



The Feed!

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

PHILABUNDANCE

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MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA



From Loree's Table



Dear Friends,

I hope your summer, so far, has been a time for relaxing, reenergizing, and reconnecting with family, friends, and the community.

While the adverse effects of COVID-19, inflation, and supply chain issues will be with us for a long time, I'm confident we are making strides. I find hope in seeing our community actively engaged in finding creative, innovative, and efficient solutions to the crisis facing our region.

Here at Philabundance, the past two and a half years have been a time for rethinking how we distribute nourishing food across our nine-county service area. Like so many organizations, we had to learn on the fly, adjust, and adapt to ensure we could meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

In this latest issue of *The Feed*, we detail how we identified a gaping need to provide families and children better access to nutritious food after school, over weekends, and throughout the summer months. Read on to see how new initiatives like **Let's Eat**, the rollout of our own version of the highly successful **Pass the Love** program, educational outreach, and advocacy opportunities are all part of our plan to aid in the community's recovery and growth.

We believe that access to nutritious food is a fundamental right. Everyone deserves to eat, especially children. It's that simple.

Thank you for supporting our mission with your time, advocacy, and generous donations. I wish you and your family a safe, peaceful, and fun remainder of the summer!

With Gratitude,

Loree D. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

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Philabundance Welcomes Chuck Wright, Chief Development Officer



Chuck Wright recently joined the Philabundance family as the new Chief Development Officer. With over 25 years

of development experience and leadership expertise at The College of New Jersey, Villanova University and Widener University, he is equipped to partner with donors in taking Philabundance to the next level.

“We are thrilled to have Chuck join the Philabundance team,” said Loree D. Jones, Philabundance CEO. “With food prices rising and the economic impact of the COVID

crisis lingering, we must continue to distribute record amounts of food to help our neighbors. It is heartening to know that we can rely on our incredible donors to help us relieve hunger today and end hunger for good. Chuck’s passion for community, vision, and experience will help us achieve that.”

A graduate of Villanova University, Chuck was honored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District II Board with the creation of the Charles A. Wright Opportunity and Inclusion Leadership Award. This namesake award acknowledges Chuck’s efforts to identify, recruit, and retain minority professionals in the advancement field.

Why did you choose to join the Philabundance team?

“The organization’s holistic approach to addressing food insecurity helped drive my decision. Growing up in a single parent household, I remember my mother going across the street to a local school to get food. If she didn’t have that access to food, I would not be sitting where I am today. At this point in my career and life, I’m ready to be part of the solution.”

What are you looking forward to in your work at Philabundance?

“Every person deserves to have nutritious food on their table. I’m excited and honored to play an integral part in advancing this basic human right.”

What is your favorite food or meal?

“Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans are important comfort foods for me. They remind me of growing up with my mother cooking meals in the kitchen.”



The Advocacy Beet



Kathy Fisher
Director,
Government Affairs

As summer begins, we are entering a challenging new phase for school and summer meal providers – and for the children and families who rely on them. While Pennsylvania has provided some flexibility to nutrition programs to better function through several USDA waivers, two waivers will expire unless Congress acts. June 30th will mark the end of one waiver which increased access to summer meals and provided school meals at no cost to all students in 90% of school districts nationwide.

School and summer meal providers are being asked to return to “normal” when the circumstances they face are far from normal. Dramatic increases in food and transportation costs, supply chain disruptions, and staffing shortages present significant obstacles to daily operations. As a result, meeting children’s nutritional needs is about to get much more difficult—but it doesn’t have to.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Congress’ process of making changes to child nutrition programs, last occurred in 2010. Now is the time for Congress to update and improve school and summer meals, as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). What we’ve learned from the past two years can make these programs function better.

The pandemic has exacerbated educational and economic inequities. But it also taught us many lessons on improving access to child nutrition programs. Congress must do more to provide schools, childcare providers, and community-based organizations the tools they need to ensure all children have year-round access to nutritious meals.

Visit www.philabundance.org/advocate to join us in building a movement to end food insecurity and learn how to use your voice to advocate for programs that relieve hunger today and end hunger for good. Legislators need to hear the message loud and clear: no one should go hungry.



Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation *And neither does Philabundance!*

Many children in our region rely on meals served at school to provide the nutrition they need to learn and grow. However, after school, on weekends, and especially during summer breaks, consistent access to fresh, healthy food may become unavailable.

Like many organizations, Philabundance had to adjust distribution operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the process, we learned a lot about the needs of our community. We continue to learn, adjust, and adapt to ensure we are meeting those needs safely and efficiently throughout the full calendar year. We have focused on tailoring children's programs over the summer, as families in our service area may face an average increase of \$300 per week replacing the meals their children would usually receive at school.

Together with the assistance of partner agencies throughout our nine-county Pennsylvania and New Jersey service area, Philabundance will be running programs to distribute nutritious food—including prepared lunches, healthy snacks, and fresh produce—to children and families each week over the summer months.

Let's Eat

We are proud to introduce Let's Eat, our eight-week summer initiative which will provide unique, healthy,

culturally responsive meal kits to families in need and encourage preparing and eating together. The kits feature recipes from local celebrity chefs, as well as our very own Philabundance Community Kitchen, and a space of the fresh and shelf stable products needed to make 16 different meals! Let's Eat will distribute 2,000 kits per week via community-based locations in our service area. This translates to 250,000 meals!

Passing the Love

We were inspired to continue the success of last year's Pass the Love w/ Waffles + Mochi collaboration with Partnership for Healthier America (PHA) and Honorary Chair, Michelle Obama, and Higher Ground Productions. This campaign surpassed its goal of distributing one million healthy meals to families facing food insecurity across the country. Philabundance distributed nearly one quarter of that total to 5,000 families through 25 locations throughout the Philadelphia area.

Educating Our Future

Ensuring children have access to healthy, nutritious food is only one part of the work we do within the school system. Our dedicated staff is always ready to educate the next generation of community members as well! Recently, Katie Gunter, MS, RDN, LDN, Nutrition Educator



Dear Katie and Kate,
 Thank you for taking your time to
 educate us about Philabundance and
 how important it is to participate
 in food drives and have learned about
 food insecurity. I would love to
 help out!

Best wishes,
 Micha.

Dear Katie and Kate,
 We are grateful that we were able
 to understand just how bad
 food insecurity is and what we can
 do. As soon as Covid is over we can
 definitely come help at Philabundance
 Thank you so much for taking the
 time you use to help others to help
 us understand just how many people
 need you and what you do, along
 with what we can do. It was really
 important to us. I learned that
 12 million kids in the U.S. need
 you. That is sadly a lot!!

Best wishes,
 Lila
 Thank you
 Here you are
 Philabundance
 You help our community!
 Thank!!
 you



in our Ending Hunger For Good program, and Kate Colyer, Manager, Retail Rescue, in our Food Sourcing department, had an opportunity to speak with a fourth-grade class at Perelman Jewish Day School about Philabundance's work fighting food insecurity. After hearing how people, including children like them, across our area face hunger every day, the students organized a food drive for Philabundance. Thanks Katie and Kate, for taking the time to raise awareness and inspire generosity!

We are so grateful for our donors, community partners, and volunteers, whose generosity allows us to continue serving families, children, seniors, and anyone struggling with food insecurity in our community. Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation... and neither does Philabundance!

For more information on children's programs and other ways in which Philabundance drives hunger from our community, visit our website www.philabundance.org.



Full Plate Society
PHILABUNDANCE

Full Plate Society Spotlight: Hannah Kastenbaum

In her day job, Hannah Kastenbaum puts her passion to work each and every day: using her medical degree to help others. As an associate medical examiner for the City of Philadelphia’s Medical Examiner Office, Kastenbaum provides an important service to grieving families, public health, and the criminal justice process. It’s that same emphasis on improving the lives of others that she brings with her as a Philabundance volunteer.

“I can only do what I can as one person, but I think that if you have the time, effort, and ability to share, then you should do that because everyone isn’t as fortunate,” she says.

As a member of our **Full Plate Society (FPS)**, Kastenbaum has participated in several Donor Volunteer Nights at the Philabundance warehouse, an

opportunity to give back while connecting with fellow FPS members over food (provided by Philabundance Community Kitchen) and perfectly curated playlists that make packing quick and easy.

“Work keeps me busy, but I also have free time to give, so I give it when I find the opportunity,” she says. “Volunteering is a great way to meet like-minded individuals, and more importantly, it’s clear that the work Philabundance is doing is needed, vital, and important.”

To learn more about the benefits of membership in the Full Plate Society, email fullplate@philabundance.org or call **724-761-2397**.



Staff Spotlight

Meet **Laura Macenka**, *Director, Volunteers and Events*



She is the woman that ensures that everyone feels welcomed and connected to our mission here at Philabundance. Her name is Laura Macenka, and we feel so incredibly fortunate to work with her.

Laura is the Director of Volunteers and Events, but her abilities go far beyond her title. With a background in event planning and a talented team in tow, she ensures that every volunteer has an impactful experience. From regular weekly volunteer shifts at our warehouse and special event activities, to working directly with our member agencies and finding safe ways to overcome pandemic challenges, Laura and her team make sure the volunteer experience runs smoothly and efficiently.

We are always looking for innovative ways to expand our volunteer program, and Laura is there to lead the effort. During the pandemic, Laura helped ensure personal safety of on-site volunteers while also creating virtual opportunities for volunteers to remain engaged. This summer she will oversee new night and weekend volunteer opportunities to welcome even more volunteers unavailable for a weekday shift, as well as a multigenerational experience that will give families with children 12 years and older the opportunity to volunteer together.

We are so thankful that Laura is on our team and deeply appreciate her efforts and the other Volunteer and Events team members who continually go above and beyond!

Celebrating the Heart and Soul of Philabundance Volunteer Week '22

Although we diligently try to show appreciation to volunteers, we can never put into words the true impact they have on Philabundance. It was an honor to dedicate a week in April, during National Volunteer Week, to appreciate those who give of their time and energy to neighbors facing food insecurity.

We are especially grateful for the outpouring of volunteer support over the past two years. With personal protective equipment and safe distance between them, our volunteers consistently showed up to help provide nutritious food, a sense of security, and hope to neighbors in need across the areas we serve in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Volunteers are imperative to our commitment of ending hunger for good. If you would like to get more involved, visit www.philabundance.org/volunteer for more information or to sign up today!

“Volunteers are the heart and soul of Philabundance, and we couldn’t do what we do without you!”

—Pam Rainey-Lawler,
Philabundance Founder



YOUR LEGACY: Fighting Hunger

Help Make Sure Future Generations Have the Food They Need to Thrive

Estate gifts, or planned gifts, can help ensure that our neighbors have needed nourishment for years to come. Easy to implement, these gifts help make a lasting impact while offering significant financial and tax benefits.

Please reach out to giving@philabundance.org or visit www.philabundance.org/planned-giving for more information. Please consult with your tax advisor on specific questions on your estate and tax benefits.

FreeWill – Not sure where to start? Philabundance has partnered with FreeWill, which offers a no-cost estate planning and creation tool tailored to your needs.

Visit freewill.com/Philabundance to start creating your will now.

2nd Annual Driving Hunger Away During Ramadan

A Partnership with PA State Senator Sharif Street

Ramadan is the holiest month of the year for Muslims and a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, heightened devotion and worship. Fasting from sunrise until sunset is practiced by many; those unable to fast are encouraged to help feed others.

For the second consecutive year, Philabundance worked on Driving Away Hunger During Ramadan with State Senator Sharif Street's office. Each evening, from April 2 through May 2, meals made by Philabundance Community Kitchen were distributed at different sites

throughout Philadelphia including housing developments, recreation and cultural centers, medical facilities, and more.

Many thanks to all of the generous sponsors of this initiative and to our PCK staff. We distributed an additional 6,000 nutritious meals in thirty days.



A New Home for Murphy's Giving Market

After seeing rising hunger rates in her community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Desiree LaMarr-Murphy began operating a food pantry, in the backyard of her Upper Darby home. In addition to partnering to provide food for her distributions, Philabundance was honored to provide the resources needed to move Murphy's Giving Market out of her yard and into a nearby building.

Partnering on Retail Rescue

We're so grateful for our partner Sharing Excess, which picks up surplus food donations from local grocer supporters and delivers them to our agency partners. Philabundance was able to gift Sharing Excess with a sprinter van to support our retail rescue program.

"Sharing Excess has already rescued and delivered more than 950,000 pounds of fresh food to Philabundance partners. With a new set of wheels on the road we expect to double that impact!"

- Evan Ehlers, CEO, Sharing Excess

Gearing Up to Do More

Philabundance was thrilled to celebrate our agency partnership with Salem and Family Promise Montco PA at the ribbon cutting for their newly renovated and expanded food pantry. Through this partnership, Philabundance supported their building renovation and makeover, as well as the purchase of new, high-quality equipment, including refrigeration and shelving.

"Together, we're able to give more fresh produce, more lean protein, and more nutrition education where it needs to be."

-Loree D. Jones, CEO, Philabundance