

# PhilabundanceNews

Driving Hunger From Our Communities

Spring 2011

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

This winter was a rough one, with intense storms pounding the east coast. It was also a hard winter for the growing number of people across our region who are seeking food assistance. But with the continued support of each of you, we are remaining vigilant in providing food to those in need from Camden County, NJ to Chester County, PA.

And the need before us is an ever-changing one. Since the start of the recession, the face of our clients has changed from primarily the chronic poor to the middle class and working poor as well. You can read first-hand how a successful recording artist can end up waiting in line for donations on page 3 of this newsletter. Veronica's story is one that we hear all the time here at Philabundance. As partners together in this fight against hunger, you and I can make sure that Veronica and her family, along with the almost one million other neighbors in need of food assistance, get the nourishment they need.

Philabundance has not been the only organization affected by the recession. Many of our long-standing food donors have also felt the strain, and they have had to find new avenues to sell product that may have previously been donated to us, leaving Philabundance to purchase important staple items such as canned tuna and cereal. This is a contributing factor to our evolving food valuation, which has recently been updated to 2 meals per each dollar donated. The other reason for this change is Philabundance's dedication to providing nutritious fruits & vegetables as well as dairy & meat products, both of which are costly to store and distribute but vital to a complete balanced diet. Finally, with hunger rearing its vicious head in previously untouched areas, Philabundance trucks are traveling further, in a more strategic manner, to reach as many people as we can each week. Transportation costs make that a pricey endeavor, but one that we are proud to continue.

As we look to brighter skies and more pleasant weather, we are also continuing to work around the clock on innovative projects, such as our food center in Chester, ensuring there is access to healthy food across our region. Our excitement for this project, and its potential impact, builds each day and we just want to thank you again for joining us on this journey.

I hope to see you at an upcoming event, but in the meantime enjoy the sun. Let it provide you the joy and pleasure that you provide to those in need each time you support Philabundance.

Best,



William J. Clark  
President and Executive Director



## Upcoming Events!

### Construction

May 14 – 21, 2011

Liberty Place, Philadelphia

Be sure to visit our website and vote for the People's Choice Award

### Taste of the Nation

June 20, 2011

Loews Hotel

<http://www.strength.org/philadelphia/>

### Share the Harvest

July 9 – September 24, 2011

For further details, see Page 2 of this newsletter

## Our Mission!

Philabundance reduces hunger and food insecurity in the Delaware Valley by providing food access to people in need, in partnership with organizations and individuals.

 **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](http://www.philabundance.org)

# Sow an extra row for Share the Harvest 2011

From garden centers, to local parks, to orchards, to supporters like you, we are lucky to have a variety of partners across the Delaware Valley who are focused on getting fresh produce to those in need.

Plant this card now to sow a row for hunger!

July 9 - September 24, 2011  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon



**Share the Harvest**

a Philabundance program

Drop your fruits & veggies off here, all summer long

Pick up a seeded card like this one today at your local Share the Harvest site!

listed to the left are distributed through Philabundance's network of member agencies and are utilized in Philabundance's Community Kitchen (PCK) program. PCK trains low-income adults for jobs in the food-service industry. The students will use your donated produce to add an integral nutritional component to the meals they prepare, which are provided to children and families in emergency shelters in Philadelphia.

Don't forget to tune into 92.5WXTU to find out about live broadcasts at our drop-off sites throughout the summer.

Be sure to stop by your local Share the Harvest site and pick a card made from seeded paper full of veggie seeds to help you sow your extra row for those in need. Quantities are limited so be sure to pick one up before they run out!

Fruits and vegetables collected at the Share the Harvest drop-off locations



## Philabundance Around Town!

Philabundance is grateful to be supported by a dedicated and active core of partners. Their support comes in all different shapes and sizes, and we want to highlight a few partners who activated their networks to help raise tens of thousands of dollars for those in need across the region.

Zarwin Baum's March Madness event on March 17th was a ball!



Roux Associates brought clients and friends to Yard's Brewery for a great night of beer tasting.



Chefs from country and golf clubs across the region came together for a tasting event that was not only delicious, but a successful way to raise funds for Philabundance.



## Share the Harvest

a Philabundance program

Saturdays, July 9 to  
September 24, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bring your excess fruits and veggies to any of the following locations:

### Delaware County: Rose Tree Park

1971 N. Providence Rd.  
Media, PA 19063

### Linvilla Orchards

137 W. Knowlton Rd.  
Media, PA 19063

### Bucks County: Carousel Gardens

591 Durham Rd.  
Newtown, PA 18940

### Seasons Garden Center

1069 River Rd.  
Washington Crossing, PA 18977

### Chester County: Gardener's Landscape Nursery

535 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

### Camden County: Springdale Farms

1638 S. Springdale Rd.  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

### Montgomery County: Albrecht's Garden Center Nursery

650 Montgomery Ave.  
Narberth, PA 19072

### St. Asaph's

27 Conshohocken State Rd.  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

### Primex Garden Center

435 W. Glenside Ave.  
Glenside, PA 19038

### Rhoads Garden

570 DeKalb Pike  
North Wales, PA 19454

### Philadelphia County: Laurel Hill Gardens

8125 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

# A look inside...

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**Below is a great piece written by Philabundance employee Jackie Yenerall on her personal experience seeking SNAP benefits. Jackie is an AmeriCorps\*VISTA who has been working with Philabundance for her year of service.**

Today, nearly one in five Philadelphians will rely on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, formerly known as food stamps, to feed themselves, and I will be one of them.

As an AmeriCorps\*VISTA I committed to working with Philabundance for a year earning a stipend from AmeriCorps set at the poverty line. Since SNAP's income eligibility is set at 160% of the poverty line, it meant I was eligible. To be eligible, a single person household must earn less than \$1,444. For a four person household, that translates to \$2,941 per month.

Applying for food stamps isn't as simple as buying stamps at a post office. I can't just walk into a welfare office, tell them I'm in need, and walk away with an EBT card. Instead, the process can span months. I started in August by going online to fill out the initial application. Don't have a computer? Then you have to go to your local County Assistance Office to pick up the 24 page application. Work? (Like 37.50% of households receiving SNAP in Philadelphia do) Then you have to make time during business hours to visit the assistance office, which is often easier said than done.

After submitting the initial application, you then have to supply documents to support your application. After collecting all your information, it requires another trip to the county assistance office to submit copies.

Then, came the waiting. The office has thirty days to make a decision and after thirty days of waiting I received my decision: rejection. Despite my income, despite my AmeriCorps status, my paperwork wasn't good enough and I would have to start the appeal process. In the end, after nearly two months of anxiety and frustration I was able to rectify the problem. I wish I could say my story was unique, but it's not. One wrong document, one missed appointment can cost a family benefits that help feed their children.

Today, my benefits cover most of my food costs and help me to eat fruits and vegetables I probably would otherwise forgo to make my budget stretch. In this aspect, my situation is unique. Half of all households in Philadelphia receiving SNAP have children under the age of 18, and studies have shown that even with the maximum amount of benefits (which most families do not receive) it is not enough to cover the cost of even the most basic nutritious diet. In order to keep their kitchens filled at the end of the month, many will find themselves at a food pantry Philabundance works to fill.

*To read more blogs by our staff members visit our blog at [Philabundance.org/blog](http://Philabundance.org/blog).*

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**In a given year, there are almost 1 million individuals in need across the Delaware Valley. While this is an alarming statistic, the stories behind each of those stats is the reason we are out in the field each day making sure that we get food to those in need. Learn about the ups and downs that Veronica, a client at Christ Our Redeemer Church, has endured in her lifetime, and how Philabundance keeps her going each day.**



Veronica Underwood has traveled the world, singing with artists like Celine Dion and Patti Labelle. She once held a record deal with Atlantic Records and you can even buy her songs on iTunes.

The single mother of two works part-time teaching music therapy classes to the elderly at a prestigious university and is planning to open her own music school, so she can teach her 30 plus students in a classroom, not out of her Philadelphia home. Not very many people have had such exciting experiences in their lifetime!

Veronica is also a Philabundance client. Although she works hard and earns a paycheck, it still isn't enough to make ends meet.

A career in music started for Veronica at the age of 12, shortly after her mother passed away. Veronica and her siblings took to the streets of Philadelphia, singing to support the family. "A lot of things didn't happen for us because we were parentless," Veronica said. But she pursued her passion in music until she had her first son.

Once Veronica gave birth to her first child she decided to take time off from the music industry to spend more time with her son. She would pick up a singing gig here and there to make ends meet, but things got bad in between jobs, Veronica recalled. With the help of family and neighbors, she learned of the food cupboard at her local church, Christ our Redeemer.

Although Veronica needed the assistance, she did not want to feel like she was getting a "hand out". "When you don't have a job, you create a job and you can't take food for nothing," she said. So, to give back, Veronica volunteers at the food cupboard stocking shelves and assisting other clients and also offers free voice lessons to her neighbors. She even provides meals to students who can't get meals at home.

*"Without help from Philabundance, it would be difficult to share my love for music with my community and support my family."*

## Main Office

3616 South Galloway Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19148

## Ways You Can Help Drive Hunger from the Delaware Valley

### Financial Donation

- Make a gift 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](http://www.philabundance.org) for more information about volunteer opportunities, and/or to fill out your volunteer application

### Tell a Friend

### See What's Fresh On Our Website

- Add a Charity Badge to your website to encourage visitors to donate directly to Philabundance
- Sign-up for FreshNews and get Philabundance updates quickly through our monthly e-newsletter

### Join Our Networks

- Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Philabundance](http://www.facebook.com/Philabundance)
- Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Philabundance](http://www.twitter.com/Philabundance)

For all the latest news, please visit [www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org)