

the
Feed

Summer 2018

You bring hope to families like Kendra's.

Thank you for giving our neighbors a fresh chance!

You're helping Rachel and her children escape hunger!





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Dear Friend,

As the temperature finally starts to warm up, many of us are looking forward to long, sunny days. Unfortunately, for families whose children depend on school meal programs, these days can turn into long, hungry nights.

When cafeteria doors close for summer vacation, girls and boys who depend on free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches lose the security of that food safety net. Caregivers who are already having a hard time making ends meet now have to provide many more meals that they cannot afford.

We all know how vital it is for kids to have consistent, balanced meals for healthy development. But hunger also affects kids emotionally and behaviorally and hurts their ability to concentrate. Hungry children simply cannot thrive.

Your partnership helps ensure kids across the Delaware Valley won't experience the damaging effects of hunger this summer. When you give, you stock the shelves of our member food pantries, you ensure our Philabundance Community Kitchen can prepare healthy LunchBox meals for kids and you fill our Fresh For All trucks with nutritious produce.

About a third of the people we serve every week are children, and your support is so important to them. I hope we can continue to count on your help in meeting the increased need for healthy food over the next few months.

In this issue of *The Feed*, you'll hear from a few local families with children who are benefiting from your generosity.

From all of us at [Philabundance](https://www.philabundance.org) who are working every day to end hunger, we thank you for your support in helping to feed children and families in need this summer.

Gratefully,

Glenn Bergman
Executive Director

You've Given Hope to a Bristol Family



"Before I found out about this place, we didn't have any food," Kendra says, dismayed. "There were days where we only ate rice."

You've made a real difference for Kendra and Sam's family. Sam works full-time to support Kendra, their 2-year-old son Joey, and their two school-aged daughters. But even with a regular paycheck, it's often a struggle to cover all their expenses. Things will only get harder when the girls get out of school for summer vacation.

neighborhood. But for now, her family really needs some help. Thanks to you, they found it at Cornwells United Methodist Church, a [Philabundance](#) member agency in Bensalem.

The church's Harvest Ministry food pantry regularly shares nutritious groceries with people in the community who need a helping hand. Kendra says it's a true relief to be able to bring home healthy food.

"Thank you," Kendra says to friends like you. "This is so helpful."

For families who have nowhere else to turn, your generosity is a true lifeline. So many of your neighbors would go hungry without the support you make possible. On behalf of the many children, families and seniors we serve together, thank you for your partnership.

**Some names have been changed to protect identity.*

Kendra and her son, Joey, pick up healthy food at Cornwells United Methodist Church's Harvest Ministry in Bensalem, PA.

"There were days where

we only ate rice."

Finances weren't as tight when Kendra was working prior to giving birth to Joey. But with the high cost of childcare, she just couldn't justify keeping her hourly job.

Kendra is working on building up a babysitting business in her

In 2017...

Total Distributed

50M MEALS

distributed in the Delaware Valley



Fresh for All

1.9M LBS

of fresh, free produce distributed at 9 locations in PA + NJ



Children's Programs

191K LBS

distributed to children in our service area



You're Making the Future Brighter!

IN THE KNOW

Advocacy NOW

Help us advocate for fair access to food for those who need it most — sign up for AdvocacyNow e-alerts. Given the proposed changes to the federal budget, and legislature, we are very concerned about possible cuts to SNAP and other federal nutrition programs. You can help! Find out how by signing up at Philabundance.org/advocate.

THANK YOU

PCK Continues to Grow

PCKatering, the new social enterprise from our Philabundance Community Kitchen culinary arts training and meal production program, continues to earn business from clients looking to complement their corporate meetings, receptions or community events with delicious food (visit Philabundance.org to place your order). Because of the growing success of PCK and PCKatering, we will soon be expanding our location AND the program. Stay tuned for more exciting details!

Zarwin Baum March Madness

Law firm Zarwin Baum hosted its annual March Madness client appreciation event to benefit Philabundance on March 15. Guests attended this day-long event to enjoy the NCAA March Madness tournament and participate in auctions to benefit Philabundance. Thanks to generous donors and bidders, [Philabundance](http://Philabundance.org) took home approximately \$33,000 which is enough to help us provide 66,000 meals for our neighbors in need.

Grateful to Our Grantors:*

[Philabundance](http://Philabundance.org) serves more than 90,000 people each week, thanks to the generosity of these supporters:

The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation
The Claneil Foundation
Feeding America
Maverick Capital Foundation
GIANT/Our Family Foundation

*List as of 3/14/2018





Annette's all smiles during her volunteer shift at the [Philabundance](#) Hunger Relief Center in South Philadelphia.

Annette's Doing Right on Behalf of Her Neighbors

Annette comes by her generosity honestly. She remembers how her parents would welcome neighbors into their home to share food — no one they knew would go hungry on their watch.

These days, Annette's continuing her family's legacy of generosity as a dedicated [Philabundance](#) volunteer. She came for her first shift back in 2011 and quickly made friends on the warehouse floor. Before she left for the day, her friends had already signed her up for another shift! She says her volunteer team has become her family, and she's proud of what they're able to accomplish together.

"Before you know it we've sorted through 800 to 1,000 pounds of food," Annette says of a typical shift. "That's pretty amazing if you think about it because you're one person, but you played a critical part in getting all of that out."

She regularly gives her time helping to sort and package items at our Hunger Relief Center in South Philadelphia and has recruited coworkers from her job at Pearson to join her.

Annette says her choice to take up the fight against hunger was simple. She was taught to do what's right and necessary, and she saw the need in her community.

"The very people you live next to, worship with, work with ... they're not in the third world, they're right in the first world with us," she says of her neighbors in need. "[Hunger] shouldn't happen but unfortunately it does, and I'm glad we're here and we can help."

Our work would not be possible without gracious people like Annette who give their time to improve the health of our community.

Our sincere thanks go out to Annette, her team and her recruits for their tireless efforts to drive hunger from the communities we serve.



Working Together to Accomplish Even More

One of the most exciting and effective ways to make a difference in the lives of your hungry neighbors is to volunteer with Philabundance. Whether you're available once a year or every week, we have opportunities for you to enjoy a hands-on experience with your family, coworkers or by yourself. To find out more, visit philabundance.org/volunteer.

Thank You for Giving Second Chances

When you give to [Philabundance](#), you don't just provide food. Your gifts give your neighbors the chance at a better life through Philabundance Community Kitchen.

"I don't know where I'd be *without this program.*"

Philabundance Community Kitchen is an intensive 14-week program that trains low- to no-income adults with the technical and life skills they need to work in the culinary industry. Philabundance Community Kitchen has an 80% job placement rate, and it's a no-nonsense course — a recent class began with 17 students, but only eight graduated. Markeeta was one of them.

"I don't know where I'd be without this program," she says.

Markeeta was raising her two children — Destiny, 9, and Elijah, 11 — with the help of her mother. But shortly after her mom passed away, the family was on the verge of homelessness. Markeeta had no choice but to send Destiny and Elijah to live with their dad as she scrambled to get back on her feet.

Through Philabundance Community Kitchen, Markeeta was connected with a life coach who helped her secure a safe place to stay. She laughs now saying that although she's never been a morning person, she's been thrilled to wake up in the wee hours to begin her work at Philabundance Community Kitchen.

Now that she's graduated from the program, she plans to become a partner in her sister's catering business. Elijah, Markeeta's son, loves to cook and she's excited to share some of her new knowledge with him.

This program is an open door for neighbors like Markeeta, who just need the chance to improve their situation. She knows she has you to thank for this important opportunity.

"Thank you," Markeeta says, with a bright smile. "Without donors, this program wouldn't be able to help as many people. This changes our lives."



Markeeta learning new skills at [Philabundance Community Kitchen](#)

You Make All the Difference

Rachel's children Paisley, Payten and Brody, outside our free produce market at Bucks County Community College



Rachel's been trying hard to get her family back on solid footing, but a series of financial setbacks has made it very difficult.

First, she lost the dental office job she'd had for seven years because her health was failing. Then, she lost her car because she couldn't make the payments. That meant what she thought would be her new job as an Uber driver ended, too.

In just a few short months, this self-sufficient single parent of three went from making ends meet to missing rent payments. It's certainly not a situation Rachel ever thought she'd be in. If it weren't for your generosity, Rachel wouldn't be able to put food on the table for her kids Payten, Brody and Paisley.

"I never thought I'd be coming to places like this ..." Rachel told us as she gathered fruits and vegetables at a free [Philabundance](#) produce distribution that takes place at Bucks County Community College. She brought with her Payten, who will soon start her senior year

of high school, Brody, who's a rising fourth grader, and Paisley, her shy 2-year-old.

Rachel told us what a relief it's been to visit the produce distribution. With summer on the horizon, she's going to need extra help to feed her kids without the security of school meals.

Rachel, reflecting on what your support means to her, shared her gratitude for generous people like you who help make free programs like these possible.

"Thank you," she said with emotion in her voice. "We wouldn't have food without you."

Your partnership is so greatly appreciated — and greatly needed — by the people we serve together. Thank you for fighting hunger with Philabundance!

Generosity Across ALL Generations!

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, even beyond their lifetimes. As long as there are hungry people in our community, Philabundance will continue working to end hunger forever.

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 x1105 or crubinstein@philabundance.org