

PhilabundanceNews

Driving Hunger From Our Communities

 Fall 2010

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

A young immigrant from the Czech Republic whom I met recently noted that he had expected to find "lots of money, lots of cars and lots of mean people" in America. Only the cars lived up to his expectations. The country Stefan had envisioned based on American movies and celebrity gossip is a far cry from the reality that we here at Philabundance witness every day.



The latest census data released a few weeks ago confirm our experience. They indicate that 14% of Americans are officially "poor". That's one in seven -- the largest number of people living in poverty in this country since we started counting 51 years ago.

We all know that nothing about poverty is fair -- least of all who suffers most. Child poverty has increased to almost 21%. Blacks and Latinos are hit disproportionately because more of them are unemployed. And poverty among people of working age -- 18 to 64 -- is the highest it has been since President Lyndon Johnson first waged his "War on Poverty" in 1965.

These statistical truths come with sobering consequences. Joblessness leads to homelessness. Despite the \$1.5 billion targeted at preventing homelessness in the stimulus package, the numbers are expected to get worse before they get better.

Millions of families without enough food is a statistic; each family without enough food is a tragedy. And each of these tragedies means that we have our work cut out for us. The number of men, women and children needing food assistance is growing and will not relent in the immediate future.

One thing I know without the help of statistics: America is not a land of "mean people." Here at Philabundance, we witness the generosity, compassion and ingenuity of our neighbors helping each other every day. In this newsletter, you'll read about our Harvester of Hope winners -- the Vanguard Company and Patrick Donovan.

Thank you for showing Stefan that we are a community that helps one another. Together we can make our little corner of America the land of "lots of food, lots of hope and lots of compassion."

Sincerely,

Bill Clark
President & Executive Director

Upcoming Events!

6ABC/IKEA Holiday Food Drive
Monday, November 1 -
Friday, December 31, 2010

Check out our Holiday Happenings Section for more information

Bag of Thanks!
Friday, November 5 -
Sunday, November 7, 2010

Donate a holiday meal to a family in need at a Giant Food Store near you. See page 3 for additional information

Camp out for Hunger
Monday, November 29 -
Friday, December 3, 2010

Metroplex Shopping Center in Plymouth Meeting, PA

Corporate Beetdown
Sign your company up to compete!

Visit www.philabundance.org for more information

Our Mission!

Philabundance works to end hunger and malnutrition in the Delaware Valley by acquiring food and distributing it through organizations serving people in need.

 **Food Help Line**
800.319.Food (3663)
a Philabundance program

Main Office

3616 South Galloway Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
(215) 339-0900
(215) 339-0924 Fax
www.philabundance.org

Grocery Stores Uniting to Fight Hunger

Through Grocers Against Hunger (GAH) Philabundance is collecting food from participating grocers that would otherwise be thrown away and distributing it to those in need across the region.

Because of strict guidelines, stores are often unable to sell items even though they are nutritious and completely safe to eat. Philabundance works with participating stores to pick up these otherwise difficult to obtain items such as meat, dairy, produce and baked goods— enabling low-income residents throughout the Delaware Valley to prepare well-balanced nutritious meals for themselves and their families.



In 2009, GAH saw an astounding 149 percent increase in donations, resulting in 1.2 million pounds of collected food. We are excited about this food collection opportunity and the potential to grow the program in the future.

Thank you to our committed Grocers Against Hunger Partners: ACME, Bottom Dollar, Giant, Trader Joe's, Sam's Club, ShopRite, Target, Walmart and Whole Foods. Your dedication to this program helps us feed thousands of people each week.

Meet Rene Dacosta, Agency Volunteer & Client



When Rene Dacosta began volunteering at the Bridesburg Methodist Church, one of the largest agencies in Philabundance's network, she never imagined that she'd move from being on the giving end to the receiving end.

This reality hit in October 2009 when Rene received news that she would join the population of fellow unemployed Americans.

As the breadwinner in her family, Rene Dacosta's income was the source of most of her family's spending. Today, the loss of her job means that she and her family are relying on her husband's limited salary and her unemployment checks which are nearing their end-dates.

Unfortunately, Rene's job loss doesn't stop the countless bills that she and her family have incurred. In fact, paying those bills often means the option of nutritional food is compromised. To cope with difficult times, Rene and her family

are clients at the Bridesburg Agency which allows her to make sure that her family has access to their next healthy meal.

"I never thought this would happen to me," said Rene, "even after having my children, I went right back to work. It's the first time I've ever been unemployed."

And yet, even through hard times, Renee hasn't given up on helping others that are similarly struggling. She is a frequent volunteer at the Bridesburg Methodist Church and sees it as a way to empower her community. Thank you, Rene, for sharing your story and being an example to your community.

Bridesburg Methodist Church is one of almost 500 member agencies that help Philabundance reach the many Delaware Valley residents facing hunger each day. Comprised of food cupboards, neighborhood distributions, shelters, emergency kitchens and other social services such as daycare and senior centers, our agencies are on the front lines each and every day, helping to distribute millions of pounds of emergency food.

Member agencies can access a variety of Philabundance services including food ordering through our Food Bank menu for delivery or pick-up, and fresh produce, either delivered to eligible agencies or available for pick-up at hub locations.

The ever-evolving collaboration between our agency network and our own direct services has well-positioned Philabundance to address the complex factors of food poverty and distribute more emergency food into the hands of our most vulnerable residents.

Holiday Happenings

Philabundance is all a-buzz in preparation for the holiday season. We are getting ready for a flurry of activity with our volunteers, donors and clients. Below are some great ways that you can get involved this season!

Bag of Thanks! November 5th to 7th

Join Philabundance at Giant Food Stores across the region during the first weekend in November and give a Bag of Thanks! Donations of \$5 and \$10 can be purchased at the register, which will provide complete meals for families in need during this holiday season. Please check our website for a complete listing of locations.



6ABC / IKEA Holiday Food Drive November 1st to December 31st

The events kick off at the IKEA stores in South Philadelphia & Conshohocken in early November. After that, be sure to follow the Can Man as he gets the public involved in the drive; from the 6ABC/IKEA Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 26th, to helping the Boy Scouts pick up bags of food from homes across the region on November 20th, and join the Can Man throughout the holiday season as Philabundance and 6ABC spread the word about driving hunger from the Delaware Valley. To find out how you can get involved visit 6abc.com.

Harvester of Hope

As 2010 comes to a close, we wanted to take an opportunity to thank both an individual and corporation who have made a large impact in driving hunger from our communities.

Vanguard proved that you can really make a difference if you set your mind to it. During their "All Cans On Deck," drive they collected almost 30,000 pounds of food this year – making them our largest corporate drive this year! Philabundance is lucky to have such committed and passionate supporters.

Patrick Donovan of Havertown has a heart of gold. The eighteen-year old deaf, autistic philanthropist was captivated by a news piece about newborn babies in need and immediately wanted to help. In his second annual formula drive, Patrick collected 532 pounds of assorted baby products, including formula, diapers and baby food. He is a shining example of how a passionate individual can make a huge difference.

The Harvester of Hope Award is given by Philabundance in recognition of those individuals or organizations who are leading the way in the spirit of fighting hunger and helping our neighbors throughout the Delaware Valley. Through their efforts, these people and organization are setting an example of how each of us can make a difference in our community. Their spirit of giving is shown through their initiative to do something for others without personal gain.



Harvester of Hope presentation to Vanguard executives

Hunger Action Month 2010

One out of every four people in Philadelphia is living below the poverty line. For Philabundance, this is an issue that is always at the heart of what we do. And during September, we brought our mission to the streets – or in our case – the top of the PECO building!

Through our 30 ways in 30 days campaign, we provided you with 30 ideas to get involved during Hunger Action Month. From Squash Hunger Day at Linvilla Orchards to reading our FreshNews to following us on Twitter, there are so many ways to help Philabundance continue driving hunger from our communities.

But don't forget, here at Philabundance... every month is hunger action month!!



Main Office

3616 South Galloway Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Ways You Can Help Drive Hunger from the Delaware Valley



Financial Donation

- Make a gift in your name by check, telephone or on the web
- Make a gift in honor of someone else and/or a special occasion, or in memory of someone
- Hold a Fund Drive or a Penny Drive
- Become a Monthly Donor
- Ask your employer to match your gift in full or in part
- Support your local Employee Giving Campaign, and designate your gift to Philabundance.
- Hold an event to benefit Philabundance
- Ask your club, church or other organization to make a gift

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Please make your contribution payable to: Philabundance



Stock Donation

- Donate stocks or other securities.



Planned Giving

- Include a bequest to Philabundance in your will.



Volunteer

- Go to www.philabundance.org for more information about volunteer opportunities, and/or to fill out your volunteer application.



Tell a Friend

See what's fresh at our website!



Add a Charity Badge to Your Website

- Once added, the charity badge will become a link on your homepage to make donations directly to Philabundance.



Sign-up for FreshNews

- Get Philabundance updates quickly through our monthly e-newsletter.

**For all the latest news, please visit
www.philabundance.org**