



SUMMER 2025

FEEDING HOPE NEWS

Community Garden Kick Off

On Saturday, May 24th, from 10 a.m. to noon, MCFB welcomed neighbors to the garden for our 3rd Annual Community Garden Kickoff! Families enjoyed a mix of fun activities—face painting, story time, pot painting, flower planting, and creative alleyway games thanks to Alane Jewel. The new teeter totter was a big hit with the kids! Guests cooled off with ice cream and later gathered for a delicious lunch, provided by Shenango Valley Meats and Flowers Bakery. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

If you've never been to the garden on 4th Ave in Sharon, we'd love for you to stop by and see all it has to offer! From fresh fruits and vegetables to beautiful artwork created by our Student Volunteer Ambassador, Daniel, there's something for everyone. You might even find a good book to read while you're there—or take one home! We're sure you won't be disappointed.



THIS ISSUE

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Carrot Club

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Ready...Set...Go Orange!!

MCFB Contact Information

SUMMER GREETINGS

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Winchester
President

Matt Fabian
Vice President

Connie Gerba
Secretary

Gary Rose
Treasurer

Ryan Johnson
Member at Large

Teresa Homchosky

Megan Benton

Ann Coleman

Terrence Crumby

Pastor Terry Harrison

Bernie Harry

Rev. Glenn Hink

Tifinie LaComb

Gwen Martino

Jim McClusky



Dear Friends,

As a valued supporter of Mercer County Food Bank (MCFB), you may be aware that hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. In fact, the need for food assistance often increases during these warmer months, especially for families with children who no longer have access to free or reduced school meals.

According to Feeding America's recently released **Map the Meal Gap** study, **1 in 5 children** and **1 in 7 adults** residing in Mercer County are food insecure, indicating a lack of consistent access to nutritious meals.

This stark reality underscores the significance of our mission and the importance of your continued support, especially in light of the substantial federal funding cuts experienced by the food bank this year.

Despite these challenges, your unwavering support has enabled us to distribute **1.2 million pounds of food** in just the first half of 2025. Your contributions have enabled us to continue meeting the essential food needs of OUR community.

As you enjoy the warmth of summer, we humbly ask that you continue to think of MCFB and the families who rely on us for food.

Every **donated dollar, pound of food, and hour of volunteer time** makes a tangible impact in the lives of our food-insecure friends and neighbors.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rebecca Page
Executive Director

Anderson Coach & Travel

Carrot Club Harvester

MCFB is proud to announce that Anderson Coach and Travel has joined Mercer County Food Bank's Carrot Club as a Harvest level supporter, providing 80,000 meals to our neighbors facing hunger during 2025.

"The Anderson organization firmly believes in giving back to the community that has supported our family business for nearly 90 years. We strive to continue the legacy of generosity begun by my parents, O.D. and Dot Anderson, the founders of Anderson Coach & Travel. We are proud to partner with Mercer County Food Bank to help feed our friends and neighbors in need."

~ Doug Anderson
President, Anderson Coach & Travel



Carrot Club | Getting 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.

Harvest Sponsors



Sharon Tube

NEW DEAL CLUB
EST. '34



FARRELL, PA

Your
logo
here

Sprout Sponsors

Primary Health Network • Quota of Hermitage • In Honor of Harper, Palmer, Landry, and Owen

Seedling Sponsors

Aetna, Aqua PA, Ben Bissett Chevrolet, FedEx, First National Bank, Giant Eagle, JCL Energy, Jones Performance Products Inc., A gift made by Jim Winner in loving memory of Joyce Winner, Sunbelt Solomon, St. John's Orthodox Church

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

Celebrating one flamazing VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

On April 23rd, MCFB board members and staff gathered to celebrate the incredible work of our FLAMAZING volunteers—because like flamingoes, they stand tall and stand out in the fight against hunger!

Around 50 guests joined us for a heartfelt luncheon honoring the countless hours our volunteers have dedicated to the community. We proudly recognized our Carrot Club members, Food Bank Ambassadors, and presented our most prestigious honor—the Volunteer of the Year Award—to one especially outstanding individual.

To all of our volunteers: thank you for your passion, your time, and your big hearts. We couldn't do it without you!



Volunteer of the Year

At Mercer County Food Bank, the Volunteer of the Year Award is one of our highest honors—and it's not given lightly. Nominees must meet a thoughtful set of criteria that reflect the spirit and mission of our work. To be considered, volunteers must:

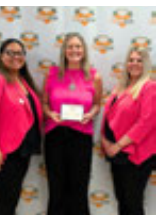
- Complete 100+ hours of service in the previous year
- Show initiative, leadership, and maintain a positive attitude
- Demonstrate a deep level of involvement in our programs
- Inspire others to volunteer and give back
- Actively support and uphold the mission of the Mercer County Food Bank



With that the 2025 Volunteer of the year is Richard Bittler. Who sadly passed away in January 2025, but over the years gave of himself without hesitation and like so many of you was more than a volunteer he was family and is greatly missed.



Thank you once more to our Food Bank Ambassadors (pictured above with Patty) and our Carrot Club donors (pictured left & below with Rebecca and Alexis)



MCFB is bringing HOPE ON WHEELS

Stuff the Truck Events

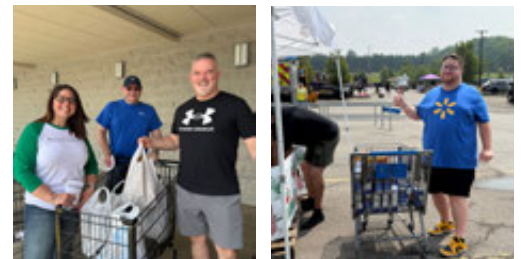
at Donofrio's, Hermitage Walmart & Grove City County Market

You asked and we answered!

MCFB has officially expanded our Stuff the Truck events to new locations across the county—and we're thrilled with the results!

A huge thank you to the three generous grocers who welcomed us to their stores. Thanks to their support, we not only collected 7,014 pounds of food, but also had meaningful conversations with customers about the growing need for food assistance in our community.

We're so grateful for the local support that makes this work possible. Keep an eye out—our truck might be pulling up to your neighborhood grocery store soon!



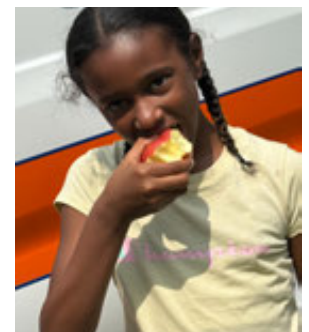
Beep! Beep! Here comes Myron's Meal Mobile

On June 10th, Myron's Meal Mobile hit the road for its 5th year, serving hot, nutritious meals to kids and families while school is out. Over 10 weeks, the goal is to serve 6,000 meals—helping fill the gap when school meals aren't available. MCFB is proud to keep this important program rolling all summer long!

In need of a meal?

Feel free to stop out and see us at the following locations from 11:30am-1:00pm or until quantities run out:

- **Mondays at Hillside Presbyterian Church, Greenville**
 - July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11
- **Tuesdays at the Stoneboro Fire Department, Stoneboro**
 - July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12
- **Wednesdays at Mark Twain Manor, Jamestown**
 - July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, August 13
- **Thursdays at Stey Nevant Library, Farrell**
 - July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14
- **Fridays at the Buhl Club, Sharon**
 - July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8, August 15



MCFB is ON THE MOVE



New Wilmington Breaks Ground



Feeding America Conference

Development Director Alexis had the opportunity to present at the Feeding America Direct Marketing Fundraising Summit that was held this past May in Pittsburgh.



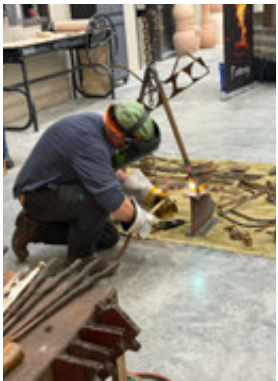
Distinguished Impact Awards



Lady Tigers Basketball Summer Camp



YMCA Kids Day



HopeCAT Arte Blanche



Leadercast Mercer County



Dance 4 a Cause



Visit Mercer County Dinner



M&R Orange Days



Downtown Sharon: Farmers Market and Strawberry Fest





**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

15th Race to End Hunger

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

SATURDAY
August 2nd, 2025

Training & Workforce
Development Center
at LindenPointe



CONTACT

Patty at 724-981-0353x103

REGISTRATION

Scan QR code or go to
runsignup.com

Preregistration ends
Friday, July 25th



Kids helping Kids

JULY

GIVING STARTS NOW!

Let's hear it for the kids who are making a difference in Mercer County!

Check out the calendar to find food drives, lemonade stands and events you can support!

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1
Lucas' Lemonade stand and toy sale | 2
Giovanni's Food Drive at UPMC | 3
Avery's Book Collection for Myron's Magical Library | 4
Lily's Light up the Sky for Hunger! | 5
Alexis and Gabby kick off the Family Dollar Program at Sharon Farmers Market |
| 6
Keane's Food Drive | 7
Buhl Park Summer Camp Kids Food Drive | 8
Emmie's Give Back Collection | 9
Jersey and Jemma's lemonade/iced tea stand proceeds to benefit MCFB | 10
Aubree's Book Drive to fill Myron's Magical Library |
| 11
Camryne's Cannonball for a cause at Buhl Park Pool 12-8 | 12
Lily and Rowan's Drinks for a Cause | 13
Arlo and Rosie's Christmas in July Lemonade Stand | 14
Willow's Gluten Free Food Drive all month long! | 15
Luca's Food Drive at UPMC |
| 16
ACDC's Food Drive at the Concert at Buhl Park | 17
Zion Education Center's "Love with Every Drop" Lemonade Stand | 18
Nico's Pay for the Day | 19
Evaalee's lemonade/snack stand proceeds to benefit MCFB | 20
Rowan's Toddler Time Cans Food Drive at eAcademy |
| 21
Amelia's Abstract Art Day at Myron's Meal Mobile | 22
Sadie's Caring Cup at Haitian Sensation | 23
Zachary's Create Your Own Slime at Myron's Meal Mobile | 24
Cooper's Make a CHANGE in Mercer County | 25
Michael's Bake Sale Proceeds to Benefit MCFB |
| 26
Jaxson and Reece's Food Drive | 27
Lil and Kenzie's Fishing Tourney Proceeds to benefit MCFB | 28
Sophia's Bake Sale Proceeds to Benefit MCFB | 29
Crafts by Annie and Ryan Proceeds to benefit MCFB | 30
Benton's Bracelets and Baked Goods Sale to benefit MCFB |
| 31
1,2,3,4 Buhl Club Day Care declares a Change War! | | | | |



Special Report from MCFB STUDENT AMBASSADORS



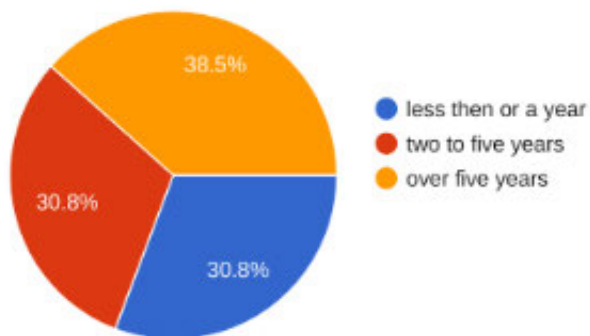
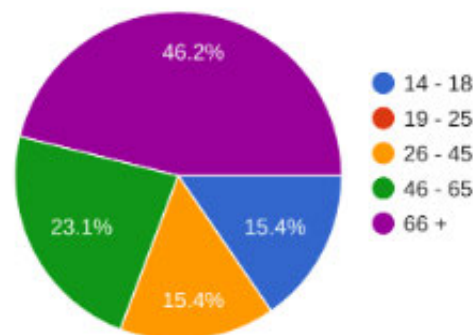
We are brothers, Adam and Mason, who are part of the Student Volunteer Ambassador program for Mercer County Food Bank. We are both dedicated students and athletes at Hickory High School and enjoy volunteering within our community. The goal for our Student Ambassador Project, is to encourage more young people to actively volunteer.

In 2024, volunteers saved the food bank \$271,604, through the donation of their time. As our data shows below, younger volunteers are less represented than other age groups. Volunteering at Mercer County Food Bank is something we both enjoy and find great fulfillment in. We encourage all young adults to get involved and volunteer in our community. There were

3,117,865 pounds of food that were distributed in 2024, which is why volunteering is important. Below you can find the data we collected through a survey of the volunteers at Mercer County Food Bank and our analysis.

Age of Volunteers

Of the volunteers surveyed, a large portion of volunteers were ages 66+. These individuals are great examples of people coming together to help those in need. They serve as great role models and help the other younger volunteers. If there is an increase in the involvement of young people, we can help ensure a brighter future of volunteerism in our community.

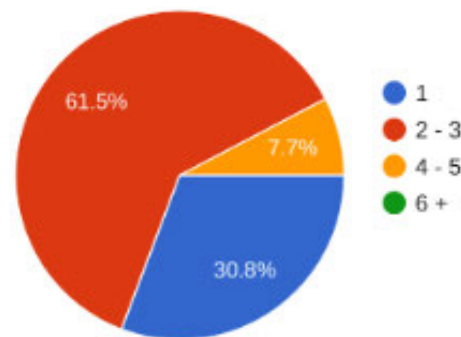


Years of Volunteering

As seen in the results, there is a pretty even split between the levels of volunteering. The data shows that once people start volunteering, it is something they enjoy and continue to do. This dedication is something younger volunteers can learn from.

Shifts per Month

The common response was abundantly two to three shifts per month. Consistent volunteering can be difficult, which is why new volunteers are always appreciated to equally distribute the workload that is carried by the consistent volunteers.



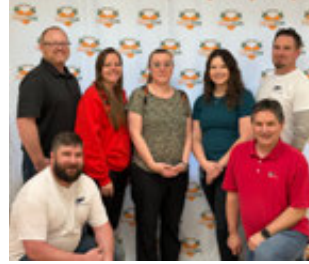
Shout out to our amazing VOLUNTEER GROUPS



**Penn State Shenango
Kitchen Chemistry**



Buhl Club



First National Bank



**Hickory Students
for Charity**



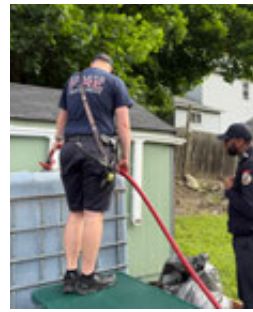
**Synergy Comp
Insurance Company**



**State Rep. Parke
Wentling's Office**



Addison



**Sharon Fire
Department**



Werner



Armstrong Cable



TruFit Financial Services



Grove City Walmart



Mercer County Rotary Clubs



Lady Scouts



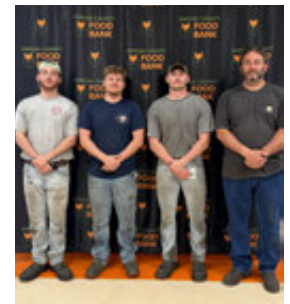
West Middlesex Schools



Serve with Liberty



Boy Scout Troop 45



Sunbelt Solomon

Food Drives & Donors THANK YOU



ABATE Motorcycle Club



Dairy Princess and Promotions



Ben Bissett Chevrolet



Sharon Elks

Get Involved!



Looking for opportunities to get involved? There are many amazing ways you can partner with MCFB to help our neighbors in need! Such as...

- Volunteering
- Hosting a Food Drive
- Donating
- Joining the Carrot Club
- Becoming an Ambassador

Join us in making a difference! Visit mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved

MCFB
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Friday, July 25th from 6-9 pm at Vey's Pub and Grille, 3176 E State St., Hermitage

- 👶 Snap a pic with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch
- 🎄 Sip on Christmas-themed drinks
- 🎵 Enjoy live entertainment and holiday cheer in the middle of summer!
- ❤️ Wear your best festive outfit, bring your family and friends, and let's spread some mid-year magic... **all for a great cause!**

JOIN US FOR A HOLLY JOLLY NIGHT OF FUN, FOOD, AND GIVING BACK!



15% of all proceeds will benefit Mercer County Food Bank to help fight hunger in Mercer County.



Staff, Volunteers & Agencies SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT

Staff Spotlight: Dan Cathcart

What is your role at MCFB?

Warehouse Assistant/Driver

What inspired you to work for the food bank?

I enjoy helping people in need

What is your favorite part of your job?

Driving the trucks

Favorite Food? Sandwiches • Favorite Movie? Jurassic Park 3



WELCOME New Agencies



Ruth AME Zion Church
Sharon, PA



ROAR Center
Sharon, PA



Volunteer Spotlight: Joann Graham

How long have you been volunteering at MCFB?

Since March 2025

What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank?

I saw that there was a need in my community

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

Going to all of the different Mobile Pantry Distributions and Stuff the Truck events

What do you do outside of volunteering?

Go to the gym, listen to live music, and spend time with family.

Favorite Food? Pasta



Stamp out Hunger

Why are postal workers so good at their jobs?

BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS DELIVER!

And deliver they did! On May 10th, during the National Stamp Out Hunger Campaign, our amazing local postal workers collected 5,457 pounds of food—all in one day! As the largest single-day food drive in the country, this effort is no small task. We're incredibly grateful to our postal workers for going the extra mile—literally—by picking up donations along their routes and bringing them back to their post offices. A huge thank you to both the community and our postal heroes for helping feed our neighbors in need!



12 hours of Packing Power!



**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 12-hour event to feed our neighbors!

► Friday, Sept 5th
from 9am-9pm
at the food bank



Call Patty at
724-981-0353x103

Get involved by donating your time, talent, or treasure! Sign up today for **Ready...Set...GO ORANGE!**

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**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

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Make a Donation

[Click here to give online!](#)

Mercer County Food Bank, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is committed to fighting hunger right here in our community. Every dollar donated provides meals to neighbors in need across Mercer County.