



Driving hunger from our communities

Food Center Fact Sheet

The Situation:

- There are nearly one million people at risk of hunger and malnutrition throughout the Delaware Valley.
- Each week, Philabundance serves 65,000 people through direct service programs and with the help of nearly 500 member agencies that consist of food pantries, emergency food kitchens and shelters across 9 counties.
- Philabundance provides food to 12 agencies in Chester including 10 food pantries.
- The face of hunger is changing as more people who never needed food assistance are now turning to the hunger safety net for help.
- The need is mounting while the amount of food donated to Philabundance and other food banks across the country continues to decrease.
- There are 35 food deserts in our 9 county service area. In these areas residents don't have access to affordable food staples and nutritious foods. (USDA)

The Need in Chester:

- Nearly 54% of Chester residents live too far from a grocery store that provides nutritious foods. (Philabundance's *Chester City Community Food Security Survey*)
- There are more than 34,000 residents in Chester and more than half earn less than 200% of the poverty level. (American Community Survey, 2008-2010 estimates)
- Chester is the 4th hungriest congressional district in the U.S. (Food Research and Action Center's 2010 Food Hardship Study)
- There has not been a grocery store within the city limits of Chester for more than 10 years

A New Model to Fight Hunger:

- Our new model is a not-for-profit retail shopping experience that provides food staples on a dependable and reliable basis at the lowest prices possible, as well as some food free of charge.
- As always, donated food will be free for customers.
- Products will be a combination of low-cost and free items and will accept SNAP benefits, allowing customers to maximize their SNAP purchasing power. The food center will also do SNAP outreach.
- The food center will be 13,000 sq. ft. and 8,300 sq. ft. will be used as floor space for products.
- The center will have the look and feel of a grocery store in that it will be clean, well-lit, attractive, convenient and friendly. It will offer a true shopping experience.
- Philabundance will renovate a vacant building in Chester and create 20-25 new jobs and we will hire from the community whenever possible.
- The concept should be self-sustaining within a few years by establishing pricing that is fair for the customer but sufficient to cover costs.
- The goal is to introduce this model to other communities in need in the Delaware Valley.