess of a few food items. Part of the State College Food Bank's mission is to support the other food pantries in the Centre region. One item that we have been able to provide other pantries has always been beans. Beans are a nutritious and economical food source and so many people donate beans during our major food drives. For the first time, however, there are no beans at our Centre Sorting Center. We have experienced other first time shortages and are struggling more than ever to keep up with the need for food assistance in our Centre region.

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New Insights (continued from page 1)

Both Director Linda and I have a peculiar kind of service job in that the best news would be that we no longer have a job because our clients are sustenance sufficient and no children are hungry. When the Food Bank began in 1982, many thought it would be but a temporary fix for a fleeting problem. The need for assistance has persisted and waxed rather than waned. Thanks to the generous donations of concerned groups and individuals in our Centre region, we are struggling but succeeding to fill that void — that very real visceral void of hunger.

New Challenges

Since I began in 2002, this year has been the toughest, bringing shortages of food like never before. From our major food drives we always received an over-abundance of certain items. By the time the next major drive was nearing, we would have many shelves full of tomato

products and beans. This summer they were all used up. These unexpected needs put pressure on our purchasing power at the time that our State Food Purchase dollars are expended. (We need to spend our allocation by June and sometimes do not receive the new fiscal year's funds until October.) So we struggled like never before to provide food to our client families. This shortage was not due to a decrease in donations, but due to a spike in client needs. Many people think that families need more help in winter due to fuel costs and seasonal employment fluctuations. But many of our families with children need more help in the summer when the school breakfast and lunch programs are unavailable or curtailed. Our local regular donors such as our faithful congregations



Tammy Miller, Day of Caring volunteer

Director's Note (continued from page 1)

ping Plaza (owned and operated by the University Park Plaza Corporation), next to the Mobil Service Station. Our mailing address, P.O. Box 907, State College, PA 16804, and our office phone number, 814-234-2310, however, remains the same. As the new Executive Director, I want to relay my heartfelt thanks to St Andrew's, the Food Bank staff, members of the board, our volunteers, our donors, and a special thank you to those who helped us move from one location to another. And, now that we have "settled into our new home," it is hard to believe that it is only a few days until Thanksgiving as I write this.

This year, the pace of life for us here at the Food Bank picked up earlier than usual for the holidays, and we expect to see it persist throughout the coming months. The high cost of gasoline, and elevated heating expenses continue to magnify the added adversity our low-income clients face at this time of year. Increased gasoline costs are also being reflected in higher prices for food. Consequently, the case managers helping these individuals and families are increasingly turning to our Food Bank as a means of finding additional resources to help meet their escalating expenses.

That's what we're here for, but we could never do it without your help! Also, we would be seriously over budget for food without the generosity of our donors who helped us once again by sharing their free turkeys or turkey coupons. We also know we will refill our shelves with food as many conduct food drives or simply donate extra food to us during the holiday season.

It is only through your many kindnesses and unfailing support that the Food Bank is able to achieve overall success in accomplishing our mission. The dedication of the State College community allows the Food Bank to care for area families and we take great pride in the services we provide. You have helped us through a year of many challenges, including a 4% statewide budget cut in our State Food Purchasing Program while reaching a record number of highs in regard to our local families' increased need to use our Food Bank during the summer months. I am thankful for all of you who joined us at the Food Bank to be able to hold up our part of the "safety net" of a caring community.

I wish each and every one of you a meaningful holiday season.

New Insights (continued)

kept donations trickling in, but it was never enough to keep up with the numbers of clients. We used our gift cards extensively to purchase what we needed from local grocery stores. Ironically, with the Scouting for Food Drive and so many other food drives that occur around the holidays, we now have more food than we can deal with! But we are not complaining. Dealing with the excess is far better than facing empty cupboards. Thanks



The Kennedy's. Behind every Eagle Scout project is a supportive family.

to all our donors. We hope that some groups can move their drives to summer months when we need it most.

After relocating to our new site, we had our clients fill out a questionnaire to help us determine how to serve them better. Many clients, especially the working poor, requested Saturday hours and we are now open to serve clients on Saturday mornings. We also discovered that there were some items that we were over-providing, including jelly and canned fruit which is one of our more expensive items. One of our long-term volunteers, Mary Jane Brune, helped us to develop a new bag packing strategy. Our new method still provides a generous and diverse distribution to our clients, but it also streamlines our service procedure and cuts costs.



Mark Kennedy's Eagle Scout project involved scraping, priming and painting our facility

New Home Improvements

Our new facility held many advantages, but needed some maintenance and a face lift. Two groups especially helped us

to improve our site. For his Eagle Scout project Mark Kennedy organized a group of volunteers to paint the building and build some new shelving for our new space. Thirty some volunteers scraped the old paint, primed and painted the façade and porch. They made the place much more appealing where the paint was once peeling!

The United Way's Day of Caring provided skillful help from Penn State's Applied Research Lab employees and many veteran Marines (and spouses too). They installed a chair rail that Jack Frost Construction had donated. This was critical to protect the walls of our narrow hallways from shopping carts. They also installed a kick-plate for our back door, wrapped our pipes with insulation, painted, and repaired the decayed overhang. Thanks to all!

The Food Bank is a community-based place. We could not function without the community's donations and volunteer assistance.

My job as manager of operations is especially rewarding in two aspects: the pleasure of helping to provide food to those in need, and the joy of working with so many generous and caring individuals.



Another volunteer making a difference



The 2007 Day of Caring resulted in some much-needed repairs

Emergency Services

Emergency food provided by our Food Bank is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week through the Community Help Centre, located at 139 South Pugh Street in downtown State College.

Food Bank Information

Wish List:

The Food Bank needs a new/used-good condition vacuum, and a tabletop paper cutter.

Food Donations:

Please drop off food donations at our new location during the following times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and/or Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Donations can also be delivered during regular service hours (see right). If you need to arrange for a special delivery time, please call Ernest Boyd, operations manager, at 814-280-3442. Large donations should be pre-scheduled and may require delivery to our alternate storage facility.

A Member Agency of:

**Centre County
United Way**



Client Service Hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Holiday closings – the State College food bank will be closed on the following Holidays:
 - Monday, December 31, 2007 (New Year's Eve)
 - Tuesday, January 1, 2008 (New Year's Day)
 - Monday, February 18, 2008 (President's Day)
 - Monday, May 26, 2008 (Memorial Day)
 - Friday, July 4, 2008 (4th of July)
 - Monday, September 1, 2008 (Labor Day)
 - Thursday, November 27, 2008 (Thanksgiving Day)
 - Friday, November 28, 2008 (Day after Thanksgiving)
 - Thursday, December 24, 2008 (Christmas Eve)
 - Friday, December 25, 2008 (Christmas Day)

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The State College Area Food Bank
P.O. Box 907
State College, PA 16804



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