

Welcome NEW AGENCIES!



Hope Center of Arts
and Technology,
Sharon



Hope Center,
Jamestown



Bethany Presbyterian
Church, Mercer



Vincent New
Beginnings, Jackson
Center

Bethany Presbyterian, in partnership with Mercer County Food Bank, held a ribbon cutting to announce the opening of its newly formed food pantry in the borough of Mercer called the Haven. The opening of the Haven marks the first time the borough of Mercer has had a pantry since the closing of Loaves and Fishes nearly two years ago. If you or someone you know needs food assistance, the Haven will be in operation the 4th Saturday of every month from 10:00am – 11:30am offering recipients shelf-stable foods, refrigerator, and freezer items.



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Garden Kickoff

Race to End Hunger

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Spotlight

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Russell Penn



Dear Friends,

As we know, hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. In fact, Feeding America just released its Map the Meal Gap study and the overall number of food insecure neighbors in Mercer County increased nearly 7 percent. Locally, 15,490 residents, including 4,390 children, do not know where their next meal will come from, leaving them turning to the food bank for assistance.

In the first six months of 2024, MCFB has already distributed 1.3 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need. By the end of the year, we anticipate our small food bank will have distributed upward of 3 million pounds of food.

It is only because of your generosity that we are able to continue to meet this ever-growing need for food assistance across the county.

With your support, we have accomplished many things during the first half of the year including:

- Increased the pounds of food distributed 17% over last year's record distribution.
- Implemented two School Pantry programs as an additional access to food for children.
- Expanded our network of member agencies to close the Meal Gap: Good Shepherd in West Middlesex, Bethany Presbyterian in Mercer, Hope Center in Jamestown, HopeCAT in Sharon, and Vincent New Beginnings in Jackson Center.
- Piloting a new program with Hermitage Police Department – Emergency Food for Emergent Needs, which provides 5lbs of easy to make, shelf-stable food to keep in squad cars to be given out to neighbors in need until they can reach a food pantry.
- Added a monthly pop-up Mobile Pantry distribution the last Friday of each month.
- Kicked off the 4th year of Myron's Meal Mobile, which will serve more than 5,000 meals by the end of the summer.
- Opened our gates for the 3rd annual Community Garden, which provides free produce to the community.

As you continue to enjoy the sunshine and warm days, I ask that you continue to think of MCFB and the people who rely on us for food.

Every dollar, pound of food, and hour of time donated makes a real difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Page
Executive Director

Reynolds Services Inc.

Carrot Club Harvester

MCFB is proud to announce that Reynolds Services, Inc. has joined the food bank's newly formed annual sponsorship program called Carrot Club as a Harvest level supporter, providing 80,000 meals to our neighbors facing hunger during 2024.

"At Reynolds Services, Inc., we believe in the power of community and the importance of giving back. Partnering with Mercer County Food Bank through the Carrot Club sponsorship program allows us to support vital initiatives that combat hunger and nourish our neighbors. We are proud to contribute to this meaningful cause and look forward to making a positive impact together"

– Shannon Forster, Reynolds Services, Inc.
Customer Service Manager
Business Development Specialist

From leading the tinplate packing industry by day to hunger heroes filling plates by night Reynolds Services, Inc. has and remains one of the food bank's largest supporters in the fight against hunger.



About The Carrot Club

The Carrot Club is a fantastic annual sponsorship opportunity for organizations to partner with Mercer County Food Bank to starve hunger and feed hope while receiving some great perks at various sponsorship levels.

To learn more, contact Development Director, Alexis Spence-Locke at 724-981-0353x108

THAT'S A WRAP

Mercer County Food Bank celebrated **Empty Bowls** on Thursday, April 25th from 4–8pm. With over 400 people attending, a host of generous sponsors (food, baskets, event) and the support of the Hickory VFW Post 6166, the food bank was able to successfully raise over \$50,000 providing over 200,000 meals to our neighbors facing food insecurity. This now annual event has become the largest fundraiser for the food bank and that's because of all of you and your support.

Misty Copeland said it best, "Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you." A huge thank you to all of you, OUR people!



Stamp Out Hunger

Across the county letter carriers increased the weight of their already heavy loads to collect food for the National Stamp Out Hunger food drive. From mailbox-to-mailbox carriers collected food our neighbors set out for pick up during their regularly scheduled mail deliveries and we are excited to share a total of 6,733 pounds of food was collected during that one day pick up! This marks the 12th anniversary of the food drive and we here at the food bank are already looking forward to next year. We know this is no easy feat for our carriers and thank them for stepping up and out in support of their hungry neighbors.



Super Bowl Sponsors



Terry Day -
Shenango Valley
Charitable Fund



Three Bowl Sponsors



A GIFT MADE IN HONOR OF
Harper, Palmer,
Landry and Owen

Two Bowl Sponsors



One Bowl Sponsors

Dan Hogan
Donatelli Electric
Joy Cone Co.
NexTier Bank
Pulse Online Radio
SCP Group
Studio 83

Black, Bashor, and Porsch LLP
HBK CPA's and Consultants
Hope Center of Arts & Technology
Imperial Systems, Inc.
M&R Power Equipment
Reinhardt's Insurance
Quality Life Services

That's all folks!

Wrap on Backpack

And just like that another successful school year of feeding one of Mercer County's most vulnerable population's- children has come to an end. The Backpack program ended for the 2023-2024 school year serving nearly 1,000 children across the valley each week. Thanks to the support of the schools and volunteers, children were provided the food they needed to grow and learn.

MCFB ON THE MOVE



Stuff the Truck

MCFB held its first ever Stuff The TRUCK on June 29th giving the Meal Bus the weekend off. Thanks to the ongoing support of Donofrio's Food Center the food bank was able to collect an impressive 2,700 pounds of food. Hosting pop-up collections like stuff the truck has been huge in the fight against hunger and as we work to continue meeting our neighbors' needs. Don't be surprised if you see the truck rolling up at your local grocer.



Meals on Wheels Ribbon Cutting



Shenango Valley Urban League DEI breakfast



All Good Things Check Presentation



Congratulations to Director of Development, Alexis Spence-Locke for being awarded the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce 30 under 40!



MCFB attended the Greenville and Shenango Valley Chamber Mixer at Bear Furniture in Greenville.



MCFB staff practiced their pottery skills at HopeCAT in preparation for next year's Empty Bowls!



Quaker Steak and Lube hosted a Karaoke Nite Fundraiser with song proceeds benefiting the food bank.



M&R Power Equipment Group invited MCFB to set up a table during their Orange Days Sales Event.

*Where will we pop up next?
Follow us on social media
to stay in the know!*

KICKING OFF SUMMER

Myron's Meal Mobile

Myron's Meal Mobile, the food bank's retrofitted school bus successfully kicked off on June 10th for its 4th year of operation. So far, the mobile feeding unit has served a total of 3,120 hot meals and has 5 distribution weeks remaining this summer. What began at the food bank as a way to feed children when they were out of school for the summer and no longer receiving free and reduced meals has become so much more. Today children, adults, and seniors are all welcome to not only receive a hot nutritious meal, but also the opportunity to meet with various community partners and converse with neighbors. If you or someone you know is in need of a hot meal this summer, please come see us at one of our 5 locations. Interested in lending a hand please contact Patty here at the food bank and she can get you signed up for a shift. We promise you will not be disappointed!



Community Garden

The Community Garden on 4th Ave in Sharon officially opened its gates to the community on Saturday June 15th. The 3rd annual garden kick off had over 50 people attend with activities for the whole family. MCFB extends a special thank you to The Buhl Club, Baughman Family Community Center, Community Library of the Shenango Valley, Kiwanis Club of the Shenango Valley, and Red Pines Service Unit Girl Scouts who were present during the kickoff providing a fun activity filled morning. The community garden is open to anyone in need of fresh fruit and vegetables and is another avenue for the food bank to get fresh produce out to our community. It's important to mention that the garden is a labor of love and if you're reading this and are a lover of gardening, we would love your help with weeding and watering this summer especially as we venture into the hottest days of summer.

Sizzlin Summer

As we work to navigate the highest food insecurity rate in over 20 years the food bank is teaming up with some local restaurants for what is expected to be one sizzlin summer. The Block by Nova kicked-off the series on Friday, June 21st hosting Tiki Trivia.

Our upcoming locations and dates include...

- Vey's Pub and Grille on Thursday, July 25th where we have some Christmas in July fun planned which includes photos by donation with The Grinch and 15% of dining and specialty drink revenue being donated back to the food bank.

- A cornhole tournament on Saturday, August 10th at Talbot's Taproom and Terrace. Interested corn hole participants should begin signing up NOW by calling Patty at the food bank as the event is limited to the first 20 teams and the cost is \$20 per team.

A huge thank you to all sizzlin summer restaurants that have partnered with us for the goal of sacking summer hunger!





**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

coming soon
TO MCFB

14th Race to End Hunger

5K/2 Mile Walk and Kid's Fun Run



JOIN US FOR THE RACE
Saturday, August 3, 2024
BC3 at Linden Pointe

To register, call Patty
at 724-981-0353x103

24 hours of fighting hunger



**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

ready... set...

GO ORANGE!

Are you looking for a way to make a huge impact in our community? **Look no further!**

Join us for this 24-hour event to feed our neighbors!

From 9am – 9am

Friday – Saturday

September 6–7, 2024



Call Patty at
724-981-0353x103

Take action this **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** and sign up today for **Ready...Set...GO ORANGE!**

Thank you VOLUNTEERS & DONORS



Serve with Liberty



Mercer County Career Center



Americorps



Mercer County State Bank



City of Sharon Fire Department



Penn State Shenango Kitchen Chemistry



Red Pines Service Unit



Dairy Princess Callie Whiting

Get Involved

MCFB is currently operating 17% higher than during our busiest season and we need your help. Individuals and businesses looking for a way to make a lasting impact look no further!

Call Patty at 724-981-0353x103 to learn more about how meaningful the gift of time can be.

mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved



Shine the SPOTLIGHT



Staff: Yahsar Ahmaed, Operations Manager

What inspired you to work for the food bank: After volunteering at a local food bank, I discovered my passion for food banking and never left.

What is your favorite part of your job: I'm always on the go. For those of you who know me, you know it is hard for me to stay in one place and here I am able to keep moving for our cause!

What do you do outside of work: I work and go to the gym.

Do you have any creative talents/special interests: I can juggle, I am the Ugly Sweater champion two years running, and have become the best Myron there ever was especially when Patty isn't bossing me around!

Favorite Food: Candy, cookies, and anything with sugar!

Favorite Movie: Sci-Fi movies

Volunteer: Candy Sizer

How long have you been volunteering at MCFB? I started volunteering about 3.5 years ago after retiring from a career in banking

What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank? I heard about volunteer opportunities at MCFB at a Rotary meeting & knew it would be a good fit for me. I've always had a strong sense of community and a desire to help others.

What is your favorite part of volunteering? It's a great way to connect and work with others as a team. It's fun and gives me personal satisfaction to, in a small way, help to improve the lives of others.

What do you do outside of volunteering? I also volunteer at St. Joseph Church food pantry. Personal interests include golfing, reading, staying active, traveling and spending time with family and friends, especially our new grandson!

Do you have any creative talents/special interests? I wish I was more creative! Lol

Favorite Food: Anything sweet, especially chocolate!



Welcome: Jimmy Thompson

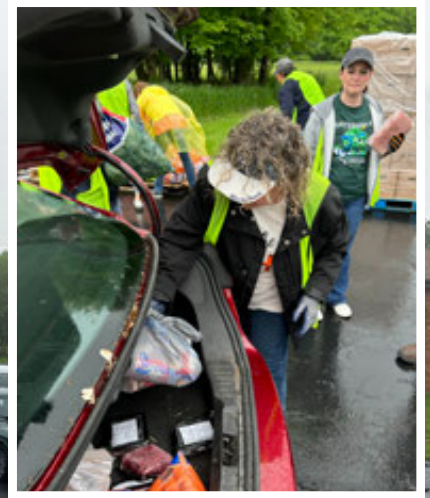
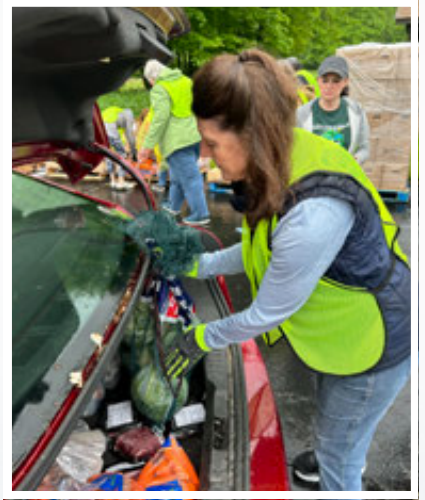
The Food Bank would like to officially congratulate Jimmy on his graduation both from Sharon High School and the Mercer County Career Center. Jimmy started with the food bank in October 2023 and since his successful graduation was hired as a full-time Warehouse Assistant. If you see Jimmy around, please give him a warm welcome.

MOBILE PANTRY

program spotlight

Born out of the Pandemic as a means to provide food assistance for rural areas, Mobile Pantry has vastly become MCFB's largest program. Designed as a drive through food pantry, volunteers help distribute fresh produce, frozen meats and assorted groceries at each distribution.

Monthly, Mobile Pantry visits Mercer, Fredonia, and Hermitage. The last week of the month a pop-up distribution has been added where the location changes each month. MCFB is currently serving over 1,000 families per month through the Mobile Pantry Program.



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**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

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Make a Donation

mercercountyfoodbank.org/givehelp

Mercer County Food Bank, a 501(c)3 charity, is dedicated to addressing hunger in our community. With every dollar you donate, we can provide four meals to our hungry neighbors in Mercer County.