



SPRING 2026

# FEEDING HOPE NEWS

## GBU Foundation Grant Awarded

*Thank You for Powering This Win!*

Because of your incredible support, Mercer County Food Bank is proud to share that we have been awarded a grant from the GBU Foundation!

From every nomination to every vote and share, our community showed up in a big way. Thanks to you, MCFB advanced to the final round and ultimately secured a grant totaling \$10,000.

This achievement truly belongs to all of you. Your willingness to take a moment to support our mission will have a lasting impact helping us to provide 20,000 meals to neighbors in need.

We are so grateful to stand alongside a community that cares so deeply.



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# SPRING GREETINGS

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Winchester  
*President*

Matt Fabian  
*Vice President*

Connie Gerba  
*Secretary*

Gary Rose  
*Treasurer*

Ryan Johnson  
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Pastor Terry Harrison

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Gwen Martino

Jim McClusky



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring from all of us at Mercer County Food Bank!

For many of us, spring is a season of hope—filled with growth and new beginnings. But for our neighbors struggling with food insecurity, the season can feel far less bright, marked instead by the daily uncertainty of where their next meal will come from.

In Mercer County, nearly 16,000 people share this worry, including more than 4,600 children. Last year, with your help, MCFB was able to distribute over 3 million pounds of food, including nearly 600,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to neighbors in need of a hand-up.

This year, our focus is on expanding access to food in the neighborhoods with the highest rates of food insecurity. Through a Service Area Assessment, we've identified the five areas of greatest need within the county and are exploring ways to expand services within our network of member agencies. Strategies include offering weekend and evening distribution hours for working families, strengthening school-based programs to ensure no child goes hungry, and bringing our direct distribution programs directly to these communities.

As we continue to expand our capacity to reach all food-insecure neighbors in Mercer County, we ask that you keep the mission of the food bank at the forefront of your mind and join us in the fight against hunger in our community.

Together, we can continue to adapt and grow to best meet the needs of families facing hunger. To learn more about how you can help feed our neighbors, please visit [mercercountyfoodbank.org](http://mercercountyfoodbank.org).

With a grateful heart,

Rebecca Page  
Executive Director

# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

## Introducing MCFB's First Youth Volunteer Ambassador for Feeding America:

### ROWAN COLLINS

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." – Franklin D. Roosevelt*

With that spirit in mind, we are proud to announce Rowan Collins as the first-ever Feeding America Youth Volunteer Ambassador at Mercer County Food Bank. Rowan has been a dedicated MCFB Student Ambassador for the past three years, and it is that commitment and passion that led us to nominate her for this exciting opportunity.

This program empowers teens and young adults to lead the fight against hunger through advocacy, volunteering, and fundraising. As a Youth Ambassador, Rowan will help organize community food drives, support food distribution, raise awareness on social media, and advocate for policies that improve access to nutritious food, such as SNAP benefits and school meal programs. Ambassadors also receive mentorship from Feeding America leaders, helping them grow their leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of food insecurity.

Through this role, Rowan will have a direct, tangible impact on our community by engaging peers, organizing volunteer efforts, and helping raise funds to support families in need. Rowan's dedication, energy, and commitment embody the spirit of service that drives our mission at MCFB.

Join us in congratulating Rowan Collins on this incredible milestone. We are excited to see the difference she will make in fighting hunger and inspiring the next generation of youth volunteers.



FIGHT  
HUNGER  
SPARK CHANGE

Happening now through  
**May 6th** in partnership  
with Feeding America,  
Walmart, and Sam's Club.

This annual effort helps  
local food banks provide  
meals to families facing  
food insecurity through  
in-store donations, online  
contributions, and  
product purchases.

### GET INVOLVED

**1. Donate at Checkout:**  
Round up your receipt or  
give a set amount at  
Walmart and Sam's Club  
registers, or online  
through their apps.

**2. Buy Participating  
Products:** For every  
purchase of a  
participating item in-store  
or online, suppliers  
donate the equivalent of  
at least one meal.

**All funds raised stay in  
OUR community.**



### Become an Ambassador!

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

[ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org) • 724-981-0353 x103



# From Service to Spotlight VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On April 8th, MCFB board members and staff came together to honor the incredible work of our volunteers—because, like mighty dinosaurs, they stomp into action and stand out in the fight against hunger.

Guests joined us for a heartfelt luncheon recognizing the countless hours our volunteers dedicate to the community. We proudly celebrated with our Carrot Club members, Food Bank Ambassadors, and, for the very first time, presented one of our most prestigious awards, the Volunteer Group of the Year Award!

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



## Volunteer Group of the Year

For the first time in history, Mercer County Food Bank selected a group to honor with one of our highest recognitions. To be eligible for induction into the Volunteer Group Hall of Fame, a group must meet very strict criteria such as being a current volunteer team, having served for at least five years with multiple shifts in the past year, demonstrating initiative and leadership, and supporting the mission of Mercer County Food Bank.

We are proud to announce the 2026 Volunteer Group of the Year: George Junior Republic. Over the years, this volunteer group has dedicated countless hours to MCFB, setting a positive example of service, teamwork, and commitment that truly inspires our community.

# Fill Carts **Fill Hearts**



## Community Comes Together for **National Good Samaritan Day**

In honor of National Good Samaritan Day, our community came together in a powerful way to support neighbors facing hunger across Mercer County. Through the generosity of local shoppers and supporters, our Fill Hearts, Fill Carts food drive was a tremendous success collecting a total of 2,125 pounds of food for families in need.

This first-time event exceeded expectations and served as a reminder that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference. Whether it was picking up an extra item at the store or stopping to learn more about food insecurity in our community, each contribution helped strengthen our collective impact.



The food drive took place March 13–15 at several local retailers, including D’Onofrio’s Food Center and Giant Eagle in Hermitage, Grove City County Market, and Walmart locations in Hermitage, Greenville, and Grove City. At each site, community members stepped up to help “fill carts” with essential food items that will go directly to individuals and families throughout Mercer County.

While this event may be over, the need continues—and so does the opportunity to make a difference. If you weren’t able to participate in person, you can still support our mission by making a donation online at [mercercountyfoodbank.org](http://mercercountyfoodbank.org).

And this is just the beginning! Fill Hearts, Fill Carts was a first-time event, and we’re already looking forward to it growing even bigger next year. Stay tuned!



## Stuff the Truck *Let’s Fill It Up!*

We’ve got several Stuff the Truck food drives coming up—and we need your help to make them a success! Stop past these participating stores or bring a few nonperishable items to donate. It’s a quick, easy way to support neighbors facing hunger across Mercer County—and every item makes a difference.

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**D’Onofrio’s, Hermitage**

**Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Walt’s, Mercer**

**Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Giant Eagle, Hermitage**

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Walmart, Grove City**

**Saturday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**County Market, Grove City**

**Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Greenville Walmart**

Most needed items include: canned vegetables, soup, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, and other shelf-stable staples. Every donation helps put food on the table for local families.

***Thank you for showing up and helping us make a real impact!***



# Fork Lifters, Meal Makers & CARROT CLUB HEROES

**MCFB Launches Our First-Ever Monthly Giving Program!**



That's right we are officially rolling out Fork Lifters and Meal Makers our new monthly giving program designed to make a huge impact in Mercer County and YOU'RE one of the first to know! Every gift creates a steady source of hope and nourishment for neighbors in need. Together, we can make sure no one goes hungry in Mercer County!

*Curious how one gift can do so much?* Scan the QR code and see how just one monthly donation can provide multiple meals to children, families, and seniors across our community. Join Fork Lifters or Meal Makers today and start making a difference—one meal at a time (and yes, that's multiple meals!)



## 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



[ Your logo here ]



### Root Sponsors



### Sprout Sponsors

JB Winner and Family • Primary Health Network • In Honor of Harper, Palmer, Landry, and Owen

### Seedling Sponsors

Giant Eagle, JCL Energy, Jones Performance Products Inc., Quota of Hermitage, Sunbelt Solomon

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

# On the forefront of FIGHTING HUNGER

## Thank You for Making (un)Hungry a Success!

Highmark's (un)Hungry campaign recently concluded, and we are thrilled to celebrate its impact across Pennsylvania. This community-driven initiative, part of Highmark's multi-state commitment to fighting food insecurity, brought together employees, volunteers, and supporters to ensure families had access to nutritious food during the holiday season.



The campaign kicked off at a Pittsburgh Penguins game, bringing the community together to raise awareness and support for local food banks. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this campaign possible—your time, energy, and support helped bring hope and 10,628 nourishing meals to neighbors across Pennsylvania.



### New Mobile Pantry Sites

Starting February 1, 2026, Mercer County Food Bank hit the road once again with our Mobile Pantry program, expanding to two new locations in Hermitage and Reynolds. These sites were added alongside our existing location in Greenville following a service area assessment that identified areas with the highest need but the lowest access to food throughout the county.

#### 📍 Hermitage, PA

Sharon Baptist Church  
1531 George St.  
Hermitage

**from 11am–1pm**  
*or until supplies last*

- May 7      • Sept 3
- June 4    • Oct 1
- July 2    • Nov 5
- Aug 6     • Dec 3

#### 📍 Greenville, PA

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

**from 11am–1pm**  
*or until supplies last*

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

#### 📍 Transfer, PA

Reynolds Elementary School • 1609 Brentwood Dr.  
Greenville

**from 11am–1pm**  
*or until supplies last*

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

*Follow us on social media for mobile pantry reminders and updates!*

## Stamp Out Hunger



**Save the date for Saturday, May 9th** and join the US Postal Service in its mission to combat food insecurity!

*You can participate in this collection from the comfort of your own home.*

**Here's how it works:** Simply fill a bag or box with non-perishable food items and place them at your mailbox. Local mail carriers will not only deliver your mail but also collect and return your donation of non-perishable food items to the food bank. Once returned, the food is sorted and equitably distributed throughout the county to our low-moderate income neighbors in need.

**Together we can Stamp Out Hunger!**

# Impacting Mercer County MILESTONES & MOVERS



## Register Campaign

Now through May 20, Giant Eagle shoppers can support our cause with donations in increments of \$2, \$5, \$10, or any amount they choose. Donations can also be made when ordering through Curbside, via the website or app. Donations can also be made at GetGo inside checkout lanes, self-checkout stations, or through automatic pump prompts at the fuel pumps.

**Thanks for your support – every contribution helps provide meals for neighbors in need!**

Mercer County Food Bank is proud to support local partners and celebrate growth across Mercer County. From new programs to expanded services, these ribbon-cutting moments mark exciting milestones, and we are honored to be part of the journey.



**West Middlesex School Pantry**



**First Baptist Church**



**Grace Chapel Community Church**



**Community Counseling Center**



**Sharpville School Pantry**

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Lisa Sutch**



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

*What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank?* I retired and was looking for a way to get involved in something.

*What is your favorite part of volunteering?* I love the distribution best - I also like sorting food, stacking boxes and LOVE meeting new people through volunteering.

*What do you do outside of volunteering?* I have a “summer” Jeep I love to cruise in. I also go to camp, hike, swim, ride motorcycles, workout at the gym, walk at the park, go to summer concerts and LOVE going to the BEACH!

*Do you have any creative talents/special interests?* I like crafts such as painting rocks, tie-dye and going to sip and paints.

*Favorite Food:* Cookies • *Favorite Movie:* *We Were Soldiers*

# MCFB is ON THE MOVE



## Giant Eagle Pharmacy Grand Opening

Staff was excited to celebrate with the Giant Eagle team for the opening of their new Greenville Pharmacy on Main Street, where they generously presented a \$2,500 donation to the Food Bank. This meaningful gift is an investment in our neighbors and helps address food insecurity in our community, where many families face limited access to fresh, affordable food. We are grateful for partners like Giant Eagle who continue to strengthen our community.



**Mercer County Builder's Association Home Show at Hickory VFW**



**Sharpsville Gardens Children's Development Center**



**Power Northwest Launch**



**St. Patrick's Day Parade**



**Tom and Bailey in Chicago**



**Artman Elementary School Care Fair**



**Bowl Throwdown at HopeCAT**



**M & R Power Equipment Orange Days**



**HopeCat Leadership Academy**

Join us for a 5K run, 2-mile walk, and Kids Fun Run, followed by a personal pie for all participants and a pie-eating contest after the race!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026**

**Training & Workforce Development Center at LindenPointe**



Registrations Open and Sponsorships Available!

Mercer County Food Bank operates as the lead agency in the fight against hunger. With more than 15,000 residents, including 4,300 children struggling with food insecurity, we need your help to bridge the gap. Won't you consider putting your best foot forward to End Hunger within Mercer County?

### TIME

7:00am – Registration begins  
8:30am – Kid's Fun Run begins  
9:00am – Run/Walk begins

### FEE

Includes Race T-Shirt  
(registrations received after Monday, July 13, 2026 cannot be guaranteed a shirt.)  
• \$20 pre-registration.  
• \$22 same-day registration.

### AWARDS

- Top Male & Female overall
- Top M&F Masters (50 +)
- Top 3 M&F by Age Group: 9 & under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 +
- Kid's Fun Run (5 years and under) participants will receive a ribbon

### SPONSORSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors over the years, the "Race to End Hunger" has raised over \$340,000! As a business partner and friend, we hope you will join us as a sponsor in celebration of 15 years of *Racing to End Hunger!*

- **Elite Sponsor - \$5,000+**
- **Gold Sponsor - \$2,500**
- **Silver Sponsor - \$1,000**
- **Bronze Sponsor - \$500**

*All sponsorships/ads/logos must be received by July 13th to be guaranteed placement on t-shirt and mile markers.*

### SIGN UP TODAY



Contact Patty Tucker, Development Manager, at [ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org) or 724-981-0353 x103

**TEAMS WELCOME**

### REGISTRATION

Scan QR code or go to [runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com)



Preregistration ends Friday, July 24th

# THANK YOU

## Volunteers, Donors, Food Drive Organizers

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteer groups, donors, and food drive organizers, we're able to make a meaningful impact across Mercer County. Your commitment helps bring food, hope, and support to neighbors facing hunger every day. *We're grateful for you!*

## VOLUNTEER GROUPS



**Dead Possums Riding Club**



**Castle Canning**



**Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield**



**Wabtec**

## FOOD DRIVE



**Faith Community Church**

## DONORS



**Shenango Valley Charitable Fund**



**First National Bank**



**Dairy Princess**



**The Addison of Garden Way Place**



## Get Involved!

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

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Host a Food Drive
- Become a Fork Lifter or Meal Maker
- Join the Carrot Club
- Become an Ambassador

Learn more at [mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved](http://mercercountyfoodbank.org/getinvolved)

# Myron's Meal Mobile

*is coming to your neighborhood!*



This summer MCFB is hitting the road for its 6<sup>th</sup> summer to provide hot nutritious meals weekdays beginning June 8th and ending August 14th. The retrofitted school bus will be serving lunches daily from 11:30am–1:00pm (*or while supplies last*) at the following locations:

- Mondays at Hillside Presbyterian Church, Greenville
- Tuesdays at Tower Church, Grove City
- Wednesdays at Mark Twain Manor, Jamestown
- Thursdays at Stey Nevant Library, Farrell
- Fridays at the Buhl Club, Sharon



## MCFB Staff Contact Info

### Yahsar Ahmaed

*Operations Manager*

yahmaed@mercercountyfoodbank.org

724-981-0353 x104

### Daniel Cathcart

*Warehouse Associate*

### Tom Doyle

*Director of Operations*

tdoyle@mercercountyfoodbank.org

724-981-0353 x107

### Rebecca Page

*Executive Director*

rpage@mercercountyfoodbank.org

### Bailey Shepard

*Strategic Partnerships & Programs Manager*

bshepard@mercercountyfoodbank.org

724-981-0353 x105

### Stacey Sindlinger

*Repack Coordinator*

### Alexis Spence-Locke

*Director of Development*

alocke@mercercountyfoodbank.org

724-981-0353 x108

### Jimmy Thompson

*Warehouse Associate*

### Samantha Tofani

*Administrative Assistant*

stofani@mercercountyfoodbank.org

724-981-0353


### Patty Tucker


*Development Manager*


ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org


724-981-0353 x103

## Follow Us on Social Media

 @mercercountyfoodbank

 @mercercountyfoodbank

 @mercerfoodbank

 @mercer-county-food-bank

## 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.