



WINTER 2024

FEEDING HOPE NEWS

Mobile Pantry On the Move

MCFB is excited to announce our BRAND NEW Mobile Pantry locations in Sandy Lake, Greenville, and Reynolds. These locations will be replacing the past locations of Mercer, Fredonia, and Hermitage as all three locations now have a pantry in or near the city.



Mobile Pantry • 2025 Schedule

Sandy Lake, PA
Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church • 3461 Sandy Lake New Lebanon Rd.

from 11am-1pm
or until supplies last

- Jan 8* • July 2
- Feb 5 • Aug 6
- March 5 • Sept 3
- April 2 • Oct 1
- May 7 • Nov 5
- June 4 • Dec 3

Greenville, PA
St. John's Lutheran Church
10 Beil Hill Rd.

from 11am-1pm
or until supplies last

- Jan 9 • July 10
- Feb 13 • Aug 14
- March 13 • Sept 11
- April 10 • Oct 9
- May 8 • Nov 13
- June 12 • Dec 11

Transfer, PA
Reynolds Drive-In Theater • 3706 N. Hermitage Rd.

from 12pm-2pm
or until supplies last

- Jan 17 • July 18
- Feb 21 • Aug 15
- March 21 • Sept 19
- April 18 • Oct 17
- May 16 • Nov 21
- June 20 • Dec 19

THIS ISSUE

Letter from Executive Director, Rebecca Page

Good News Fund

Holiday MilitaryShare

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Sip & Moo

Holiday fun at MCFB

Thank you volunteer groups and donors

Spotlight on Food Drives

MCFB On the Move

Empty Bowls 2025

Carrot Club

MCFB On the Move

Staff & Volunteer Spotlight

MCFB Named NonProfit of the Year



If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance please reach out to the food bank at 724-981-0353 to be connected to the pantry nearest you.

WINTER GREETINGS

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Winchester
President

Matt Fabian
Vice President

Connie Gerba
Secretary

Gary Rose
Treasurer

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Member at Large

Teresa Bartos

Megan Benton

Ann Coleman

Terrence Crumby

Pastor Terry Harrison

Bernie Harry

Rev. Glenn Hink

Michael A. Joanow, ESQ.

Tifinie LaComb

Gwen Martino

Jim McClusky



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year from all of us at Mercer County Food Bank! As you know, more than 15,000 people, including 4,300 children residing in Mercer County, are food insecure, meaning they don't always have consistent access to nutritious food and are often left wondering where their next meal will come from.

Because of the generosity of our community, the food bank experienced a record year of growth, drawing us one step closer to bridging the meal gap that exists within our county lines. Below is a snapshot of the work we accomplished together last year:

- Distributed **3 million** pounds of food, a **14%** increase over previous year.
- Distributed **700,000 pounds** of fresh fruits and vegetables, a **30%** increase over previous year.
- Onboarded **12** member agencies in underserved and rural areas of Mercer County.
- Hosted **1,076** volunteers, who contributed **8,110** hours of time to feed our neighbors in need.
- Initiated ServiceInsights an electronic data collection tool that is being used across Mercer County to better meet the needs of neighbors.
- Secured **3** new locations in underserved and rural areas to operate the Mobile Pantry program throughout 2025.

Simply put, we could not have accomplished these things alone, as it takes the entire community to create change, and we are grateful for your on-going support of our mission.

Humbly, we ask that you continue to keep our neighbors facing hunger in the forefront of your mind as we continue to work to bridge the meal gap here in Mercer County.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Page
Executive Director

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Did somebody say Turkey?



For over three decades the **Sharon Herald** through the **Good News Fund** has raised over \$300,000 to purchase turkeys for families in need during the holiday season and this year was no different. In fact, this year marked the greatest number of turkeys distributed: 1,900.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Sharon Herald, their readers, and **D'Onofrio's Food Center** who secures the turkeys and with that in mind we want to say **THANK YOU**. Because of your hard work and generosity nearly 2,000 families this year were able to have an fulfilling Thanksgiving dinner.

MilitaryShare Holiday Distribution

MilitaryShare's November distribution was made just a bit brighter thanks to the **Montrose Auto Group** who not only donated their time, but \$2,000 to help feed our income-eligible service men and women receiving food assistance. This gift was a part of **WFMJ'S Feed Our Valley Campaign** and will provide **8,000 meals to local veterans in need**. The MilitaryShare program holds nine (9) private food distributions each year and currently serves more than 600 people to include veterans and active-duty military personnel and their families. Special thank you to the **Wheatland American Legion** and **West Middlesex VFW** who's Honor Guard kicked off the special distribution with the pledge of allegiance.



Truck-Full of Hope

And just like that MCFB has successfully ended another year of Truck-Full of Hope. A special thank you to **Diehl Chevrolet of Hermitage** for another great year of partnering with the food bank and the community to collect the food our neighbors need to thrive. This year's annual holiday food drive collected an impressive 1,312 pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make this another triumphant holiday collection!



Mooooove Over Picasso

The Mercer County Dairy Princess & Promotion hosted a Sip and Moo at the food Bank on November 12th to help raise funds for the food bank's fresh fluid milk program Fill-A-Glass with Hope. This program has been an integral part of the food bank's internal programming for nearly a decade providing so far this year over 1 million fluid ounces of nutrient dense milk to our neighbors in need.

HOLIDAY FUN AT MCFB



Take a look back on the fun... it was a Celebration!

It was once said that "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless" and this holds true for the hundreds of volunteers we see each year who offer without hesitation their time, talent, and treasures to ensure OUR community thrives.

We took time to celebrate those who work behind the scenes here at MCFB to ensure its operation continues without pause. Simply put, MCFB could not continue to meet this great need without the support and dedication of the board of directors and volunteers.



Coffee Cocoa and Cookies

The food bank's annual Coffee Cocoa and Cookies holiday celebration was held on December 6th to celebrate all the many volunteers who give of themselves day in and day out to support the food bank's mission. MCFB is a volunteer **DEPENDENT** organization and each and every volunteer who enters our doors to lend a hand is so precious to the work that we do that a value could never be placed on their importance. With that **THANK YOU** we hope all who attended enjoyed themselves and those who were unable to attend please know you are priceless.



Board Breakfast

The MCFB Board of Directors rang in the holidays with food bank staff at the annual holiday breakfast. MCFB has 16 board members who work hard behind the scenes ensuring the food bank's ongoing operation.

Staff Christmas Party

Staff of MCFB closed out another successful year of working to close the meal gap with a Holiday party at 10-Pin Alley. Countless hours both on and off the clock are spent working to get the food out the doors and it was a real treat to come together and celebrate.



Thank you VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

VOLUNTEER GROUPS



Sharon Interact Club



FactSet



SV Corvette Club



Sharon Tube



Werner Co.



Dean's Dairy



HBK



Jewish Federation



Diversified Energy

DONATIONS



Crimson Vapes



Shenango Honda



CCL Container



Mercer County State Bank



Walmart Hermitage Academy



Sharpsville VFW



Montrose Auto Group



PNC Foundation



MCCFCU



Sharon Students For Charity

Spotlight on FOOD DRIVES



Dean's Dairy



Sipe Investment Properties



Penn State Shenango OTA Club



Tractors & Tinsel



NextTier Bank



Walmart, Grove City



Walmart, Greenville



Walmart, Hermitage



Kellar Williams Realty



Tam O'Shanter



LTI Gigi's Table



Get Involved!

Looking for opportunities to give back in 2025? **Look no further!** There are many amazing ways to partner with MCFB to help our neighbors in need! Such as...

- Volunteering
- Hosting Food Drives
- Donating
- Joining the Carrot Club

learn more at

mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved



Wabtec



UPMC Horizon/Jameson



Haitian Sensation

MCFB Is ON THE MOVE



Senior Expo



Parke Wentling Veterans Expo Breakfast



Mercer Chamber Luncheon



Roar Center Trunk or Treat



BC3 at Linden Pointe Trunk or Treat



HopeCAT Monster Mash



Grove City Veteran's Parade



Operation Warm



Hermitage Light Up Night Parade

(Shout out to Hickory Boys Basketball, Sharpsville HS, Sunbelt Rentals, and Carpenter's Auto Repair and Towing)



Shenango Valley Urban League HealthFair



Quota of Hermitage BYOG Fundraiser



Sharon Small Business Saturday



Sharon Night of Lights



National Philanthropy Day

MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK

April 3rd

4pm-8pm



Hickory VFW Post 6166 | 5550 E State St Hermitage, PA



Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and choose a handcrafted bowl to take home as a reminder that food insecurity persists in our local communities. The event features a basket raffle, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, live entertainment and a cash bar.

Your support helps feed our hungry neighbors right here in Mercer County!



MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK

Tickets can now be purchased at MCFB and at mercercountyfoodbank.org
Tickets can also be purchased at the door of the event.

Questions? Contact Patty at 724-981-0353 ext. 103

Join Carrot Club and get to the "root" cause of hunger!



Looking for a way to make a meaningful impact in OUR community than look no further. MCFB is challenging all local businesses and organizations who want to be a part of the solution in OUR community to take a look at Carrot Club – the food bank’s annual giving program. This unique program is designed to highlight the amazing contributions of our community partners who have a shared desire to lend a hand up to a neighbor in need. We hope you’ll consider making a one-time gift that has the potential to provide thousands (**YES, thousands!**) of meals to OUR neighbors in need.

For more information, contact Alexis Spence-Locke, Development Director at 724-981-0353 x108 or visit mercercountyfoodbank.org/carrot-club to learn more!

Shine the Spotlight STAFF & VOLUNTEER

Staff: Patty Tucker

What is your role at MCFB? Development Coordinator – volunteer coordination, fundraising & special events

What inspired you to work for the food bank? I've always been passionate about being involved in the community by working to help others.



What is your favorite part of your job? The people! I love getting to know the people we serve, our incredible volunteers who dedicate their time to ensure our neighbors don't go to bed hungry, and our incredible staff who work tirelessly to fight hunger in our county.

What do you do outside of work? Hit the gym, cook, and spend time with my family.

Favorite Food? ALL food, especially anything with sugar!

Favorite Movie? All 8 Harry Potter movies, Jurassic Park, LOTR, E.T., basically every movie, I'm a huge film nerd 😊

Volunteer: Richard Bittler

How long have you been volunteering at MCFB? Three years

What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank? Seeing the advertisements for volunteers and a way to give back to the community.

What is your favorite part of volunteering? Food distributions and meeting new people

What do you do outside of work? I'm retired and I go to Planet Fitness

Favorite Food? Steak • *Favorite Movie?* Good Morning Vietnam



Become an Ambassador!

Have a passion for feeding others? Want to be an advocate for our neighbors in need? If so, contact Patty and inquire about MCFB's BRAND NEW Volunteer Ambassador and Student Volunteer Ambassador Programs!

ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org • 724-981-0353 x103

MCFB NAMED NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

Mercer County Food Bank was not only nominated, but won nonprofit of the year with the **Greenville Chamber of Commerce** and we want to share we were and remain not only humbled but empowered to continue.

For 41 years we have operated as the lead agency in the fight against hunger within Mercer County to ensure OUR community has their most basic human need met FOOD. And this work continues each and every day as more neighbors than ever before are turning to the charitable food system for assistance.

This nomination and win is because of the work of food bank staff, volunteers, our network of agencies, and donors. Someone once said, "we rise by lifting others" and our goal each day at Mercer County Food Bank is to lend a hand up to our neighbors in need.



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**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

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Make a Donation

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

[Click here to give online!](#)