



DELIVERING *17,917 NUTRITIOUS MEALS*
TO AREAS OF UNMET NEED THROUGH OUR
MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM SINCE AUGUST 2016



hunger & hope



2017 Winter Newsletter



FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK is a not-for-profit organization working to eliminate hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy in cooperation with the community. The Food Bank is the primary food supplier for 252 emergency food programs in our eleven county service region of central and northern New York.

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Executive Director's Message

Food Bank of Central New York has been helping to feed the hungry since 1985 and yet each day we discover new things. In 2015 we were thrilled to have Alex Boyd join our team as our Child Hunger Corps member. His role includes researching and evaluating data to help assess our service area and enhance methods in our service delivery. Taking into account food deserts, barriers to emergency food access, and how the Food Bank can help better serve at risk areas, Alex identified areas of unmet need within our eleven counties. The outcomes to date include:

- New Summer Food Service Programs have been opened in Lewis and Cayuga counties
- Our Mobile Food Pantry program has expanded into additional counties
- The opportunity to open the Food Bank's first school pantry, supplementing the need for access for families
- Increased assistance to non-emergency programs like day care centers and senior centers by providing additional food resources

...all in the name of helping to feed the hungry.

Our bold goal of providing an additional three million meals to food insecure individuals by 2019 is the end result. This outcome will be achieved by providing new types of services while enhancing our current network of partner agencies.

As I have the chance to visit our agencies, the coordinators share how thankful they are that the Food Bank partners with them, helping to provide wholesome food, nutrition education, training opportunities, and support with equipment and capacity.

We could not do the work we do, providing 29,915 meals every day, without all of our partners. Together we can solve hunger!

Warmest regards,

Kathleen L. Atress

Please log on to foodbankcny.org to view our full length annual report. Our new digital format offers in-depth program information while informing you of our sound fiscal practices.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

A New Solution to Meet the Needs of the Hungry

On a Thursday afternoon in October, a group of 40 to 50 people gathered in a parking lot on the west side of Utica, while nearby a smaller group of volunteers assembled a temporary structure of tents and folding tables. The Court Street location, best known as the finish line of the Boilermaker Road Race, served as a distribution point for the Food Bank's developing Mobile Food Pantry. In an hour's time, everyone who arrived had received a package of nutritious food to bring home. Shortly after the last box had been given away, the tables and tents were packed up, the Food Bank truck pulled away, and the parking lot held no evidence of the distribution.

The Food Bank's latest distribution initiative, Mobile Food Pantry, is an effort to reach communities and individuals in areas of unmet need. While our work with our 252 partner agencies is effective (13 million pounds of nutritious food distributed during our last fiscal year), recent advancements in our analysis of service figures revealed geographic areas that could be considered underserved. On top of economic issues, factors like physical limitations, lack of transportation, and proximity to emergency food programs create additional barriers for people who are food insecure. A mobile pantry delivering goods directly to underserved communities will address each of these challenges.

The food included in these mobile distributions is primarily perishable goods. Fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy items, and bread make up the majority of the packages. While nutritious and desirable, these items can also be challenging to manage due to their short lifespan. With efficiency as a high priority, Food Bank staff and volunteers sort the items in advance so everything is prepared for the recipients. Both the food supply and the service model represent a complementary approach that is effective at bolstering an area safety net.

Eric, a 40 year old Utica resident who attended the October distribution, was facing some challenges of his own. Born in Utica, Eric recently returned to the area for a job that later fell through. Now he is doing the best he can to make ends meet for his family of four. According to Eric, the package of food would be very helpful and he was both grateful and optimistic saying, "Right now I'm down, but it won't go on forever. You know, when you're down you get back up." It's the getting back up that has proven to be difficult for so many. Mobile Food Pantry distributions are another way to help provide people with the means to make it happen.

Freed from the restrictions of a fixed location, our Mobile Food Pantry distributions can be held wherever the community need dictates. Outreach is done ahead of time to notify community members of the opportunity and participation has been steady. Initially only operating in Utica, the Mobile Food Pantry program has recently expanded into Syracuse and Cayuga county with plans to reach Oswego county in the near future. There are still hurdles to overcome, the largest being acquiring a dedicated vehicle, but long term, the possibilities are tremendous. Once mobile distributions are commonplace, it will be one of the best measures to address both the opportunities and challenges in the region.



Ed Hughes, Grocery Rescue Coordinator, loads the mobile pantry with more than 60 boxes filled with nutritious and wholesome fresh food for distribution.

WAYS TO GIVE

Special Gifts of Commemoration

For individuals and groups looking for ways to help fund Food Bank of Central New York's fight against hunger, there are a variety of alternatives to traditional donations to consider.

Incorporating charitable giving into life events is a wonderful way to commemorate special occasions and share blessings with your community. Weddings, birthdays, and holidays are all opportunities to communicate your values by designating a donation to Food Bank of Central New York as your gift of choice.

An Honor Gift is a way to demonstrate your esteem for a loved one, pay tribute to friends and family or mark a special anniversary while participating in the fight against hunger. Dedicating a gift or donation in a loved one's name can be an effective way to acknowledge the difference he or she has made in your life and pass on that generosity to those in our community who are in need of support.

By considering giving to charity as part of holidays, rituals, and celebrations, people often find themselves not only helping a worthy cause but creating positive experiences in their own life.

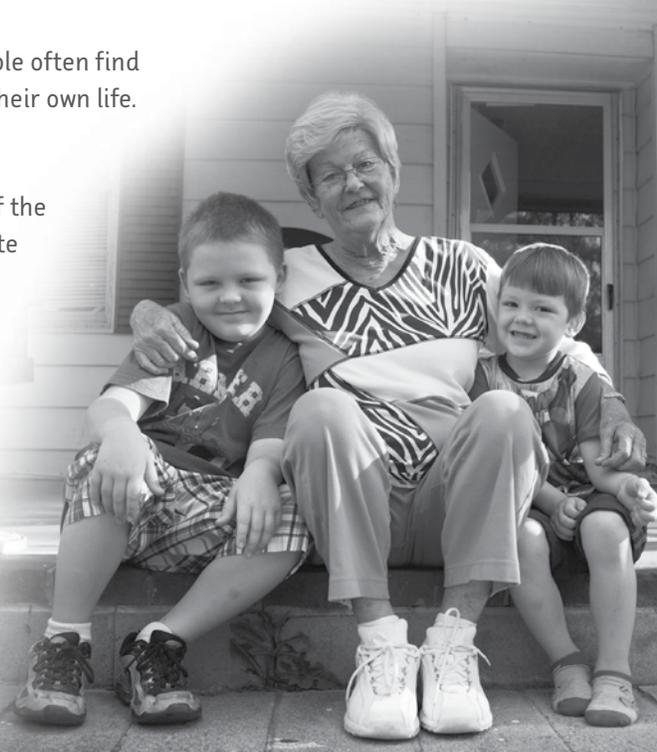
Making a Difference Now... and in the Future

Do you want to leave a legacy of hope and nourishment for hungry people? One of the simplest ways to leave a legacy is with a bequest. A bequest allows you to designate either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to the Food Bank. In addition to supporting our work, your bequest will serve as an example of your values to your family, friends, and community.

To leave a bequest to Food Bank of Central New York, your will must contain the following language: "I give and bequeath to Food Bank of Central New York, Syracuse, NY, the sum of \$____ or the following ____ percent of the rest and residue to support the general purposes of Food Bank of Central New York."

We encourage you to seek an attorney's counsel on your estate matters.

For more information about bequests and alternative giving opportunities or if you have already included the Food Bank in your future plans, please contact Lynn Hy, Chief Development Officer, at lhy@foodbankny.org or (315) 437-1899 ext. 247.



THANK YOU

Each year, thousands of individuals, businesses, civic groups, and foundations join us in the fight against hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy. We thank each and every one of you for your support.

Whether you make a donation, plan an event to benefit us or volunteer, you help to ensure that no one is turned away from one of our emergency food partners due to lack of nutritious food supplies. Thank you for your continued support of our work.

If you have not already visited our food distribution center, please contact Shannon Griffin, Donor Relations & Volunteer Coordinator, at sgriffin@foodbankny.org or (315) 437-1899 ext. 223 to schedule a tour.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January - February: Check Out Hunger at Tops Friendly Markets

February: Food Bank Telethon on NBC3 (date TBD)

February - March : St. Patrick Hunger Project

April: Check Out Hunger at Wegmans

April 27 : SavorSyracuse, SKY Armory

May 20 : Hunt for Hunger at Destiny USA

July 11: Food Bank Golf Open at Camillus Country Club

Please visit our website at foodbankny.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the most up-to-date information about our events and volunteer needs.