

the
Feed

Winter 2017



Muanda's kids are smiling. Find out why...

Joann is grateful for your holiday gifts!

Plus: Candi's family is no longer hungry, thanks to you.



Glenn Bergman
Executive Director

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Dear Friend,

I first want to wish you a happy holiday season!

This is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and imagine how we can make the world a better place. I cannot, however, imagine what it's like for the many parents and seniors in our community who are struggling to afford to heat their homes, while also trying to feed themselves and their families.

Hunger is in every zip code, and it's often a silent issue. We don't always see the signs of starvation in our neighbors, but we know that 1 in 5 people in the Philadelphia area suffers from hunger.

The data we see and the stories we hear make it clear that we must continue to be vigilant in our mission to end hunger. So as we celebrate the holidays with loved ones, I ask for your continued support of that mission. For every dollar you donate, Philabundance is able to provide two meals for hungry children, seniors and families.

I was especially moved when I heard Candi and Isaac's story – I think you will be, too. Please be sure to read the back cover so you can see just how meaningful your generosity and compassion really are. Their story is one that made me think, "That could be any of us."

I also ask that as you think about your year-end giving, you consider including Philabundance as part of your estate plans. This time of year is such an important reminder that Philabundance must continue its work so that generations to come will have enough to eat during the holidays, and all year long.

Thank you for reading this newsletter's true stories of your neighbors in need who've received help, thanks to you. On behalf of the entire team at Philabundance, and all those we serve thanks to your generosity, thank you for your continued support!

Happy Holidays,

Glenn Bergman
Executive Director

You're Helping Moms Like Muanda Celebrate the Holidays

Your generosity has a powerful effect on the people we serve together. Take Muanda, a mother of four, who is very moved by the kindness of neighbors like you. Before she learned about Fresh For All free produce markets, she struggled to put food on the table — especially on weekends and holidays when the kids were out of school.

"Thank you so much for your help," she said during a visit to her local Philabundance produce distribution.

"It's helpful to use the money I save on groceries to buy other things we need."

As a professional caregiver, Muanda wasn't making enough money. Even after taking on additional shifts at work to earn extra income, she still struggled to afford groceries. Because she had

no immediate family to provide the support she needed, Muanda was so relieved to find outside help. And it's all because of you.

Recalling her first visit to the Philabundance Fresh For All distribution, Muanda expressed her deepest gratitude for the wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables she was able to bring home to feed her family. She said she and her kids were especially excited about the tomatoes, mangoes and bananas.

Because of this important supplement to her tight food budget, Muanda no longer needs to choose between paying the bills and putting food on the table.

"It's helpful to use the money I save on groceries to buy other things we need," said Muanda.

The truth is, the impact of your gifts simply can't be overstated — especially during this season of joy and celebration. Thank you so much for restoring hope to families across our community!

Muanda with her children at a local Fresh For All distribution



Thanks to Our Partners — and to You

THANK YOU

Philabundance Launches a New Website

Our new website is easier to navigate and features more food resources, more ways to get involved and stories showing the impact YOU have made to help feed our neighbors in need. Check it out at Philabundance.org!

Helping Feed Seniors in Need

PantryBoxes for seniors, a new food program serving one of our most vulnerable populations, began just in time for Grandparents Day in September. Prior to launch, Philabundance distributed 4,500 USDA-donated food boxes each month, but there were many more hungry seniors on the waitlist. A generous grant from The W. W. Smith Charitable Trust allows us to provide 15-pound boxes of nutritious food to an additional 625 seniors.

SEPTA Stops Hunger

Thanks to riders and staff who contributed to SEPTA's Stop Hunger at Your Station 2017 food drive. Generous donors provided food and funds that yielded 35,147 meals — up by about 1,650 meals from 2016!

Rescuing Produce for Those in Need

In July, we began gleaning shifts at the Philadelphia Wholesale Produce Market (PWPM) to rescue produce that might otherwise go to waste. To date, this partnership has engaged over 150 volunteers and allowed us to provide more than 170,000 pounds of fresh produce to our clients. Thanks to the PWPM and its vendors for allowing us to keep this healthy food from going to waste.

Grateful to Our Grantors:*

Philabundance serves more than 90,000 people each week, thanks to the generosity of these supporters:

Capital One
The Claneil Foundation
Comcast Foundation
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**List as of 9/18/2017*



KieranTimberlake Helps Fight Hunger With Art

KieranTimberlake is an award-winning architecture firm and a leader in architectural research and sustainable building design. Always looking to be a good neighbor, the company has spent years building a working relationship with local charities like Philabundance.

Since 2013, KieranTimberlake has committed one percent of staff hours to pro bono projects that benefit nonprofit organizations. As two KieranTimberlake employees — Megan Suau and Fatima Olivieri — put it, the idea is to ensure that great charities can still access architectural services that help communicate their mission to current and future supporters.

Megan and Fatima said that their latest project with Philabundance came about unexpectedly. After years of participation, KieranTimberlake didn't get a spot in the annual "CANstruction" event benefiting Philabundance. The event is a unique design build competition among Philadelphia's leading architects, engineers, contractors and design firms, and positions fill quickly.

According to Megan and Fatima, they'd already assembled a crew of architects and designers for the competition. It was more than a little disappointing.

Because the company still wanted to contribute their staff's talents in some way, the idea of CANopy was born. A suspended structure made of empty, painted cans and embedded with multiple layers of hunger-related information, the CANopy art piece, now come to completion, is as beautiful as it is informative to the public.

For both Megan and Fatima, the research involved in creating CANopy was the most eye-opening part of the project. Both came away stronger supporters of Philabundance knowing just how much thought and effort goes into providing clients with a balanced diet.

To drive hunger from our communities, we must constantly find ways to work together and communicate the urgency of our mission. A huge "thank you" to the folks at KieranTimberlake for enabling Philabundance to do just that. Their generosity is greatly appreciated!

KieranTimberlake staff pose under the CANopy



Joann Thanks You for Your Support

Joann comes from a big family. As the middle child of 15 siblings, she says she practically raised her younger brothers and sisters. Maybe that's why even today, Joann continues to uplift those around her in need of support.

At home, Joann does everything she can to help her daughter and four grandkids. Joann's daughter was in a major car crash that left her unable to work.

service to those in need, near her family's home. These groceries have been a wonderful relief for Joann and her family — your help in providing this vital food cannot be overstated.

In addition to caring for immediate family, Joann has worked hard to ensure her neighbors know about the pantry as well. Known locally as the "block captain" of her neighborhood, Joann said that she's been able to spread the word about the hunger-fighting work you make possible.

It's only through caring and compassionate people like

you that Joann's family — and others in her community — can receive the nourishing food they're unable to purchase on their own.

"[Your gifts] have meant a whole lot," said Joann, gratefully.

This holiday season, the last thing anyone should worry about is being able to put food on the table. Thank you for helping community-minded neighbors like Joann enjoy this season by experiencing the generosity of friends like you.

"[Your gifts] have meant a whole lot."

Because her daughter must now rely on a small amount of disability income to purchase food, Joann began visiting the pantry at River of Life, a Philabundance member agency that offers social

Joann at River of Life in Philadelphia, PA



Your Gifts Restore Hope to Struggling Families

Candi and Isaac pose with food they received at a free produce distribution in Montgomery County

Candi and her husband are the loving parents of two sons — Isaac, 10, and Stephen, 12. Later this month, their family will be among those celebrating Thanksgiving in the Delaware Valley. But a special Thanksgiving meal may be more meaningful to them than most.

Candi's husband unexpectedly lost his human resources job. She said that after 27 years with the company, his layoff was a major blow — both emotionally and financially.

At one point, Candi wondered whether her family would lose their house. They had faithfully paid their mortgage for years and were getting close to owning it outright.

For as long as they'd been together, Candi and her husband had taken steps to live within their means. Thankfully, they hadn't accumulated any debt. But as their

savings dwindled, it soon became clear that even their good financial habits wouldn't shield them from going hungry if their situation didn't change soon.

Worried that she wouldn't be able to feed her kids much longer on one paycheck, Candi began searching on the Philabundance website for help. She was familiar with the organization because her family had previously donated.

It would be humbling for anyone to go from being a donor to a recipient, but Candi was glad

she reached out for help. It was worth it to be able to bring home good, healthy food — including lots of fresh produce — for her growing boys.

This holiday season, we want to thank you on behalf of parents like Candi. Your generosity ensures your hardworking neighbors can escape hunger now and in the coming new year!

