

# the Feed

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2020

**PHILABUNDANCE**

MEMBER OF  
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# From the Director's Table

Dear Friend,

As we enter the holiday season, my first at Philabundance, I can't help but acknowledge what a difficult time the holidays can be for so many of our neighbors. The events of this year have placed a strain on so many individuals and families throughout our region, making it hard to celebrate as we all continue to feel the impact of an ongoing public health crisis and the resulting financial hardships.

During these troubling times, I'm encouraged by you—our generous friends and donors – and proud of what we accomplished this year. Together, we answered the call for additional assistance and relief, safely and efficiently providing more food to thousands of additional people who needed extra help across the Delaware Valley. From adding more food distribution sites and changing our operations to contactless pickup to ensuring the meals our children count on reached those who found themselves learning virtually, we delivered on our commitment to drive hunger from our communities.

In this issue of *The Feed* we've included stories that highlight our dedicated partners, donors, and volunteers. We hope these will reinforce the work we're so proud of and you'll find the stories of these remarkable people inspiring.

As we all look to the new year with anticipation, let us reflect on our collective impact on the lives of so many throughout our region—none of which would be possible without you.

Thank you for your support.



With gratitude,  
  
**Loree D. Jones**  
 Chief Executive Officer

## YOU EASE BURDENS OF LOCAL SENIORS

This holiday season, countless people in the Delaware Valley are finding it difficult to adequately express their gratitude for you. Thanks to your gifts, Theresa and other neighbors living on fixed incomes have ongoing access to the nutritious food they need to bolster their health and feed their spirits.

"It's all good," Theresa says enthusiastically of the food she receives from the food cupboard at the Lutheran Settlement House Community Center, a member agency of Philabundance.

We met Theresa as she picked up food from the center and also took time to practice one of her favorite hobbies: painting.

Theresa has lived in the area her entire life and even recalls roller-skating in the center basement when she was just 10 years

old. As an adult, she worked 35 years in food service for the Philadelphia public school system.

Theresa says she has visited the community center ever since she retired in 2011.

"I'm on a fixed income," she says. "I don't get assistance. I get social security and my pension, but I don't get anything else, which is why the produce is a big help."

Theresa says she has an upcoming surgery, so she has been especially grateful for the fresh produce you make available through your gifts.

"Thank you," Theresa says to friends like you. "If you eat healthier, you're definitely healthier."

Your generous gifts are improving the lives of so many of your neighbors this holiday season,



Theresa

and all year long. You're clearly making the holidays brighter for the individuals and families who've reached out for help.

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## CARES ACT

The federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn. As you prepare your year-end giving, please note that the CARES Act

- Expands charitable giving incentives and allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 of charitable contributions to qualified charities this year;
- For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as Philabundance to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year;
- Suspends required minimum distributions from IRAs or other qualified retirement accounts.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Philabundance, especially at this challenging time.

# We are Thankful for You!



## Upcoming Events

### **Phil-A-Trunk Car Show** *Sunday, November 15*

The unofficial Camp Out for Hunger kick-off event returns for a second year of fast cars and trunk-loads of food. While this year's event will look a little different from previous years, many car clubs have already shown a promising commitment to the food drive competition. We are planning a safe and socially-distant trunk-to-truck food collection in the parking lot of the Wells Fargo Center. Stay tuned for more details.

### **WMMR's Preston & Steve Camp Out for Hunger** *Monday, November 16-Friday, November 20*

This year's event will be held the week before Thanksgiving and designed to ensure everyone's safety with trunk-to-truck donation drop-off and all entertainment being viewed from vehicles instead of the live broadcast tent. Leading up to the event, donations are being accepted online and through the head start program with ACME Markets. Donations received will be included in the overall Camp Out for Hunger total. Visit the website <https://wmmr.com/event/camp-out-2020-dates/> for more information.

### **6ABC Holiday Food Drive and Telethon** *December 1*

As you may be aware, the 6ABC/Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade is canceled this year, prohibiting our usual food donation collection leading up to the Telethon. Fortunately, 6ABC will still be hosting the annual Telethon to support Philabundance on Giving Tuesday. Plans are underway to ensure the safety of all 6ABC reporters, Philabundance staff and local celebrities who will take part in the event.

## CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION: NEW PHILABUNDANCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN FACILITY OPENS

It was less than 18 months ago Philabundance staff, donors, and community partners gathered in North Philadelphia to break ground on the future site of the Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK)—but on September 22, the scene at 2224 N. 10th Street looked much different.

Joined by elected officials, both local and regional, Philabundance CEO Loree D. Jones kicked off the outdoor, socially-distanced event to celebrate a project 20 years in the making; a new home for PCK.

The newly completed 18,000 square foot facility served as the perfect backdrop for the event, featuring state-of-the-art spaces to support the culinary training and life skills program for low income adults by preparing them for success and connecting them to job opportunities in the food service industry.

The program, which modified its instruction and operation throughout the COVID-19 crisis, was also responsible for supplying upwards of 4,500 additional meals per week to community agencies and shelters throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding region throughout the pandemic.

Philabundance was honored to welcome both Governor Tom Wolf, and First Lady Frances Wolf, who spoke about role that Philabundance, specifically PCK, plays in Pennsylvania's work to address and end food

insecurity throughout the state. Read her full remarks below:

*I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate this program, this place, and this organization.*

*Food security has long been a priority of the Wolf Administration. And as Pennsylvania – and the world – has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that now more than ever, people need help. They need help feeding themselves, feeding their families, and ultimately accessing resources to help them survive during this difficult time.*

*Philabundance and the entire charitable food network has worked tirelessly to meet the immediate needs of our friends and neighbors. To ensure that everyone has enough to eat. To provide hope. And yet, while emergency feeding efforts are absolutely crucial, we know that they alone cannot solve the issue of hunger.*

*While we feed our communities, we must also keep our eye on the root causes of hunger. Because those roots run deep. Hunger grows from poverty. It grows from inequity. And it grows for lack of opportunity.*

*I find the PCK program so exciting because it attacks the issue of hunger right at its roots. When students complete this program – as over 900 have in the past 20 years – they are armed not only with the culinary*

*training and certifications to land a job, but also the life skills, connections, and opportunities necessary to truly thrive and grow in this world.*

*The curriculum includes food preparation, how to thrive in a professional kitchen setting, budgeting, meditation, interpersonal communication, resume building, interviewing, and more. From knife skills to life skills!*

*PCK is more than a workforce development program; it's a personal development program. And the results? Empowerment that stretches across generations. A sense of personal pride in serving others. And a hearty chop to the roots of hunger.*

*Thank you to the students and the staff who have – and will continue to have – a positive impact not only on yourselves and your communities, but on Pennsylvania as a whole.*

*You inspire us all.*

— First Lady Frances Wolf

*To learn more about PCK, its new home in North Philadelphia, and how your investment can change the lives of PCK students, visit [www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org).*



### FUNDING FRESH STARTS AT PCK

When Adele Lindenmeyr arrived at the Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK) four years ago to dine with the program's students and staff, seeing was certainly believing. Already a regular Philabundance donor, Adele had recently increased her support to pay for one student to complete the program, which provides culinary and life skills training for low-income adults.

"I was already impressed by the concept, but seeing the students, the support staff, the training—it really blew me away," she says.

For Adele, supporting PCK was an easy choice. Its mission, and the opportunity it provides people to create a fresh start and support themselves, was central to her decision. "Students leave PCK with more than just job training," she says. "They come away with a broader vocational training, life skills, and

moral support that will increase their chance of long-term success."

As a member of the Philabundance operations and development committees, Adele continues to champion our mission and vision for the future. "Food is fundamental; you can't learn or keep a job if you're hungry," she says. "Everyone has a basic human right to be fed, and I'm proud to work alongside Philabundance to ensure that happens."

**You can become a Philabundance Ambassador for hunger relief, too!**

Please visit [philabundance.org/volunteer/ambassador](http://philabundance.org/volunteer/ambassador) or email [PHLBevents@philabundance.org](mailto:PHLBevents@philabundance.org) to learn more.



## A MOTHER GIVES THANKS FOR YOU

For families like Marlen's, one of the best gifts they can receive this holiday season is the one you're helping provide: nutritious groceries for their whole family.

We met Marlen on a visit to The Lord's Pantry at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, a member agency of Philabundance. Marlen says she typically visits the pantry once each week to help make ends meet for her family.

Marlen and her husband have two children, a 5-year-old son, and a 14-month-old daughter, Aylin, who was with Marlen on her visit to the food pantry.

Childcare is too expensive for both children, so Marlen stays home to care for them while her husband

works outside the home. But with only one income, it's often challenging to keep enough food on the family's table.

Marlen says your gifts to Philabundance make a big difference for her family.

"This is very helpful," she says of the food she picks up from the pantry.

Family favorite foods from the pantry are the pasta, eggs, cheese, chicken and other meats that are typically out of their budget at the grocery store. Marlen says she lives just 10 minutes away from the pantry, so she's also grateful to have this resource right in her own community.



Thanks to your generosity, countless more parents just like Marlen can keep nutritious food on the table this holiday season. Thank you for sharing hope at a time of unprecedented need.

## A LEGACY OF COMPASSION: FEEDING FAMILIES FOR YEARS TO COME



*Joan*

As a former schoolteacher and a mother of seven, prioritizing the needs of others was second nature to Joan Bellwoar. So, it's no surprise that in her estate planning, Joan designated 90 percent of her estate to charities committed to the community's most vulnerable populations, including Philabundance.

Helping others was a core belief of Joan's and her compassion for

others was evident, according to her son, Andy. "During her life she really 'walked the walk,' so it was only fitting that in her will she 'talked the talk,' making such a great donation to a worthy cause," he says. Despite feeding her own large family each night, she regularly welcomed anyone who needed a meal to her table, he recalls, ensuring that no one went hungry. "For me, the idea of coming together, talking, sharing—that was all associated with food," he says. "For my mom, I'm sure the thought of someone

not having that really impacted her decision to give to an organization like Philabundance."

For Andy, seeing the impact of his mother's final gift is especially meaningful. "This gift will keep my mother's legacy alive, allowing her to touch even more people's lives for years to come."

For more information on Planned Giving opportunities at Philabundance please call 215-339-0900 x 1156 or email [shertz@philabundance.org](mailto:shertz@philabundance.org).