



# The Feed!

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER  
**PHILABUNDANCE**



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MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING**  
**AMERICA**



# From Loree's Table



Dear Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe, well, and looking forward to spring. For me, spring is the most inspiring of the seasons. It's the season of hope.

**As you'll read about in this latest issue of *The Feed*, "It's All Good" at Philabundance right now.**

Though we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, our eyes are focused on a future where our food system works for all communities and everyone has access to nourishing, life-affirming food.

A driving force of this work is our **Ending Hunger for Good** department. This team seeks to increase the economic stability and food security of our neighbors by addressing the root causes of hunger through sustainable, community-centered approaches. Jamilyah Foster, the director of Ending Hunger for Good, is profiled on the opposite page.

The good continues with **Good Pizza** for a good cause! We are excited and honored that Ben Berman has asked us to continue and grow his work through our Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK).

And the good will continue well into the future as we launch our **Good Food** Policy which reinforces our belief that solving hunger is more than meeting immediate needs. It's a commitment to the implementation of long-term solutions that will have a lasting impact.

All of that **good** is just the start of the **great** work we will be accomplishing in 2022. I thank you for believing in our mission and for being a vital part of this progress.

Read on and remember that when we work together, **It's All Good!**

With Gratitude,

Loree D. Jones  
Chief Executive Officer

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# Staff Spotlight

## Meet Jamiliyah Foster

### Director, Ending Hunger for Good

Raised by a social worker mother, Jamiliyah Foster has always felt a strong commitment to service. “My

mother always reminded my brother and me that we have many blessings to count,” remembers Jamiliyah.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Jamiliyah Foster graduated from St. Joseph’s University with a BA in Criminal Justice and an MS in Criminology. Early in her career, she developed programs around recidivism (a person’s relapse into criminal behavior) while working in a minimum-security prison and later in public housing. However, she became somewhat disillusioned when she saw so many children going to school hungry. So, Jamiliyah turned her focus toward researching, identifying, and developing programs to fight the root causes of food insecurity.

Today, as the Director of Philabundance’s Ending Hunger for Good program, she works to create and implement

programs to increase our neighbors’ economic stability and food security by addressing the root causes of hunger through sustainable, community-centered approaches.

Jamiliyah leads a dedicated team working towards a future where our food system works for all communities—where individuals, families, and especially children have access to nourishing and life-affirming food.

We are very grateful to have Jamiliyah leading the charge for the Ending Hunger for Good Program. Her passion for ending hunger knows no limits, though when she does take a break to unwind, she enjoys cooking, reading, ziplining, and traveling with her husband Jabari and their 9-year-old son, Joseph.

## Taking a Slice Out of Hunger

At the height of the pandemic in 2020, Ben Berman spent the time perfecting his pizza recipe. But social distance protocols made gatherings to share his delicious experiments impossible. So he got creative, rigging up a system to lower pizzas down from his second floor window to friends waiting on the sidewalk below. Any money he received for the pies was donated to charities, including Philabundance...and that’s how Good Pizza began. But how is it going?

Well, for starters, Ben is no longer the man behind the pizzas. After earning his Wharton MBA and leaving Philadelphia for New York, he tossed the dough to Philabundance! Yes, Good Pizza is now a Philabundance brand! Following the model Ben created, each week, students in our Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK) program will make 20 pizzas – plain, pepperoni or spinach – which will be offered to the public via a drawing. Additionally, many of the necessary ingredients and materials were donated by generous Philabundance partners! Sadly, the

rope and pulley delivery system is out, but the Philabundance fleet will deliver within the city or pizzas can be picked up at PCK.

We are so excited to be given this opportunity to keep Good Pizza going and possibly growing! With enough support and interest, the program could eventually be expanded. Stay tuned! For more information and to get in on the weekly drawing, visit [www.GoodPizzaPHL.com](http://www.GoodPizzaPHL.com)





## Of the 170 Virtual Food Drives in 2021 Aro Tops the List

The pandemic has altered day-to-day life for most of us, and Philabundance is no exception. With many working remotely, practicing social distance and limiting the number of people gathering at any given time, the traditional food drive model, like so many other events, went virtual! While a Virtual Food Drive has been an option for many years at Philabundance, it has become an increasingly popular option over the last two years. Individuals and teams can “shop” for food items online and after checkout, Philabundance turns the virtual donation into actual food for neighbors facing hunger in our community.

Topping the list of 170 virtual food drive teams for 2021 was Aro Biotherapeutics. Based right here in Philadelphia, Aro Biotherapeutics is a biotechnology company pioneering the development of tissue-targeted genetic medicines.

This is the second annual food drive for Aro Biotherapeutics. Alexandra Bruce, Associate Director, Project Management, served as Virtual Food Drive Team Leader for both. The company had approximately 20 employees in 2020. “Our critical work on discovering new drugs for rare diseases didn’t stop for COVID,” Alexandra explained. Due to

the pandemic, half of the employees began working remotely, but scientists continued working on-site in the labs. Last year, the team nearly doubled in size, and has become accustomed to working in a hybrid model.

As she began to plan for the 2021 food drive, Alexandra challenged the now expanded team to also double their virtual food drive total, and the company encouraged employees to participate virtually. “This proved to be a successful approach enabling everyone at Aro to get involved and give back to the community,” Alexandra noted.

Alexandra added that conducting a food drive was never a question, but the logistics of a traditional drive given pandemic-related restrictions was difficult. The virtual food drive option was a convenient solution and easy to set up. Navigating to the site, shopping and donating was even easier.

The 2021 Aro Biotherapeutics Virtual Food Drive raised over \$16,000! We are so grateful for the team’s support and generosity.

Visit the Donate section of our website to learn more about Virtual Food Drives or to start your own today!



## Annual 93.3 WMMR Preston & Steve's Camp Out For Hunger

Once again, people of the Philadelphia area rallied together to make the annual 93.3 WMMR Preston & Steve's Camp Out For Hunger a huge success! Over 2.3 million pounds of food and \$1,802,237 were collected on behalf of Philabundance. These incredible totals include donations from individuals and businesses alike.



## Phil-A-Trunk Food Drive

This year's Camp Out for Hunger event was officially kicked off with the Phil-a-Trunk food drive event, with participants from car clubs including Audi, Corvette, Jeep, Mini Cooper, Mustang, Porsche, Tesla, Black Top Villains, and Mopar Muscle. We are so grateful to all of the sponsors, friends, donors, volunteers, and our friends at WMMR for another incredible event and are already looking forward to the next one!



## abc Dunkin' Holiday Food Drive

Thanks again to our friends at Dunkin' for their partnership and support through their "Roast Hunger" program! From Thanksgiving Day through early December, Philadelphia-area Dunkin' franchisees donated one dollar for every large hot coffee purchased by DDPerks

members. Dunkin' partnered with 6abc to present the 2021 proceeds—\$120,000—to Philabundance. Since the program began in 2011, Dunkin' franchisees have raised and donated over \$2.2 million to five regional food bank partners, including Philabundance.

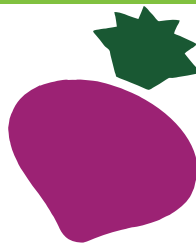


## "Treating It Forward" with Chick-fil-A

During the holiday season Chick-fil-A restaurants in the Greater Philadelphia area encouraged guests to "Treat it Forward." A portion of the proceeds from every chocolate fudge brownie sold was then donated to help Philabundance fight hunger. The campaign raised nearly \$8,500 through participating restaurants. Thank you, Chick-fil-A; what a sweet donation!

# Planning with Passion

## Spotlight on Peter DiBattiste



*Education, health, and hunger—there’s no arguing the impact you can make on humankind in any one of these areas, according to Peter.*

As a career cardiologist and graduate of LaSalle University, DiBattiste has chosen to leave a legacy in all three of these areas with planned gifts to organizations close to his heart; his alma mater and the American Heart

Association. His legacy gift to Philabundance will not only further the critical work to combat hunger now and address its root causes, but it is also an unlikely nod to one of DiBattiste’s other great passions: The Boss.

“I’m a diehard Bruce Springsteen fan, and at one of his Philadelphia shows years ago he made a call for support for Philabundance, asking fans to support them in any way you could,” he says. “The more I learned I began to understand their work goes beyond hunger and addresses inequities across the system. Over the years, I’ve become really impressed with their vision, depth of understanding, and passion in what they do.”

Now, by including Philabundance in his estate plans, DiBattiste is removing any doubt about his intentions, at the same time, creating an impact that will only continue to grow.

“For me, it’s comforting to think that when I’m gone, no one will be wringing their hands wondering what they should have done – you get to say where you want your money to go, and for me, that was important,” he says. “Knowing that my final gift will go to an organization doing such important work, that makes me feel really good.”

## YOUR GIFT'S IMPACT

THANK YOU FOR JOINING WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT PHILABUNDANCE. WITH YOUR HELP IN 2021, WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE:

  
**52M**  
POUNDS

52 million pounds of food delivered to our neighbors, surpassing 50 million pounds for our second straight year and doubling our pre-pandemic levels.

  
**15.4M**  
POUNDS

More than 15.4 million pounds of healthy fruits and vegetables for our nine-county service area.

  
**400K**  
MEALS

400,000 meals produced at the Philabundance Community Kitchen for area seniors, shelters and community centers.

**PASS THE LOVE**  
w/ WAFFLES + MOCHI  
**240K**  
MEALS

240,000 summer meals for families and children as part of Pass the Love, our collaboration with The Partnership for a Healthier America.

  
**4.4M**  
DOLLARS

\$4.4 million allocated for capacity-building infrastructure such as refrigerators, freezers, refrigerated vans, and technology to empower our partners and improve our network.

PHILABUNDANCE

## Now Accepting **Cryptocurrency**

Virtual, digital, or “crypto” currency is the latest financial technology allowing anyone in the world to securely transfer money to another person or organization – including Philabundance! Donating cryptocurrency like Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Ethereum, Litecoin and more, is tax-efficient for cryptocurrency holders, allowing donors to support organizations whose missions they care deeply about while reducing their own tax obligations.

There are currently two platforms through which we accept cryptocurrency donations, The Giving Block ([www.thegivingblock.com/donate/philabundance](http://www.thegivingblock.com/donate/philabundance)) and Crypto for Charity ([www.cryptoforcharity.io](http://www.cryptoforcharity.io)).

# Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden

At Philabundance, volunteers are on the frontlines, dedicating tens of thousands of hours to fighting food insecurity throughout our nine-county service area. Every year, volunteers save Philabundance more than \$600,000 in labor costs which allows us to invest more into healthy food for people in our communities. Volunteerism fuels our work.

To commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Philabundance employees, volunteers, and representatives from other area organizations, as well as President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, gathered to pay tribute to the spirit of public service Dr. King represented. Working together, the group packed 500 family meal kits filled with ingredients for a fresh healthy meal and snacks, to be distributed via partner agencies serving North Philadelphia and South Jersey.

“The country’s COVID crisis has increased a need that was already alarmingly high and has now brought so many more people in need to food pantries, cupboards, and emergency kitchens. Recovery for our communities from this pandemic has been difficult and we need to continue to make ending hunger in America a top priority,” the President said.



While we appreciate the spotlight high profile volunteer activity shines on food insecurity, we are extremely humbled by the number of volunteers that show up every day, logging countless hours to assist us in our mission to drive hunger from our communities and end hunger for good.

There are many ways you can volunteer to help. Visit our website for more information or to sign up!



## The Advocacy Beet



**Kate Scully**  
Chief External  
Affairs Officer

Rising costs force brutal compromises when a household budget has no wiggle room. For example, paying increased rent to keep a roof overhead often means buying less food.

This past year, prices on many items climbed 7%—the largest increase since 1982. Food, cars, gas, and housing all cost significantly more. While inflation affects us all, it has an even greater impact on people already struggling financially.

The pandemic has caused jobs and earnings losses while school and childcare closures have made it impossible for some parents to resume work. In 2020 and 2021, Congress responded with COVID relief legislation to prevent economic disaster. Policies that increased available resources like stimulus checks and the expansion of the Child Tax Credit put dollars in our economy and kept families afloat. But now, as the pandemic continues, families still face rising costs without the help of those federal resources that have ended.

Inflation is bound to push some family budgets to the breaking point. This means a greater demand on food banks like Philabundance and the increased need to advocate for resources for food providers and economic support for the people we serve. So, we join Feeding America in urging Congress to continue aiding struggling families through improvements to programs like the Child Tax Credit and through funding for nutritional programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program at Philabundance and other food banks.

# A commitment to **Good Food**

Over the last 35 years, and through the support of a loyal and generous community, Philabundance has grown, evolved and continually adapted to meet the increasing and changing needs of our neighbors facing hunger. We are excited to announce that we are recommitting to our mission with the launch of our **Good Food Policy**. We have created this policy on the idea that all food we offer should be nutritious, culturally responsive, equitably sourced and accessible for all. Our initial focus will be on nutritious and culturally responsive foods. Using the Healthy Eating Research (HER) guidelines and feedback from our partners, we will provide the most nutritious but also the most requested foods by the specific communities we serve. We are excited to further develop our **Good Food Policy** and look forward to sharing more with you soon. We are grateful for the feedback and support that has been pivotal in allowing us to take this step to better provide for our community. As we continue to learn more about food insecurity in our region and beyond, we remain fully committed to relieving hunger now and ending hunger for good.



## Survey Says...

In the Fall, we asked for your feedback through our donor survey. And the results are in!

We are so appreciative of the thoughtful, honest feedback we received, and all of the heartwarming kudos and well-wishes for our staff, volunteers and member agencies. The most important thing we learned is where we can improve. We plan to use the information gathered to better communicate with you about volunteer opportunities, new initiatives, stories, updates and more.

Though the survey is now closed, your feedback is always welcome. Call, write, or visit us at [www.philabundance.org/contact](http://www.philabundance.org/contact) to share. Thank you for being part of the Philabundance family. You make everything we do possible!

## Check out our Events!

*Here's a look at some ongoing opportunities to support Philabundance in store or online.*

**For Others** is a sustainable loungewear brand that believes real impact begins at the local level. For every item sold to Philadelphia area customers, the company reinvests back into the community with a donation to Philabundance. Visit [for-others.com](http://for-others.com) to shop today!

**Ox Coffee** couldn't be more proud or humbled to partner with Philabundance to bring you their Fight Hunger Blend. With tasty notes of dark chocolate, toffee and orange zest, this special whole bean roast is available in store at 616 S. 3rd Street or online at [shop.oxcoffee.com](http://shop.oxcoffee.com). 25% of proceeds from each purchase will be donated to Philabundance to help fight hunger!

**Mother Compost** makes it easy for anyone to compost and turns food waste into all-natural fertilizer. Operating in Montgomery, Delaware and Chester Counties, Mother Compost donates 10% of their annual profits to Philabundance to help fight hunger. Visit [mothercompost.com](http://mothercompost.com) for more information.

**OT Foods** sprouted from seeing firsthand the negative effects hunger had on students' self-esteem, sociability and academic performance. Now, OT Foods is on a mission to provide healthy, delicious food for everyone. Their products reflect this by containing only amazing, organic, gluten-free, vegan ingredients with 10% of profits from OTbars and OTbites donated to help Philabundance drive hunger from our communities. Shop online at [otbars.com](http://otbars.com) today!

