



The Feed!

Winter 2022 NEWSLETTER

PHILABUNDANCE

In This Issue

From Loree's Table
page 2

Employee Spotlight
page 3

**Transforming Lives
Through Food**
page 4

**Philabundance
Retail Rescue**
page 6

**Square Meal Society
Spotlight**
page 7

**\$250K Donation from
Energy Transfer/
Sunoco Foundation**
page 8

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

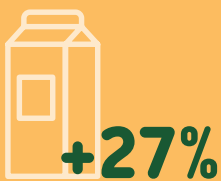
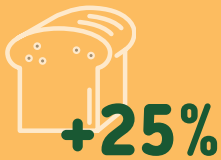




Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Average Food Cost Increase

July 2019 through July 2022



From Loree's Table

Happy Holidays, Philabundance Family!

I truly believe this time of year creates something special. Maybe it's the traditions, the holiday meals, the promise of a new year—or maybe it's just the opportunity to spend more time with those we love.

Unfortunately, we know that for many people in our service area, the holidays can be full of stress and uncertainty. Families worry they won't have the resources for gifts or a holiday meal with loved ones. Many seniors are making impossible choices between food, medicine, and utility bills.

Thousands of our neighbors are still struggling to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and now soaring inflation. Job loss, reduced income, and emergency expenses have made the last couple of years difficult for everyone. We know families will continue to struggle for months, maybe even years to come.

At Philabundance, we believe the uncertainty of food should never be part of this equation – not during the holidays and not at any other time of the year.

Our programs and services are feeling the impact of inflation and supply chain issues as well. But because of you, we continue to provide vital services throughout our nine county service area. Your partnership helps ensure children don't go to bed hungry, seniors don't have to choose between food and medicine, and all our neighbors have the nutrition they need.

Programs like **Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK)** and Retail Rescue that you'll read about in this issue of *The Feed!* are made possible through the support of donors like you. We are so grateful to have you as a part of the Philabundance family.

Wishing you a season filled with warm moments and cherished memories.

With Gratitude,

Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors

BOARD CHAIR

John Hollway
*Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice
University of Pennsylvania Law School*

VICE CHAIRS

Robert J. Clark
Ballard Spahr LLP
Noel Eisenstat,
Noel Eisenstat, LLP
Dixieanne James
Einstein Healthcare Network

TREASURER

Andrew Sandifer
FMC Corporation

MEMBERS

Bassam Awadalla
Bank of America
Sam Baker
Allen & Company, LLC
Anika Hawkins
WPVI-TV 6abc
Elizabeth Ireland
Grant Thornton
Pamela Rainey Lawler
Philabundance Founder
Adele Lindenmeyr
Villanova University
Cheryl Martin
Harwich Partners
Marissa Meyers
*Hope Center for College,
Community and Justice at
Temple University*
David J. Miller
Aleni Pappas

Todd Peterson
Quench
Martin Phillips
Tarnhelm Therapeutics, Opsidio LLC
Milton Pratt, Jr.
Michaels Development
Estelle Richman
*former Secretary of State
Department of Human Services*
John Ruane
Giant Martins Stores
Nora Swimm
PJM Interconnection
Dr. Nyeema C. Watson
Rutgers University-Camden

TRUSTEE

Alan Casnoff
P&A Associates

Shining a spotlight on staff member Donnamaria Valenza

Twice per week, dozens of our agency partners line up to load their vehicles with produce, dairy, proteins, and an assortment of other food items to distribute to neighbors in need. We call it the “Hub,” and there you can find Donnamaria Valenza, Manager, Galloway Programs, who has been with Philabundance for the last 15 years.

A typical day sees Donnamaria monitoring Hub activity, entering agency orders, answering phones and working with staff to get food to our agency partners. What she enjoys most is interacting with agency representatives. Describing the many challenges they face keeping their organizations open and serving their clients: “They are the true boots on the ground,” she says. “They are the heroes.”

She also expresses deep gratitude for our regular volunteers. Many come in early and stay late every shift to make sure the job gets done. “It’s not easy work. We couldn’t do this without them,” she states.

In addition to the love she has for her Philabundance family, Donnamaria also has a strong love for animals, especially her three dogs and two cats. She has volunteered for years with animal rescues and advocacy efforts and has already planned to expand these efforts when she retires.

We are so grateful to have someone as caring and dedicated — to humans and animals alike — in our Philabundance Family.



Donnamaria Valenza and Friends

The Advocacy Beet



Kathy Fisher
Director,
Government Affairs

Philabundance’s summer advocacy work included listening sessions and interviews with those we serve. We brought feedback from community members, pantry staff and volunteers with us to share at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health to ensure the perspectives of those who have experienced hunger were factored into a national plan to end it. In doing so, we also gained a deeper understanding of some things we thought we already knew!

The importance of dignity came up frequently. Of course, we and our member agencies believe it’s crucial to treat those seeking help with dignity. People deserve to be treated with respect, and doing so builds trust, lessens stigma, enables people to accept the help they need, and fosters a better experience for all. But we learned that being treated with dignity can mean so much more.

Individuals shared that struggles — job loss, health issues, and eviction — can batter self-esteem. But when treated with dignity at the pantry, they leave feeling better about themselves and hopeful they can overcome challenges. One person put it simply: “Dignity matters. Being treated with dignity helps people thrive.” Choice pantries help to support dignity, as well: “Food is emotional. Being able to choose appropriate foods helps with people’s sense of identity, can help with depression, and is fundamental to people feeling valued.” People shared many other examples: “For instance, with the holidays, if people know they’re getting a turkey or ham, they feel better. Just knowing they can depend on that main thing means they can build around it for their family’s special meal.”

This holiday season, we thank you for your support in serving our communities with dignity. We will continue to listen to those we serve and advocate for the resources and services they need to thrive.

Philabundance Community Kitchen



Transforming Lives Through Food

This year marks the second anniversary for the Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK) program operating from its dedicated, state-of-the-art facility. The 16-week culinary arts and life skills training program provides a path to stability and self-sufficiency by preparing students for work in the food service industry. Students get hands-on experience in a working kitchen while helping fulfill Philabundance's mission of ending hunger. Last year, PCK students produced 400,000 meals distributed through various partners to Philadelphia's most vulnerable residents, including newly arriving refugees.

Relocating and adjusting to a new work and learning environment can be difficult any time. Students and staff alike had the added challenge of doing so during a pandemic. "Not all of our students had access to the internet or video conferencing," recalled Candace Matthews, Director of Workforce and Community Development. "We conducted classes over the phone," she said when asked how they were able to keep the program going despite city-wide building closures in the early months. When it came time to test for ServSafe, a safe food-handling certification, Candace shared how just two students at a time were scheduled in order to maintain a safe and appropriate distance. It wasn't easy, but they made it happen. And they continue to make it happen for each new class.

On September 2nd, the program celebrated its 87th graduating class, which included Haleemah, a former math teacher, and

Eugene, a single father who relocated to Philadelphia from the Washington, DC area with his children.

Haleemah came to PCK with some knowledge of cooking, learned from her grandmother, but seeking personal growth. Culinary instruction from PCK chefs expanded on what she already knew, but the life skills lessons helped her find what she needed. “The classes here tap into your needs and help you self-reflect. We often don’t do that,” she said. “We stay where we are out of habit. If I hadn’t come here, I wouldn’t know where I wanted to go.”

After experiencing difficulty finding and keeping a job to support his family, Eugene found PCK online and thought he would give it a try, despite it sounding too good to be true. After completing the program, he feels differently. Eugene is proud. “I’ve never been wanted my whole life,” he said, “but now folks actually want me. They want me to work for them.” Both Eugene and Haleemah plan to pursue careers in the food service industry. They are well-prepared thanks to PCK.

“The beauty of this class is in how they really became a cohesive, family unit.” Candace said, addressing the family, friends, and Philabundance staff gathered for the graduation ceremony. The way they held each other accountable and came together to support each other through difficulties — in the classroom and outside — was something special to witness. “We’re not just classmates,” Haleemah says. “We are a tight-knit family with mutual respect who pushed each other to graduate and not leave anyone behind. This is a beautiful place.” We couldn’t agree more.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the Philabundance Community Kitchen, visit philabundance.org/pck



Preston & Steve Camp Out for Hunger

The November 2022 WMMR Preston & Steve Camp Out for Hunger collected over 2.8 million pounds of food and raised \$1,078,254, directly supporting Philabundance in its efforts to feed a growing number of people struggling to make ends meet and advocate for policies that increase access to food.

“We’ve been doing this for 25 years, and I still am blown away by the outpouring of support,” said show co-host Preston Elliot. “To see people from every walk of life show up and donate warms my heart beyond belief. I’m so thankful for the sense of togetherness and overwhelming generosity.”

Many thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff members who made this event a huge success.

Visit philabundance.org/camp-out-2022-totals for a full recap of this year’s event.

Over
2.8 million pounds
of food

\$1,078,254
raised

Philabundance Retail Rescue



On a recent Tuesday morning, volunteers at the West Chester Food Cupboard loaded shopping carts with groceries for the line of cars that wound along the outside of the pantry's warehouse.

"We give out the best foods," Connie Gentile said proudly. Connie, a 22-year veteran volunteer, said the pantry has been providing car-side service since the beginning of the pandemic. This fall, the pantry will open their indoor shopping area to nearly 600 families each month.

"It's better when people can choose the groceries they want," Connie said.

West Chester Food Cupboard is part of Philabundance's Retail Rescue program, which collects food donations from grocery stores, caterers, and restaurants. They regularly receive food from several local grocers, including the GIANT on Downingtown Pike in West Chester.

"The most important thing is helping people," said Mark Ward, store manager. "If people are dealing with hunger, I want them to know what resources are out there so they can get help."

In 2022, food from our Retail Rescue program represented nearly one third of all food Philabundance sourced. More than 30 vehicles pick up donations from dozens of locations each week, including GIANT, Acme Markets, BJ's Wholesale Club, and Wegman's. Other partners like Amazon, Reading Terminal Market, GoPuff, and the Philadelphia International Airport Marketplace have been added since 2018.

"This is good, quality food!" said Kate Colyer, Director of Food Sourcing at Philabundance. "This program is amazing because we help solve a business problem, and they're able to donate food. All those little donations have a big effect on our food systems, our communities, and the environment."

The strength of Retail Rescue is connecting stores to nearby pantries. The benefit is two-fold: local donations are easier to transport safely and grocery partners have roots in the same community as pantries. "Those local connections are vital," said Philabundance Program Manager Grace Tarves. "These kinds of partnerships can lead to fantastic things, like a food drive or a volunteer day."

As a member of Feeding America, Philabundance is part of a network of more than 250 food banks connecting with national retail chains. "Support from retail leaders is also essential," said John Ruane, interim president at The GIANT Company and a member of the Philabundance Board of Directors.

"To truly eliminate hunger in the communities we serve, we know it takes the efforts of many and both big and small actions," John said. "Thanks to our dedicated team members and partner hunger relief organizations like Philabundance, our retail food rescue program is one of the many ways The GIANT Company is delivering on its commitment to feeding our neighbors in need."

"One of our pillars is trying to eliminate hunger, and it's important to do something in the communities we operate in," Mark, GIANT's store manager, said. "What better way to do it?"

"This program is amazing because we help solve a business problem, and they're able to donate food. All those little donations have a big effect on our food systems, our communities, and the environment."

—Kate Colyer



Square Meal Society PHILABUNDANCE

Donations from individuals make up the majority of the support we receive at Philabundance. We know that without such incredible generosity from members of the community, we simply would not be able to do this important work.

Every day, donors join us in our mission to drive hunger from our communities with gifts of all sizes. While each and every donation, regardless of size, is appreciated, we so often hear “I wish I could do more.” Did you know there is a convenient way to maximize your impact while also saving time and resources?

By signing up to be a member of our Square Meal Society with a monthly donation, you can provide a consistent level of support that fits your budget and makes a difference. Giving a small amount each month feels much more manageable than making a larger, one-time contribution — but the result is the same! A monthly contribution can be set up to occur automatically via a credit card or even your bank account. This saves you from having to write a check and the cost of mailing in your donation.

Monthly donations provide Philabundance a steady and predictable source of funding year-round. This pool of reliable funds provides critical stability during times of emergency, as we experienced at the height of the pandemic. They also assist in long-term planning, as we are better able to commit to new or increased support for our partner agencies when we have donation consistency.

While a monthly Square Meal Society contribution can be set up to continue indefinitely, you are able to change, pause, or cancel at any time. Visit our website today to set up your monthly donation. If you have any questions, please email SquareMeal@philabundance.org or call 724-672-3105.

YOUR LEGACY: Fighting Hunger

You can help to ensure future generations have the food and resources needed to thrive by making Philabundance a part of your estate plans.

Philabundance Legacy Society

Join the growing number of people who have chosen to include Philabundance in their estate and become a member of the Philabundance Legacy Society. The Legacy Society recognizes all members of our community who help to strengthen our future through a planned gift. **Already have Philabundance as a beneficiary in your estate? Make sure to reach out and let us know at giving@philabundance.org.**

Create a Will for Free

Don't know where to start in setting up a will? Philabundance has partnered with FreeWill, a no-cost estate planning tool you can tailor to your needs. Learn more by going to [Philabundance.org/planned-giving](https://philabundance.org/planned-giving).

Did you know — IRA Charitable Rollover

An IRA charitable rollover is a simple way to support the mission of Philabundance while satisfying all or part of your required minimum distribution. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Philabundance. For more information, we suggest speaking with your tax or financial advisor, or reach out to giving@philabundance.org.



Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation Helps Drive Out Hunger with a \$250,000 Donation!



Philabundance is pleased to announce the generous donation of \$250,000 from the Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation.

The donation will allow Philabundance to provide hundreds of thousands of meals to those in need.

“We are extremely grateful for this generous donation and long-standing partnership,” says Loree Jones Brown, Philabundance CEO. With rising food and fuel costs, this donation helps make it possible for Philabundance to keep its fleet of trucks on the road, distributing produce, bread, dairy products, meat, non-perishable foods, and prepared meals to the communities that we serve. This will help the 1 in 10 people in the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area who face hunger every day.

This donation comes as part of a long-term partnership with Energy Transfer and Sunoco LP, that has resulted in more than \$2.8 million toward Philabundance’s mission to drive hunger from our communities today while working to end hunger for good. For more than 13 years, the Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation has generously provided financial support that goes toward the

fuel needed for the Philabundance fleet of trucks, vans, and cars.

“Both Energy Transfer and Sunoco LP have long-standing commitments to strengthen local communities, focusing on critical issues such as disaster relief, youth services, hunger and health, among others,” explained Chris Curia, Chairman of the Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation. “We recognize that the work Philabundance does in its communities is critical to peoples’ livelihood because it affects everything from health to education to financial success.”

“We at Sunoco are committed to distributing fuel to businesses and customers that need it around the country,” explained Joe Kim, President and CEO of Sunoco LP. “Thus, supporting Philabundance’s fuel needs to deliver vital food to people struggling in the community was a natural fit.”

Philabundance has a fleet of 18 trucks, 5 vans, and 8 other company vehicles that travel over 250,000 miles each year. The partnership and support of the Energy Transfer/Sunoco Foundation has enabled Philabundance to expand its ability to source food and provide emergency food assistance to more residents, including seniors and children.

