



FALL 2026

FEEDING HOPE NEWS

Turning Awareness **Into Action**

THIS HUNGER ACTION MONTH, we've been reminded of something we see every day, which is that hunger exists right here in Mercer County, but so does hope.

For thousands of our neighbors, putting nutritious food on the table isn't always easy. But across our community, **YOU** have continued to step forward, giving your time, talent, and treasure to make sure our neighbors know they are not alone.

Whether through volunteering, donating, hosting a food drive, wearing orange, or simply starting a conversation about hunger, you **HAVE THE POWER TO** turn awareness into action.

Together, we can **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** for thousands of our neighbors facing hunger right here at home.



THIS ISSUE

Letter from Executive Director, Rebecca Page

Young Hearts, Big Impact

Ready... Set.. GO ORANGE!!

Hunger Action Month /
Hunger Action Day

Pie Day 5K • 16th Race to End Hunger

Together We Can

Carrot Club

Stuff the Truck

PA Day

Volunteer & Donor Spotlight

MCFB On the Move

Myron's Meal Mobile

Bingo Lingo

Most Needed Items

MCFB Contact Information

FALL 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

Pastor Terry Harrison

Bernie Harry

Rev. Glenn Hink

Tifinie LaComb

Gwen Martino

Jim McClusky



Dear Friends,

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded that one of Mercer County's greatest strengths is the way our community shows up for one another. Yet the need remains great: 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 5 children in Mercer County face food insecurity. Thank you for standing with us to ensure no neighbor goes hungry.

As we reflect on the past few months, we are proud to share the impact you've helped make possible:

- Served 6,000 meals through Myron's Meal Mobile this summer, bringing the program's total to nearly 35,000 meals served.
- Hosted our annual Race to End Hunger at LindenPointe, rallying our community around the fight against hunger and raising enough funds to provide nearly 50,000 meals.
- Fully transitioned our child hunger programming from the Backpack Program to a School Pantry model, allowing us to reach 364% more children—now serving more than 4,000 children each month!
- Engaged over 100 volunteers during our 3rd annual Ready, Set, Go Orange – 12 hours of packing power event, while expanding our Hunger Action Month outreach with two additional food collection sites at Walmart and D'Onofrio's in Hermitage.

Most importantly, because of your generosity, Mercer County Food Bank provides food to more than 14,000 neighbors each month, helping families, children, seniors, and individuals throughout our community put nutritious food on their tables.

As you prepare for what we hope will be a joyous holiday season, we invite you to keep Mercer County Food Bank and the neighbors who rely on our services close to your heart. Every meal, every donation, and every act of kindness makes a difference.

Together, we can make sure no one in Mercer County has to wonder where their next meal will come from.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Page
Executive Director



Young Hearts BIG IMPACT

Kids Helping Kids proved once again that there's no age requirement for making a difference! Young volunteers from across Mercer County stepped up to support neighbors facing hunger. From sports teams and community organizations to childcare centers, summer programs, families, and individual helpers, kids found their own unique ways to give back.

This year, their efforts collected an incredible 1,763 pounds of food and raised \$1,814.74 for Mercer County Food Bank!

We are so proud of these young community champions and grateful to the parents, coaches, teachers, and organizations helping them discover the importance of giving back at an early age.



And this is only the beginning! We're continuing to create new ways for kids and teens to get involved with the food bank, including our Student Ambassador Program, which gives young leaders an opportunity to represent MCFB, raise awareness about hunger, and make an impact in their schools and communities.

Stay tuned for even more ways our youngest hunger heroes can get involved!



Become a Student Volunteer Ambassador!

Want to make a difference, meet new people, build your leadership skills, and have a little fun along the way? Join our Student Volunteer Ambassador Program! As an ambassador, you'll help spread the word about our mission, get involved in exciting events, and inspire others to make a difference in our community.

Contact Patty to get started: ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org • 724-981-0353 x103

Ready... Set... GO ORANGE!!

Ready... Set... GO ORANGE!! returned for a third incredible year, bringing our community together for 12 hours of Packing Power in celebration of Hunger Action Month!

Throughout the day, over 100 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to pack food, learn more about hunger in Mercer County, and help the food bank prepare for the busy months ahead. What began in 2024 as a new way to turn Hunger Action Month awareness into action has quickly become one of our favorite days of the year.

This year, we expanded the action beyond the food bank walls by hosting not one but two Stuff the Van events at Hermitage Walmart and D'Onofrio's Food Center, giving our community even more ways to participate throughout the day. Our neighbors once again answered the call, helping us collect 2,198 pounds of food which equates to 1,831 meals for our neighbors facing hunger.



From the volunteers who packed alongside us to the businesses, restaurants, organizations, shoppers, and community partners who supported us throughout the day, RSGO was truly a community-wide effort.

William James once said, *"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."* For 12 hours, Mercer County proved just that.

Every box packed, every item donated, and every hour given made a difference. Together, our community turned awareness into action and showed what it means to fight hunger and feed hope.



30 Days of Taking Action HUNGER ACTION MONTH

30 Ways In 30 Days

This Hunger Action Month, Mercer County showed there's no single way to fight hunger! Through our 30 Ways in 30 Days campaign, businesses, organizations, and community partners across the county stepped up throughout September to turn awareness into action.

From food drives and fundraisers to matching gifts, special promotions, advocacy, and wearing orange, each participant brought their own creativity to the fight against hunger. Together, they created a month filled with opportunities for our entire community to get involved. Every collection, donation, conversation, and act of support added up, proving that when everyone does something, together we can do so much.

Thank you to every business, organization and individual who helped us turn 30 days into 30 ways to FIGHT HUNGER and FEED HOPE!



Hunger Action Day

Orange You Hungry to Make a Difference?

On September 29, Mercer County once again went ORANGE for **Hunger Action Day**, raising awareness about food insecurity and showing support for our neighbors throughout the county.

This year, we added a new ingredient to the day! In addition to encouraging our community to wear orange, we invited our neighbors to dine out and give back. Local restaurant partners joined in the effort by donating a portion of the day's sales to the food bank. Friends, families, and coworkers filled tables across the county knowing their meal would mean more than just a night out, it would help put food on another neighbor's table.

A special thank you to **Primanti Bros., Chipotle, Hot Head Burritos, and Padrone's Pizza** for answering our call and helping make our first Dine to Donate Hunger Action Day a success. We're grateful for local businesses that continue to find creative ways to give back to their community.

And an equally big thank you to everyone who went ORANGE! From businesses and organizations to staff, supporters, and neighbors across Mercer County, every orange shirt, photo shared, meal enjoyed, and conversation had helped shine a brighter light on hunger in our community.



PIE DAY 5K

16th Race to End Hunger

Runners and walkers once again hit the pavement for Mercer County Food Bank's 16th Annual Race to End Hunger-Pie Day 5K, bringing our community together once again for a morning of fun, fitness, and fighting hunger!



Leading the pack this year was Levi Moon, who crossed the finish line in first place with an impressive time of 20 minutes, 18 seconds. As our overall first-place finisher, Levi received tickets to the Erie Zoo!

A special shoutout to the City of Farrell, who showed up in a BIG way and earned bragging rights as this year's largest Race to End Hunger team! Thank you for rallying together and showing what it looks like when a community steps up for its neighbors.

And because it was Pie Day, the fun didn't stop at the finish line! Participants and spectators enjoyed a pie-eating contest, adding a little friendly (and delicious) competition to the morning.

Most importantly, all those steps added up to incredible impact! Together, this year's race raised \$24,932.35, helping Mercer County Food Bank provide approximately 49,865 meals for neighbors facing hunger throughout our community.

Thank you to every runner, walker, volunteer, sponsor, and supporter who joined us. From racing to the finish line to racing to finish a pie, every moment helped move us closer to a hunger-free Mercer County!



Thank you 2026 Race Sponsors!

ELITE SPONSORS

All Good Things Thrift Shoppe • Anderson Coach & Travel • Keel Infrastructure
• New Deal Club • Reynolds Services Inc
• Sharon Tube

GOLD SPONSOR

Diehl Toyota of Hermitage • First Energy Foundation • Jim Winner & Family

SILVER SPONSORS

A gift made in honor of Harper, Palmer, Landry and Owen • Allegheny Health Network, Grove City • HHS DR Architects/Engineers Primary Health Network • Reinhardt's Insurance Agency

BRONZE SPONSORS

21st Century Energy Group • Amerihealth Caritas • Black Bashor and Porsch • Bonner Realty Combined Systems, Inc. • Confluence Financial Partners • DJ's Greenhouse Donatelli Electric • Eckley's Appliance Center Fairview Swiss Cheese • Fellowship Manor First National Bank • Giant Eagle • Gilbert's Risk Solutions • Greenville Moose Family Center Lodge #276 • Grove City Area Federal Credit Union • Grove City County Market Imperial Systems • Jamestown Coating Technologies • JCL Energy • Jones Performance • Joy Cone Co. • Kraynak's Lauri Fauerbach Adams & Christopher Adams Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union • Mercer County Veterans Services NexTier Bank • Panera Bread • Penn State Shenango • Quota Club of Hermitage Roczek & Associates • Sharon American Legion Auxiliary Unit Post 299 • Sons of Italy Shenango Valley #875 • St. John's Orthodox Church • Sunbelt Solomon • UPMC Horizon & UPMC Jameson

RACE SUPPORTERS

Ano & Co. Photography • Baughman Family Community Center • C&K Party Rentals Card My Yard Boardman • Craig Family Orthodontics • EmCee2 • Hermitage Fire Department • Hermitage Walmart • J&S Toilet Rentals • Minuteman Press • Parkhurst Dining Roemer Industries

Together, We're Fighting Hunger & FEEDING HOPE


giant eagle

 getGo CAFE MARKET

**Full Plates
Zero Waste**

Now through
December 24th
while shopping at
Giant Eagle, GetGo
and Giant Eagle
Pharmacy please
consider making a
donation at
checkout!

Donations can be
made at checkout,
curbside, and online.



TOGETHER WE CAN

FOOD AND
FUNDS DRIVE

*It takes a community
to feed a community.*

We're calling on neighbors, businesses, and community groups to
join us in ensuring every family has access to nourishing food.

..... HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Participating in the *Together We Can* County-wide food drive initiative.
2. Making a monetary donation to support bulk food purchases.
3. Volunteering time to help sort and pack food boxes for distribution.
4. Reaching out directly to local food pantries to offer assistance.

Now enrolling... Carrot Club 2027!

A special thank you to our 2026 Carrot Club members whose year-round commitment helps Mercer County Food Bank dig deeper and address the root causes of hunger in our community. Your generosity and partnership help create meaningful change that extend far beyond the food we distribute.

As we look toward the year ahead, Carrot Club membership is now open for 2027! Businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to join this dedicated group of supporters and help us continue getting to the root of hunger in Mercer County.



Stuffing the Truck & SHOWING UP

SAVE THE DATE

Truck-Full of Hope

FOOD DRIVE

Kick-off will be
Monday, November
2nd at noon.



DIEHL
AUTOMOTIVE

2757 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA

Help feed our neighbors in need.
Bring a bag filled with non-
perishable food items to Diehl
and let's fill the truck with hope!

Stuff the Truck *with hope*

Throughout the year, MCFB partners with local businesses and organizations to host Stuff the Truck events, giving our community an easy way to help keep our shelves stocked for neighbors facing hunger.

This spring and summer, we popped up at Walt's in Mercer, Grove City County Market, and Hermitage Giant Eagle collecting an incredible **7,658 pounds of food!**

A huge thank you to our grocery partners, volunteers, and every shopper who added a can, box, or bag to the truck.

Join us for our next Stuff the Truck at Walmart in Greenville on Saturday, November 7th and be sure to help us fill the truck at Diehl in Hermitage for the holidays!

Every donation helps keep nutritious food within reach for our neighbors across Mercer County.



Grove City County Market



Walt's in Mercer



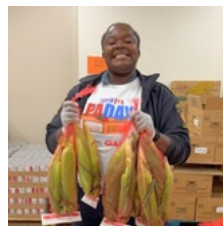
Hermitage Giant Eagle

PA DAY

Showing Up for Our Community

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for PA Day and chose to celebrate through service! We loved welcoming volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and gave their time to help feed neighbors right here in Mercer County.

Days like this remind us just how much can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose and we're already looking forward to next year and another opportunity to come together, give back, and show what Pennsylvania's spirit of service is all about!



SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT

Donors & Volunteers Making a Difference

thank you VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Volunteer Spotlight



Terry Wilson



**HBK CPA's and
Consultants**



**First National
Bank Interns**



**Mercer County
Democratic Committee**



**Primary Health
Network**

How long have you been volunteering at MCFB? For about 1 year

What inspired you to volunteer at the food bank? I was always interested to learn more about the food bank. My cousin Joann started volunteering and asked if I wanted to help out. After the 1st time, I knew this was truly making a difference in so many lives! I wanted to do more.

What is your favorite part of volunteering? Helping with the need in my community and all of the wonderful people I have met. They are truly like family!

What do you do outside of volunteering? I spend time with my family especially my kids and grandkids. We camp, enjoy our pool in the summer and spend a couple of months in Florida in the winter.

Do you have any creative talents/special interests? I enjoy decorating and also do some crafting.

Favorite Food: Anywhere Italian

DONORS



**The Brotherhood
082020**



**Dead Possums
Riding Club**



**Hermitage
Walmart**



**Mercer County
State Bank**

MCFB is ON THE MOVE



MCFB Takes the Stage in Chicago!

Alexis Spence-Locke and Patty Tucker presented at Feeding America's 2026 Philanthropy Conference in Chicago, sharing strategies on *Activating Your Board* and *Attracting Younger Donors* while connecting with more than 500 fundraising professionals from across the network.



Buhl Day Parade



Give A Dog A Bone Day



Barn Party



Oasis Ribbon Cutting



Mercer County Housing Authority Ribbon Cutting

Around the Network

There's always something happening across MCFB's network! Here are a few updates and milestones from our community partners!

- ECS – Welcoming new coordinator Barb Suzanaha.
- Good Shepherd – Marks 35 years of service to Greenville
- Orangeville Baptist – Launching a new Mobile Pantry distribution at Sharpsville Plaza.
- Prince of Peace – Launching Walking with Moms and expanding Q Academy.



AWARE – Celebrating a new building and expanded space to serve the community.



Bethany Presbyterian – Named Nonprofit of the Year by the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce



SV YMCA Healthy Kids Day



Sharon Farmers Market



McGonigle Ambulance Community Day



Grove City YMCA Ribbon Cutting



Hermitage Athletic Complex Ribbon Cutting

MCFB is ON THE MOVE *(continued)*



**Grove City Chamber
Quartly Meeting**



**Michelle Brooks Senior
Expo**



**Grove City Chamber
Networking Event**



**Parke Wentling
Senior Expo**



**Valley Baptist Senior
Citizens Fun Group**



Sharon Family Night



Diversified Lunch



PSU Health Fair



Meet me on Main



Aware Walk



Chamber Lunch & Learns



All over Mercer County!

If you were out and about in Mercer County this summer, you may have spotted Myron's Meal Mobile rolling into a community near you!



For 10 weeks, our meal bus traveled throughout the county, bringing free, nutritious meals directly to children and families. This summer, Myron's served approximately 6,000 meals, bringing the total to nearly 35,000 meals served since the bus first hit the road in 2021!

Every stop along the way was made possible by the volunteers, donors, partners, and communities who help keep Myron's wheels turning. We're incredibly grateful for their continued support and commitment to making sure children have access to nutritious food when school is out.

So, Where's Myron? This summer, the answer was simple: on the road, in OUR community! Nearly 35,000 meals were served and plenty more miles to go!

Mercer County Food Bank Presents:



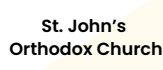
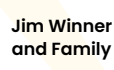
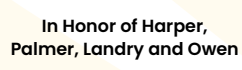
Friday, December 4, 2026 • 6pm–9pm (doors open at 5pm)
@ St. Bartholomew Church, 311 West Ridge Ave, Sharpsville PA

- ✦ Test your song knowledge with a unique spin on bingo
- ✦ Win high-ticket prize items
- ✦ Enjoy games, surprises and more!
- ✦ 1 Bingo Sheet included with admission

Additional bingo sheets + additional game participation will be available at the door!



Brought to you by these 2026 Carrot Club Members



✦ Additional Sponsorship Opportunities Available! ✦

Game of Chance Sponsor: \$2,500 • Lingo Sponsor: \$1,000 • Bingo Sponsor: \$500

Each sponsorship level offers unique perks for your organization while provided meals for our neighbors!

SPACE IS LIMITED! DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact Patty Tucker at 724-981-0353 or ptucker@mercercountyfoodbank.org to learn more about sponsorship and to reserve your tickets today!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Help stock the shelves with our highest needs...

Most needed FOOD items:

- Canned vegetables (especially low salt/no salt)
- Canned stews or soups
- Canned tuna, chicken, and ham
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta and Rice
- Seasonings
- Cereal
- Canned fruits (in own juice)
- 100% juices



We'll also take NON-FOOD items, such as:

- Can openers
- Laundry and Dish Detergent
- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Diapers
- Soap
- Shampoo



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

MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK STAFF CONTACT

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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.