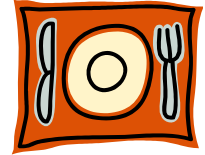
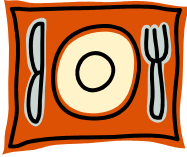


# Bringing More to the Table

Formerly Land of Plenty

## Greater Berks Food Bank

May 2015



### Our Staff:

Peg Bianca,  
Executive Director

Tim Becker,  
Operations Manager

Wayne Cockrell,  
Operations Director

Deb Gehris,  
Business Manager

Doug Long,  
Marketing &  
Development  
Manager

Lori Lowery,  
Agency and Volunteer  
Services Coordinator

Deb Mest,  
Agency and Volunteer  
Services Manager

Ashley Snyder  
Agency and Volunteer  
Services Coordinator

Jane Vitalo  
Customer Service Rep.

David Bradbury,  
Warehouse

Phil Ciofalo  
Warehouse Lead

Francis Delauretis  
Warehouse

David D'Ginto,  
Warehouse

Tom Marsh  
Warehouse

Jim Welsh  
Warehouse

Rob Wertman  
Warehouse Supervisor

### GBFB is Here to Help Those in Need

The mission of the Greater Berks Food Bank is to feed the hungry. That seems like it should be a simple task. However, in order to receive and distribute over 7,000,000 pounds of food GBFB must follow guidelines and regulations set by Feeding America, USDA and PA Dept. of Agriculture. In most cases, we have no flexibility when it comes to those requirements.

While we know it may not be convenient for our Agencies to perform Civil Rights training for their volunteers, get their monthly statistics in on time, come to Food Safety trainings, or get all your CSFP recipients recertified, these are all requirements in order for GBFB to continue to provide food to agencies. There may be times that we have to send stern emails or letters and actually have to suspend an agency for non-compliance, but because we don't want to stop agencies from feeding the hungry, we only do this after numerous reminders to get the proper information completed. GBFB is here to provide food to our agencies, who in turn are there to provide food to our hungry neighbors. In order to do this we all need to work together and stay in compliance with all State, Federal and National Food Banking guidelines to make the process work more efficient and timely so the food gets to those in need consistently.

***Remember – we are all working for our hungry neighbors to put more on their plates!***

### CSFP Recertification

It's that time of the year again, all CSFP recipients (waiting list and active) need to be recertified. If you have yet to receive your recertifications, please contact Ashley Snyder ASAP. While completing recertifications, please remember that income **MUST** be verified; you can refer to your CSFP Binders with any questions regarding what is an acceptable "proof of income". In addition to the new income guidelines, there is also a new CSFP application. Throw away all old unused applications and add the new application to your CSFP Binder. Any new applicants that come in on old forms will be returned and the recipient will not be placed on the waiting list until a current application is submitted.

2015-16 CSFP Income Guidelines			
Elderly - 130%			
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$15,301	\$1,276	\$295
2	\$20,709	\$1,726	\$399
3	\$26,117	\$2,177	\$503
4	\$31,525	\$2,628	\$607
5	\$36,933	\$3,078	\$711
6	\$42,341	\$3,529	\$815
7	\$47,749	\$3,980	\$919
8	\$53,157	\$4,430	\$1,023
For each add'l household	\$5,408	\$451	\$104

\*CSFP agencies must implement the adjusted income guidelines for elderly applicants immediately upon receipt.

## **PLEASE TAKE NOTE WHEN YOU ORDER FROM GBFB**

Please make sure when ordering via email, fax or drop off at GBFB that you use the GBFB order sheet. Please **do not** make up your own list or send just an email with items you want. The order sheet is structured specifically to streamline the ordering process and helps us avoid ANY entry errors. It has come to our attention that there are many agencies who are not using the order sheet. In addition, any order that is submitted **MUST** have the Agency number, name, contact name, phone number, date and time for pickup or delivery. **Effective immediately**, any orders not submitted on the GBFB order sheet will be returned and not processed. There will be no exceptions. If, at any time, you need help with the ordering process, please contact one of the Agency Services staff to answer your questions. (Deb at ext. 205, Lori at ext. 206, Ashley at ext. 207) Thank you for your cooperation.



You are cordially invited to our Volunteer Appreciation Event as we *“Pay it Forward”* for our volunteers.

Date: Thursday May 28th

Time: 4 to 6pm,

Where: GBFB 117 Morgan Drive,  
Reading, PA 19608

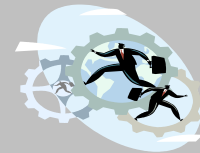
Over the past year, we have been so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers come out to help us in so many ways that we wanted to show you how thankful we are for all you do! Come and enjoy a time of relaxation and fun as we picnic together. Let us serve you! Please make sure that you RSVP to our event no later than May 15 if you plan to attend.



**Reservations are limited and  
RSVP is required to attend.**

## **NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS—Deb Gehris**

Deb Gehris has been our Business Manager at the Greater Berks Food Bank for the past 9 years. Although Deb primarily deals with invoicing, auditing and other financial items at the food bank, there is a lot more to her than numbers! Deb and her husband Steve, live minutes away in Sinking Spring with their daughter, who is a junior in high school, and her 10 year old golden retriever. Her son is a college graduate, who lives in NJ. She also has a step daughter, two step grandchildren and two grand pups. Over the years, Deb has spent much time as a spectator and volunteer at children’s sporting events. Deb really enjoys watching baseball—her favorite team is the Philadelphia Phillies— and football—as she loves the Indianapolis Colts. When she has free time, she likes to walk the dog, scrapbook, spend time at the beach and hang out with her friends. Deb says “working at the food bank is a really rewarding experience. At the end of the day you can feel proud that you were a part of helping those in need and educating others about the hunger problem that exists in their own backyard”.



## **CSFP Caretaker**

The CSFP program is now allowing a CSFP Caretaker. What does this mean? The CSFP Caretaker does not have a formal definition in the regulations, but he/she would essentially be anyone who takes care of a **Home Bound Senior** (i.e.: a relative or friend responsible for assisting the person with his/her daily needs). The CSFP Caretaker is listed on the new application and will be able to complete CSFP certification forms and pick up CSFP totes on behalf of the Home Bound Senior. **Please contact Ashley at (610)926-5802 Ext. 207 or [asnyder@feedingamerica.org](mailto:asnyder@feedingamerica.org), regarding any CSFP questions.**

## NALC FOOD DRIVE—REMINDER

This year the NALC event is set for Saturday, May 9 from 2-9pm. Please consider signing up to help us as we receive local donations from the community which in turn will be given to many of our agencies to supplement their food orders. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ashley at ext. 207, Deb at ext. 205 or Lori at ext. 206. Thanks so much!

### SPRING IS FINALLY HERE

*After we had such a long, harsh winter, spring has finally arrived and there are nice sunny days in our area to enjoy. With this sun comes hotter temperatures which reminds us to consider the amount of items you order and whether you are able to store the items safely for your recipients usage. We do have freezer blankets available for your use, just please let us know if you need one. The warehouse will give you a form to complete and return to the driver, showing that you received it. You will be responsible for this blanket although it is the property of the Food Bank. It is your responsibility to keep track of this blanket and you must not cut it, rip it, or destroy it in anyway or your agency may be charged a replacement fee. If you have further questions please speak to Deb Mest at ext. 205. THANKS!!*



### REMINDER!! FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

If you have not signed up for the Food Safety Training course, please make sure you do so. This is a mandatory training to stay in compliance and maintain membership with GBFB. The following date has space available:

**May 7: 1:00 – 3:30 pm BERKS**

To register contact the Greater Berks Food Bank either via email: [llowery@feedingamerica.org](mailto:llowery@feedingamerica.org); mail 117 Morgan Dr. Reading, PA 19608 or fax: 610-926-7638. If you have any questions please feel free to call Lori at ext. 206.

***THIS IS FOR ANY AGENCY THAT IS NOT  
REQUIRED TO BE SERV SAFE CERTIFIED***

## MAY EVENTS...

### AGENCY ORIENTATION

Monday May 11, 2015, 9:00-10:00am

Held at GBFB, RSVP is required...

Please contact either Deb Mest ext. 205,  
Ashley Snyder ext. 207 or Lori Lowery ext. 206.

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

May 12 at 9 am

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

May 28 from 4 to 6 pm



## Save the Date..

June 24, 2015 1:30-3:30pm

Annual Mandatory Pantry Coordinator Meeting

Details coming soon



GBFB will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. Please make sure that your orders for pick up on Tuesday, May 26 are in no later than 9 am Thursday, May 21, while your orders for delivery May 26 must be in no later than 9 am Wednesday, May 20.

Greater Berks Food Bank  
117 Morgan Drive, Reading, PA 19608  
610-926-5802

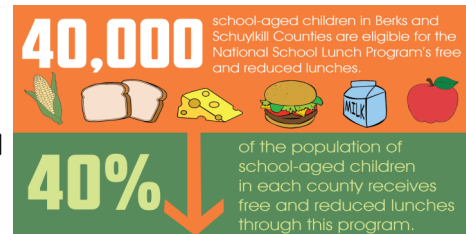
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### WEEKENDER BACKPACK PROGRAM

Another year is winding down for our Weekender backpack program which seems unbelievable to me. Time has flown by and we have been able to provide a great variety of healthy items to include in their bags. At the highest point in the school year we were able to send home 1,441 bags of food in a week to children in our community. Surveys have been sent home to parents/guardians, the children and also our coordinators to hear feedback as to what we can improve or change to make the program better. We continue to fill the bags with healthy, kid friendly items, and include single serve as well as family size items. We currently have 14 school locations and one church location that takes part in the program. We thank the volunteers who help to coordinate the program at those locations and also those that help them to ensure the children receive the food each week. The requests to bring in new schools continues to grow but at this time we have a waiting list until we obtain additional funding or we have a change in one of the current sites that are on the program. THANKS for a super year and we look forward to sharing our survey results.



*Bringing more to the table is  
brought to you through a  
joint effort*

**We'd love your input**

*of Greater Berks Food Bank  
Staff*

Editor: Lori Lowery  
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