

MISSION

The Chester County Food Bank is Dedicated to our Mission to Mobilize our Community to Ensure Access to Real, Healthy Food.

Volunteers dug in giving the equivalent of 1,565 eight-hour workdays.

Great Impact through Generosity, Grace and Grit in 2021



At a time where we see so much division in our country, I feel grateful and hopeful after seeing and experiencing the outpouring of support and collaboration from our community over the past year.

Thank you!

Our impact has never been greater, and it is the direct result of the **generosity** of our donors, **grace** from our

committed partner agencies and the **grit** of our dedicated volunteers and staff. We have risen to the challenge placed before us with innovative solutions to fulfill our mission to ensure access to real, healthy food.

With the help of friends like you, we have strengthened our network's infrastructure, adding over 40 new agency partners resulting in the coordinated strength of 160 hunger relief partners. We have increased food distribution to 3.5 million pounds and boosted the amount of fresh produce to 50% of our total distribution.

It will take years for families, seniors, and veterans to recover from the significant and lasting impact of the pandemic. One thing is for certain, we will remain deeply rooted in our community and I am confident that, with your continued support, we will be able to achieve our vision for a food secure Chester County.

With your help we are making a difference in Chester County. Again, Thank you!

Respectfully,

Andrea Youndt

Chief Executive Officer







"CCFB is an example of the kind of deep and lasting partnership that has made The Whitehall such a success. The partnership highlights the importance of providing affordable veteran's housing with a network of connections, resources, and support. The Whitehall staff are incredibly grateful for all that the CCFB has made possible at Whitehall."



Building Capacity through our Community Network

Our research* tells us that pantry visitors are significantly more likely to be food secure when their local pantry has the capacity to supply healthy and culturally inclusive foods.

We have worked closely with our network of agency partners to increase their capacity to provide not just more food but healthier food, establishing more partners along the way.

We strengthened the infrastructure of our community agency network by investing nearly 13 times more dollars in grants, supported by government funding and private donations, for food-storage to:

- ✓ Increase the amount of food distributed to people in need
- ✓ Increase production of "heat & eat" meals, distributing 100,000 meals
- ✓ Increase proportion of fruits & vegetables
- Enhance food safety and reduce food waste

From new commercial refrigerators and freezers to shelving, utility carts and tables, we were able to provide 52 of our agencies with essential equipment.

*Source: Berger, Sartain, Klassen, Addressing Community Needs through a Participatory Food Security Assessment

Serving Our Veterans



Through grant monies, CCFB was able to fund The Whitehall Veterans Apartment Community's onsite

pantry and community kitchen; provide technology and software to manage the pantry and build garden beds including elevated beds for wheelchair accessibility.

Increased number of agencies in our network to 160+

400% increase in meals

Distributed **3.5 million lbs.** of food = **2.9 million meals**

50% of the food distributed is fresh fruits & vegetables



"I like the super tasty recipes – very tempting and delicious. Every visit to the market is a food adventure!" – Fresh2You customer





Increasing Fresh Food Distribution

Despite the limitations of rising food costs and the temporary lack of a volunteer force, we distributed 20% more fruits and vegetables, increasing our fresh proportion to half of our total food distribution.

- According to our Community Food Security Assessment, fresh produce is the most requested item among those visiting food pantries.
- Our education and wellness teams work collaboratively with our farm and garden staff to grow and source culturally inclusive food for program participants.
- After receiving Fruit & Vegetable prescriptions (collaborative program with Fresh2You Mobile Market & local health care providers), three times as many participants reported excellent physical health.



1.7 million pounds of **local produce** distributed:

39% from Pennsylvania

 $18^{\it \%} \ {\it from Chester County}$

6% Grown by CCFB Farms & Gardens



"I like that it feels like a family – like a little side family that you don't necessarily pick but you guys are like an Eat Fresh family so it's just wonderful!" – Fresh2You customer





In addition to our online library of recipes, cooking and gardening programs are available in English and Spanish. Visit chestercountyfoodbank.org/recipes to get inspired in the kitchen!







Going Beyond Hunger

Our Education & Wellness programs continued to skillfully adapt to accommodate safety guidelines while maintaining their strong impact. Throughout the pandemic, the team revamped its services to include robust online and virtual workshops for children, seniors, and families, including:

- **Eat Fresh** cooking classes that coordinated with CSA-style produce boxes
- Fresh2You Mobile Market travels throughout Chester County to improve fresh food access and to offer food and nutrition education
- Seed to Supper gardening courses
- **FRESHstart Kitchen** workforce development

70% of customers said they $made\ a\ recipe$ offered at Fresh2You Mobile Market

63% of market customers **are cooking more** after shopping at Fresh2You Mobile Market

Top 5 Reasons Customers Enjoy Shopping at Fresh2You Mobile Market

- 1 LOCAL PRODUCE
- 2 GOOD PRICES
- **3** WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
- 4 EASY TO GET TO
- **5** WEEKLY RECIPE BUNDLE

To make fresh, local produce accessible to all, Fresh2You matches SNAP/EBT (food stamps) with CCFB Veggie Bucks, a form of currency that can be used for more fruits and vegetables. Nearly 70% of purchases are made using a form of food assistance.

LIVING WAGE FOR A FAMILY
OF FOUR WITH TWO WORKING
PARENTS IN CHESTER COUNTY

\$87,817

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator

ELIGIBILITY GAP

57%

OF FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS IN CHESTER COUNTY ARE INELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THEIR INCOME IS TOO HIGH

Source: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap

\$34,068

THE ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD TO RECEIVE SNAP/EBT (FOOD STAMPS) FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR LIVING IN PENNSYLVANIA

HOW WE WORK

FOOD
is donated, grown, or
purchased using monetary
donations & grant monies.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS work to organize, process &

cook food for our partner agencies and programs.

food and meals through our programs & to our hunger relief partners (like food cupboards) who provide food to people in need.

EDUCATE
through our wellness programs
to go beyond hunger.





Food Insecurity in Chester County

It costs a Chester County family of four \$3,723 more per year to pay food expenses when compared to the Pennsylvania state average of \$13,884.

Source: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap

BARRIERS TO FOOD SECURITY

Source: Berger, Sartain, Klassen, Addressing Community Needs through a Participatory Food Security Assessment



HIGH COST OF LIVING

"If my income's too high, how come I can't live off it?"

- Service Recipient



TRANSPORTATION

"There are some areas in Chester County without even a basic bus service. Chester County was built for automobiles."

Service Recipient



STIGMA

"Not everyone wants to share if they can't get food; we don't know if friends or family are struggling because they don't talk about it."

- Community Partner



FEAR OF IMMIGRATION STATUS EXPOSURE

"We have seen cases where kids will go to school with their suitcases because they are afraid that if they go back home their parents won't be there, so they are ready to stay with someone else."

- Community Partner





"We are so incredibly proud of the amount of food our garden was able to produce during our first full year. It's even more amazing considering we did it through the pandemic. We could not have supported our community without your assistance!"

– Kennett Middle School Giving Garden





Growing Community through Farms & Gardens

With many food cupboards unable to safely host volunteers and accept produce donations, our partner gardens found unique ways to distribute produce within their communities such as home deliveries.

Due to the growing interest of gardening and the social distancing restrictions, we continued to supply grow at home kits so community members could safely garden at home. Nearly **500 'three season' container gardening kits** included seedlings, soil, pots, gloves, and instructions on how to grow your own vegetables were distributed through our education and wellness programs.

Our Farming initiative provides the freshest food for our programs with the help of an industrious volunteer base on the farm and in the processing kitchen.

At our partner farm sites, Springton Manor Farm and Pete's Produce Farm, our staff and volunteers grow 100,000+ pounds of vegetables seasonally. We also support our network of local farms and producers by purchasing additional fruits, vegetables, and other goods, to offer our communities the best in seasonal produce and locally made products.

VOLUNTEERS FY 2020-21



12,524

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

70 varieties of fruits and vegetables offered at Fresh2You

78% of Fresh2You customers say they are eating more vegetables because of the market

Investing in Our Community

We know that the ripple effect of the pandemic will be long lasting for our neighbors in need. Moving forward our concern is having the resources to meet the needs once food insecurity is out of the public spotlight. With that in mind, we affirm our commitment to our vision to build an equitable and food secure Chester County.

As neighbors continue to demonstrate resilience and strength in the wake of the pandemic, the Chester County Food Bank is committed to helping our neighbors facing hunger have the nourishing meals they need.

Your support is vital to our success to:

- Sustain a high volume and variety of real, healthy food for our network of community partners
- Sustain enhancements and accommodate growth of education and wellness programs
- Maintain and strengthen the food-storage infrastructure of our agencies
- ✓ Develop long term solutions for addressing the root causes of food insecurity

THANK YOU DONORS

We could not have
weathered the
year without you.
Thank you for being
rooted in our community.



WITH OUR BUYING POWER, YOUR INVESTMENT CAN PROVIDE NEARLY 5X AS MUCH FOOD TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.



Thank you to Our Donors

\$100,000+

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\$50,000+

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For a complete list of donors, visit ChesterCountyFoodBank.org/financials

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this impact report. We would appreciate notification of any errors or omissions in order to correct our records. Please contact us with any necessary changes at give@ChesterCountyFoodBank.org or call 610-873-6000 ext. 104.



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Source and Use of Funds

The impact of the Chester County Food Bank extends beyond putting food on the table.

We distribute food to those in need with the goal of not only providing nourishment but also reducing the hardship in making difficult financial choices such as deciding between paying for medicine or paying for groceries. Your investment in local hunger relief efforts helps fuel our vision of a food secure Chester County.

With your help we are going beyond hunger.



