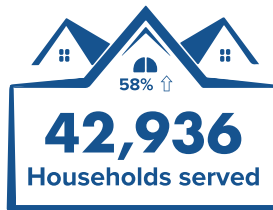
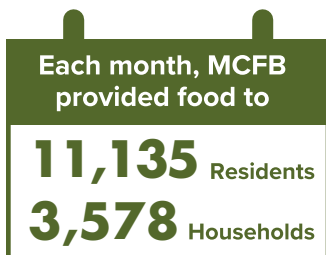
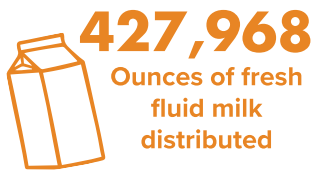


We had a record-breaking year expanding our service to match the needs of our food-insecure neighbors. Without the time, talent and treasure of our network of over 30 agencies, volunteers, generous community, staff and growing board of directors we wouldn't have been able to provide over 2.6 million pounds of food to those who need it most. Here is a look at the monumental year we had in 2023.



## THIS ISSUE

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New Agency

Myron's Meal Mobile

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Volunteer, Food Drive & Donation Thank You's

Empty Bowls Mercer County

Local Shopping Campaigns

Contact Info

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Winchester  
*President*

Matt Fabian  
*Vice President*

Connie Gerba  
*Secretary*

Gary Rose  
*Treasurer*

Ryan Johnson  
*Member at Large*

Teresa Bartos

Megan Benton

Ann Coleman

Terrence Crumby

Susan Ference

Pastor Terry Harrison

Bernie Harry

Rev. Glenn Hink

Michael A. Joanow, ESQ.

Tifinie LaComb

Gwen Martino

Russell Penn



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring from all of us here at Mercer County Food Bank! It sure is hard to believe that we just ended the first quarter of another year. As I often say, time flies when you spend it doing what you love, and we all LOVE the work we do here at the food bank.

Last year, as many of you know, our small food bank doubled its size, distributing a record **2.6 million pounds of food**, including more than **400,000 pounds of fresh produce** to our neighbors facing hunger right here in Mercer County.

This good work does not and cannot stop here. Did you know that currently living in Mercer County there are more than **13,000 residents** including **3,500 children** who are food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from?

With your support, Mercer County Food Bank, formerly Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, provides food **each month to 11,000 food insecure neighbors** across the county. Although our name has changed, our **mission** remains the same *to provide supplemental food to those who are hungry and to raise awareness of hunger throughout Mercer County. We exist to help those facing food insecurity.*

Holding steadfast to our mission, we are pleased to share that in the first quarter of this year, we have on-boarded two new agency partners – the Church of the Good Shepherd in West Middlesex and the McQuiston Center by the Park in Stoneboro to help us in our strategic goal of providing additional access to food in the underserved areas of the county. We have also onboarded the food bank's very first school pantry through a partnership with Sharon City Schools that will benefit grades 7th-12th and be open to any student in need of clothes, shelf-stable food, and/or personal hygiene products.

So far this year, we have distributed 647,834 pounds of food including 157,441 pounds of produce through our network of more than thirty (30) agency partners and direct distribution programs. This is a 74% overall increase in distribution from this very time last year.

**Simply put, we could not do this work without your support. We ask that you continue to help the food bank in a meaningful way be it your time, talent, and/or treasure.**

Warm regards,  
Rebecca Page  
Executive Director

PS: We hope to see you all next week at **Empty Bowls, Mercer County**, the food bank's largest fundraiser. Ticket and event information can be found in this edition of *Feeding Hope*, and remember each ticket sold provides **120 meals** to our neighbors in need throughout Mercer County.

# INTRODUCING MCFB CARROT CLUB

Following our biggest distribution year to date Mercer County Food Bank rolled out a brand-new annual sponsorship program called *Carrot Club*. This unique program is designed to highlight the amazing contributions of our community partners who have a shared desire to work with the food bank to get to the root causes of hunger. Thus far we have had eleven community partners who have pledged their support at various levels to include seedling, sprout, root, and harvest with Sharon Tube coming on as the very first harvest level supporter.



**Harvest**  
80,000 meals



**Root**  
60,000 meals

Contact Alexis to become the first Root Sponsor!



**Sprout**  
40,000 meals

IN HONOR OF  
Harper, Palmer,  
Landry & Owen



**Seedling**  
20,000 meals



**Fight hunger with us ~ Join the Carrot Club!**

Contact our Director of Development, Alexis Spence-Locke, at [alocke@mercercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:alocke@mercercountyfoodbank.org) or 724-981-0353 x108 to learn more about the benefits of joining the Carrot Club!



# SHARON TUBE

## Carrot Club Harvester



Sharon Tube, a Zekelman company, has recently provided 80,000 meals to our neighbors in need, and has a long history of giving back to our community.

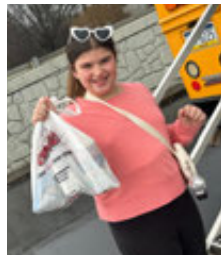
“Part of what makes me so proud of Zekelman Industries is our commitment to the communities we work in and the impact we have on people’s lives. And without the mutual support of our communities, we wouldn’t be where we are today. It’s our responsibility to nurture and give back in any way we can. Whether that’s through donations, volunteering, or providing opportunities to foster growth.” – Sam Zekelman

Zekelman’s rally cry “believe in what you build” not only speaks to the steel industry – it is their promise to keep domestic-only manufacturing alive by building and supporting our country and its people.





# MCFB on the Move



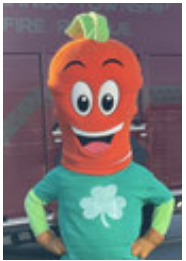
## Stuff-the-Bus

A huge thank you to D'Onofrio's Food Center in Hermitage who hosted the food bank's third Stuff-The-Bus event, to help fill cabinets and bellies this winter. Thanks to the support of the community, the event collected an amazing 3,662 pounds of food.



## Slainte Sharon St. Patrick's Day Parade

MCFB congratulates the City of Sharon on another successful St. Patrick's Day Parade. The food bank and Myron were seeing green as we flooded the streets to celebrate with our community.



## The Ron Errett Show

MCFB staff had the amazing opportunity to join Ron Errett on air to discuss not only the food bank, but what the growing need for food assistance looks like in our county.

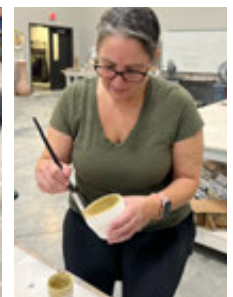
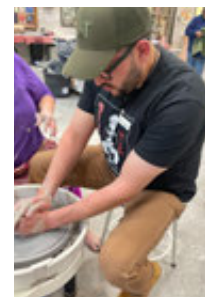


## Fill A Glass with Hope

A partnership with Feeding Pennsylvania and member food banks had its annual campaign launch in January where \$135,000 in donations were raised to help provide fresh milk to our neighbors in need.

## Bowl Throwdown

MCFB would like to express its sincere gratitude to Hope Center for Arts and Technology, Inc. (HopeCat) and Studio 83 for joining together to host a bowl throwdown. Local artists came together and dedicated their time and talent to handcraft 250 bowls in preparation for the food banks 8th annual Empty Bowls Mercer County Fundraiser! All bowls crafted that day will be provided (*while supplies last*) to each attendee as a take-home reminder that food insecurity persists in our county.



## Pawsitivity School Pantry

MCFB is teaming up with Sharon High School to launch the Pawsitivity School Pantry program, providing students in grades 7-12 with nutritious food, clothing, and hygiene products. Supported by community donations and ongoing efforts, the initiative addresses food insecurity and aims to meet children's basic needs with continuous access to essential resources.



# WHAT'S NEW AT THE FOOD BANK

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

The volunteers at Mercer County Food Bank are the heart and soul of what we do and are a true embodiment of what it means to give of themselves to others. Each year we look to select a person who embodies not only our mission but gives of themselves with the expectation of nothing in return, but to help others. Join us in congratulating Cindy Feigert who has been selected as volunteer of the year as she has given hundreds of hours to the food bank, is an active member on various food bank committees, and has just signed on to become one of the first ever MCFB Volunteer Ambassadors who will advocate on behalf of the food bank and the work we do.



**Look what took root at the food bank!** Thank you to Social Venture Community of the Shenango Valley for painting this magnificent tree mural that has become the showcase for the amazing food bank volunteers who are inducted yearly into our Volunteer Hall of Fame.



**Welcome New Partner Agency!**  
**McQuiston Center**  
located by the Park  
in Sandy Lake, PA



Going... going.... gone – *on the road that is* – in the food bank's **new refrigerated truck!** Through grant funding, we were able to purchase a 26-foot-high diesel truck, which will assist us as we continue growing to reach the rural and underserved areas in Mercer County.



## Myron's Meal Mobile

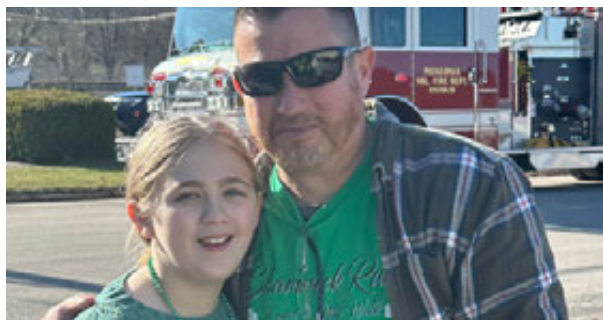
**is coming to your neighborhood!**

Starting June 10th we'll be serving weekly hot lunches from 11:30-1:00pm (or while supplies last)

- Mondays at Hillside Presbyterian Church
- Tuesdays at Stoneboro Fire Department
- Wednesdays at W. Middlesex United Methodist Church
- Thursdays at Stey-Nevant Library
- Fridays at the Buhl Club



# SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT



## Staff: Tom Doyle, Director of Operations

*What inspired you to work for the food bank:* I was a donor for years through my small business. When I sold the business, it was a natural move. I wanted to be a part of feeding people.

*What is your favorite part of your job:* My favorite part is the distributions, getting out to meet and speak with the folks we serve.

*What do you do outside of work:* I run and my daughter rides horses competitively so I spend much of my time with that.

*Favorite Food:* Creole

*Favorite Movie:* Groundhog Day

## New Board Member, Ann Coleman

Ann currently serves as the chair of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners and as an adjunct professor at Thiel College. The majority of her professional experience is in government, politics, and non-profits. She has served, or is serving, on the boards of the Shenango Valley Good Samaritans, Community Library of Shenango Valley, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, and the Arc of Mercer County. She and her husband of 28 years, Randy, are also members of the Kiwanis Club of the Shenango Valley. They have two adult children.



*In her words...* "I do not believe that there is any reason for hunger in Mercer County. Thanks to our very generous community and the dedicated team at MCFB, we are able to make sure that no one slips through the cracks. When I was in elementary school, I was picked to collect the lunch money at Addison School and I have never forgotten how many kids struggled to pay. The lunch ladies made sure that no one was hungry even if they didn't have any lunch money and that philosophy has stuck with me ever since. Serving on MCFB's board provides me the chance to help others."

## Volunteer: Joe McLaughlin

*How long have you been volunteering at MCFB?* 8 years

*What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank?* Volunteering at MCFB was an offshoot of volunteering at St Joseph Church's Food Pantry.

*What is your favorite part of volunteering?* Working alongside all the other great volunteers who simply want to help their neighbors in need. Every session presents a slightly different opportunity which keeps things interesting. I have always said that it is not what you are doing; it is who you are doing it with that makes it enjoyable.

*What do you do outside of volunteering?* I enjoy volunteering at St Joseph Church where I am a lifelong member and involved in many aspects of the ministry. I also serve on the Board of Directors for St John XXIII Nursing Home, St. Rose Cemetery and St. Mary Cemetery and am a member of the Special Ops Division of Water Fire Sharon. My hobbies include cycling and special effects lighting.

*Favorite Food:* PB&J sandwiches, ice cream, anything with chocolate • *Favorite Movie:* Star Wars





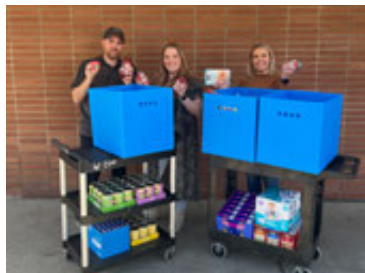
# FOOD DRIVES, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER GROUPS



NLMK



Sunbelt Solomon



The Lakes at Jefferson



Amerihealth Caritas



Kennedy Catholic Schools



Buhl Regional Health Foundation



Morris Chiropractic



Dave Miller and Gary Hittle Presenting a check on behalf of Greenville Elks Lodge 145 in support of the MilitaryShare program.



Whole Life Services



Rotary Club of Sharon PA



Walmart Hermitage Academy



Judy Radkowski of the Community Foundation presenting a check on behalf of Zekelman Industries in support of the Meal Bus and the Backpack program.



*Interested in getting involved?*

Visit our website for more information about making a donation, hosting food a drive and/or signing up to volunteer! [mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved](http://mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved)





**Thursday, April 25 • 4-8pm**  
**Hickory VFW Post 6166, Hermitage**

MCFB is preparing for its largest fundraiser of the year, Empty Bowls Mercer County. Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and receive a handcrafted bowl (*while supplies last*) created by a local artisan as a reminder that food insecurity persists throughout the county. Those attending can expect an evening of delicious soups, bread, and desserts provided by local restaurants, live entertainment from Dan Hogan and Pulse Online Radio, a silent auction, 50/50's and basket raffles. Tickets on sale now at [mercercountyfoodbank.org](http://mercercountyfoodbank.org) and at the food bank.



Giant Eagle and Get Go's spring register campaign is officially underway! Whether at the grocery store or at the pump, please consider donating to the food bank at check out! For every \$1 donated, MCFB can provide 4 meals to those in our community that need it most!



The annual Walmart & Sam's Club Fight Hunger Spark Change campaign is in full swing through April 29th. The purchase of select products and donations at the register help support people facing hunger across the county. Learn more at [feedingamerica.org/walmart](http://feedingamerica.org/walmart)



Hint Water is donating the equivalent of 10 meals for every Feeding America® in-store case, up to 1.5M meals until May 31st, and the equivalent of 30 meals for every Feeding America® bundle on [drinkhint.com](http://drinkhint.com), up to 250K meals until the end of this year.



Country Fair's Pump for Charity campaign pledges 2¢ per loyalty gallon pumped to MCFB at their Mercer County locations in Greenville, Grove City, Mercer and Sharon. Enroll in their loyalty program today and head to the pump to get involved.

## MCFB Staff Contact Info

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 Executive Director  
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**MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK**

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