

the
Feed

summer 2016



You're Filling
Empty Tables
This Summer.

Plus: Learn How
You're Helping
Hungry Children!



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Dear Friend,

Wow, time really flies doesn't it? In just a few weeks, it'll be summer, and if you spend any time around children, you know what that means — they're already counting down the days until school's out. But three months out of school isn't good news for every kid.

Because more than 300,000 children in our 9-county service area rely on free or reduced-price meal programs during the school year, boys and girls from struggling families could be in trouble this summer. Without access to regular breakfasts and lunches, they won't have the energy to run and play. And when the new school year begins this fall, they'll be at risk of falling behind their peers. We can't let that happen.

That's why I'm so thankful for caring friends like you. Through your gifts to Philabundance, children across our service area can access the healthy food they need to thrive now and all summer long.

Seeing the smiles on these kids' faces as they enjoy the food you provide is one of the best parts of our work. When you donate, you're providing more than just food — you're delivering help and hope to thousands of kids every day.

In this summer issue of *The Feed*, you'll have the chance to meet a few of the children you're helping — as well as their grateful parents. Their stories are just a small sample of what your generosity makes possible for our struggling neighbors.

Your support is absolutely critical to the children and families we serve together. Thank you for helping us drive hunger from our communities!

Sincerely,

Glenn Bergman
Executive Director



A West Philly Family Won't Miss Meals, Thanks to You

Kareem and Shakeeda are proud parents of two school-age daughters — Yasmine and Mishaya — and their new baby, Kareem Jr.

Ever since the baby was born, Kareem has been over the moon. While he admits having an infant can be challenging at times, Kareem says that the joy his son brings into his and Shakeeda's home more than makes up for it.

"He puts a smile on my face every day," Kareem says, beaming.

Because he wants to provide his family with the best life possible, Kareem has been in school studying information technology. With two months left until he receives his degree, the income

from Shakeeda's nursing job is currently all the family has to pay for the basics — including food.

"Thank you and keep the love coming."

Right now, Yasmine and Mishaya can eat most of their meals at school. But that will all change when school breakfasts and lunches are unavailable for three whole months.

That's where friends like you come in.

When you give to Philabundance, it will help parents like Kareem feed his family. With each visit he makes to Grace Lutheran Church, his local Philabundance partner agency, he receives produce, meat, dry goods and other staples.

Kareem has great hope for the future and knows his family will be on better financial footing once he finds a job in his field. But for now, he's so grateful that caring neighbors like you choose to give to help his family through their temporary time of need.

"Thank you and keep the love coming," Kareem says, smiling widely.

Your Gifts Change Lives!

THANK YOU

YOU Helped Spread the Love

Winter is a tough time for many families struggling with the tough decision of whether to heat or eat. Thanks to your generous donations, as well as a \$5,000 match from sponsor Glanzmann Subaru, that was one decision fewer families had to make. Our goal for this year's Spread the Love campaign was to raise enough money to buy 12,000 jars of PB&J. We not only met but exceeded that goal! With your donations, we'll be able to provide more than 15,000 jars to help hungry children in our area.

We also want to extend a BIG THANKS to the students of Bethany Christian School of Chester County who held a food drive that brought in more than 1,000 pounds of PB&J and to our media sponsor, More 101.1 FM.

Community Support for Fare & Square

We are truly grateful to The Philadelphia Union Foundation, which has teamed up to support – and help provide – a healthier community for Chester's families and children. Its generous donation of \$25,000 has helped contribute to the expansion of healthy food options at Fare & Square and created a union that will benefit the Chester community, for years to come. For more information about the Philadelphia Union Foundation, visit: philadelphiaunion.com/foundation

Additional support for the nation's first grocery store came in February, when Philabundance Board member John Hollway and his wife Jami McKeon hosted a reception to introduce Fare & Square to individuals in neighboring communities. Collectively they helped raise more than \$30,000. A special thank you to John and Jami for their commitment to Philabundance and its programs.

A Fruitful Winter

November and December are busy months at Philabundance, thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations and others who hold food drives. We are truly grateful to the following partners who collectively brought in more than 1.25 million pounds of food and more than \$250,000!

ACME



2016 Grantors*

Philabundance serves more than 90,000 people each week through direct service programs and our agencies, thanks, in part, to the generosity of these foundations:

The Disney Company/
Feeding America
The Brook J. Lenfest
Foundation

The Henry E. Niles
Foundation, Inc.
The Elizabeth B. and
Arthur E. Roswell

Foundation
The TJX Companies, Inc.
The Wawa Foundation
*List as of 3/2/16



A Mother and Son Give Back



Sheri Howard is a local realtor with a big heart. Despite her busy schedule, she's been coming out to the Philabundance Hunger Relief Center once a week since January – and she has no plans to stop any time soon.

With each visit to the Center, Sheri finds that there's always something new to do, which suits her just fine. Like most of the other volunteers she's met, she's just grateful for the chance to serve her community.

But that's not the only reason Sheri makes volunteering here a priority. Years ago, she often wondered where the next meal would come from for herself and her little boy, Kyseer. By serving others now, she can give the kind of support she wishes she had back then.

Because Sheri wants her son to learn the importance of giving back, she brings Kyseer, now nine-years-old, to volunteer as well. At first, she was afraid he might get bored, but she's been pleasantly surprised by how well he's taken to it — especially when it comes

to the more hands-on jobs, like packing and lifting boxes.

"It's a great bonding moment for us," Sheri says.

As someone who's struggled financially in the past, Sheri understands the need, and hopes other families and individuals will find the time to support Philabundance's mission. She's a big promoter of the organization, urging others to get involved however they can. For those thinking of taking her advice, she promises it will be an experience you won't forget.

"It's going to change you," Sheri says. "Come out and see what it's about."

Thank you, Sheri and Kyseer, for helping our neighbors in need. It takes a whole community to feed our neighbors in need.

Leave a Legacy

Did you know that you can continue to drive away hunger, long into the future? Through a will, trust, annuity, life insurance gift or other legacy gift, Philabundance supporters are able to make a significant difference in our community, beyond their lifetimes. Because, as long as there are hungry people in our community, Philabundance will be here to help feed them.

To learn more about how your generosity could make an impact for generations to come, please contact Caryn Rubinstein, Chief Development Officer, at (215)339-0900 ext. 1105 or crubinstein@philabundance.org.

Your Gifts Help Feed A Family in Need



of public assistance, Ginette still constantly worries about being able to put food on the table for both her children. And with summer just around the corner, things will become even more challenging when she has to replace the free meals Connor now receives at school.

Thankfully, Ginette learned about the Bristol Borough Community Action Group, a Philabundance partner agency, near her family's home. Each time the pantry's executive director, Pastor Jeff, stops by her home, he comes with a box of food that makes up for most of the groceries she's unable to afford at the store — including healthier items, like fruits and vegetables.

Because of you, Connor, Gwen and many other boys and girls in our community can access the food they need to thrive. This means so much to mothers like Ginette, who knows she wouldn't be able to feed her kids without everything your generous gifts provide.

"Thank you for thinking of us," says Ginette. "It's so nice to know people care and will help."

*Children's names have been changed.

Ginette is a hardworking single mom with two school-age children, Connor, 9, and Gwen, 16.* Lately, it's been tough making ends meet, especially now that Ginette devotes most of her time to caring for Gwen, who has been too ill to attend school.

Despite these difficulties, Ginette tries to make the most of her situation. Because Gwen is still a couple of years from graduation, Ginette signed her daughter up for online high school courses so she doesn't fall behind on her studies. Meanwhile, she does what she can

to support Connor, who attends the local elementary school.

But without a reliable source of income beyond a small amount

"Thank you for thinking of us."

Thank You for Helping Kids in Need



Summer will be here before we know it, and siblings David, Isiah and Yamelette will be out of class for three months. When the last school bell rings, these kids will be worried.

problem as their dad's diabetes has caused him to need dialysis, which has meant missing some of his shifts at work.

“(The managers) don't like it when you can't work,” the children's father, David, says.

Philabundance and KidsBites, you're ensuring that thousands of boys and girls have enough to eat now and all summer long.

“It's good what you're doing,” David, says. “Thank you!”

“It's good what you're doing.”

Like many of their classmates, David, Isiah and Yamelette rely on the school meal program for breakfast and lunch every weekday. But with the cafeteria closed, these meals won't be available.

Although their parents both have jobs, they've had some financial struggles that have made it hard to afford enough food on a regular basis. This has become more of a

Because he has no one else he can turn to for help, David has begun coming with his children to the KidsBites food distribution at Lowell Elementary. Through this Philabundance program, David can pick up healthy fruits and veggies every other Thursday. He'll continue to do so during the summer since the program will keep running even when the school is closed for the long break.

David doesn't know what he'd do without your support of programs like KidsBites. As a parent, it's such a relief to be able to feed his children.

But David's children aren't the only kids you're helping. By supporting



Kids Bites LunchBox Program Is Back!

With more than 300,000 children in our service area at risk of going hungry this summer, we're excited to bring back our summer LunchBox program! With your generous support, we'll be able to provide 175 healthy sack lunches each week to all Fresh For All sites.