



The Feed!

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER
PHILABUNDANCE



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Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

From Loree's Table

Dear Friends,

Summer is a season of warmth, possibility, and for many families across our region, a time of deepened struggle. When school doors close, so too does access to the free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches that so many of our neighbors' children rely on every day. For families already stretched thin by rising costs and reduced food assistance, that gap can feel insurmountable.

This cause is one I hold close to my heart. My mother was a teacher who understood that a hungry child cannot learn—and she led by example, making sure her students always had access to healthy meals. Long before I stepped into my role as CEO in 2020, she was a proud Philabundance donor, quietly investing in our mission because she believed in it. I carry her example with me in everything we do.

This summer, Philabundance remains fully committed to closing that gap, working across our network to ensure that children and families have access to the nourishing food they need, even when school is out. From our Summer LunchBox program to our strong partnerships with community organizations and sponsors, we are showing up every day, so no child goes without.

None of this is possible without you. Your generosity does not take a summer break, and neither do we. Thank you for standing with us—and with every child and family counting on this community to come through for them.

With deepest appreciation,

Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

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Celebrating National Nutrition Month with Philabundance

This March, Philabundance proudly celebrated National Nutrition Month, an annual campaign established by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to promote healthy eating choices and habits. This year's theme, "Discover the Power of Nutrition," served as a timely reminder of how the right food choices can positively transform health, energy, and everyday life.

To mark the occasion, former Philabundance Nutrition Educator Julia Cobble and Philabundance Community Kitchen student Sasha Thomas joined the *Positively Philly* team on PHL17 for a live cooking demonstration, during which they showed viewers just how accessible and enjoyable nutritious eating can be. From simple ingredient swaps to budget-friendly meal ideas like overnight oats, Cobble and Thomas offered practical inspiration for incorporating wholesome foods into daily routines—not only in March, but all year long.

For Philabundance, nutrition isn't simply a campaign theme—it's a cornerstone of the work we do every day.

"Ending food insecurity means more than putting food on the table," Cobble said. "It means ensuring that that food



Julia Cobble (left) and Sasha Thomas join Abby Urban and Rachel Malak on *Positively Philly* to discuss National Nutrition Month and PCK's culinary program.

is nourishing, and that everyone has the knowledge and resources to make healthy choices for themselves and their families."

As we look ahead, Philabundance remains committed to pairing food access with nutrition education, because no one should have to choose between eating and eating well.

Nourishing Neighbors During Ramadan



Julia Revilla, Catering and Special Events Chef, serves samples of this year's meals, thoughtfully prepared for distribution during Ramadan.

This spring, Philabundance marked the sixth annual Driving Hunger Away During Ramadan initiative, a powerful partnership with State Sen. Sharif Street that brought nourishing, culturally responsive meals to thousands of Philadelphia residents throughout the Muslim holy month.

Running from February 18 through March 19, the 30-day initiative fed at least 200 people daily, with Philabundance Community Kitchen preparing 7,600 wholesome meals distributed through 30 community distribution sites across North Philadelphia. Each partner was chosen because their community largely observes Ramadan, to ensure meals reach neighbors in a meaningful and dignified way.

The initiative came at a critical time: more than 485,000 Philadelphia residents have seen their food assistance reduced since pandemic-era

SNAP benefit extensions expired in 2023, with households losing an average of \$80 per person per month. Additional SNAP changes in 2025, rising costs, and ongoing food insecurity made community-centered efforts like this one more vital than ever.

"Ramadan is a time of reflection, compassion, and service to others," Sen. Street said. He also noted that the effort demonstrated what becomes possible when government, nonprofits, and community leaders unite around a shared purpose.

For Philabundance, this initiative reflected a core belief: that fighting hunger means meeting communities where they are—with food that honors who they are.

PCK students apply the finishing touches to their original dishes as they present to local hospitality industry leaders.



A Taste of What's Possible: *PCK's Spring Student Showcase*

On Wednesday, March 25, the Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK) buzzed with excitement as 15 culinary students took center stage at the Spring Student Showcase—a celebration of talent, hard work, and the transformative power of culinary training.

Each student crafted an original dish from scratch, drawing on the skills they've built throughout PCK's culinary training program. The result was a spread of global flavors served to restaurant owners, catering professionals, hotel operators, and other hospitality industry leaders.

"This is an opportunity for which we get to not only take away the training wheels, but also the smoke and the mirrors, because you are building everything in front of the guests. They're doing it in front of CEOs of hotels, HR directors, chefs—probably nine businesses in total that were in the house," PCK Chef Instructor Brian Ricci said.

The menu read like a seasoned chef's greatest hits: Colombian chicken empanadas, crispy roasted duck with berry gastrique on crostini, jerk shrimp tostada with Caribbean slaw and mango glaze, cumin lamb skewers with Asian chimichurri, vegan crabcake with lemon caviar and cucumber slaw, Ethiopian brisket stew, suya bites with herbed crema, and an indulgent trio of cheesecakes, among many other dishes.

The variety and sophistication of the dishes on display spoke to the students' individual creativity and also to the depth of instruction they receive at PCK. Every plate told a story of someone who arrived with a dream and left with the skills to make it real.

"The goal of the event is to provide a couple of things—to get students in front of potential employers and also to give them what I would call the relative equivalent to an elevator pitch for who they are," Ricci said.

The Student Showcase is held twice a year and serves a dual purpose: giving students a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their abilities in a real-world setting, and introducing PCK to industry professionals who may not yet be familiar with the program. For many students, the event has opened doors, connecting them directly with potential employers in the room.

"I always put them in the position of: would you hire you? Are you prepared to look at yourself and say, 'I would offer me a job right now doing what I'm doing?'" Employment Specialist Cameron Guthrie said. "This job that we're trying to get our students into—the foot in the door, so to speak—it's not the end game. It's the beginning of it."

Moments like the Spring Student Showcase are powerful reminders that fighting food insecurity is about more than meals—it's about building pathways to stability, dignity, and opportunity for individuals and families across our region who need second chances.

"In the culinary world, we talk about mise en place, which is organizing and having everything you need where you need it," Ricci said. "We stress that, because it's a culinary skill, and also a life skill. And the balance of those two skillsets—that's what this program is all about."

No School? No Problem. Summer LunchBox is Here.

When school doors close each June, a quiet crisis begins for tens of thousands of families across the Philadelphia region. The free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches that children depend on during the school year disappear—and for families whose budgets are already stretched to the limit, filling that gap can feel impossible. That’s when Philabundance steps in.

Now in its fourth year, the Summer LunchBox program is Philabundance’s dedicated answer to the summer meal gap. From June 15 through August 21, LunchBox will provide 10 weeks of healthy, handmade meals to food-insecure families across our nine-county service area.

The numbers tell a compelling story. This summer, Philabundance Community Kitchen’s (PCK’s) all-star culinary team will prepare 40,000 fresh, ready-to-eat, kid-friendly lunch meals, supplemented by 20,000 pantry-friendly breakfast kits—each containing enough for two full meals—and 15,000 hearty, frozen PCK breakfast meals. Families can access meals at more than 25 strategically located youth-serving community sites throughout the region.

“The families that come in are interested in meals for their children and supplementing during the summer months,” said Dana Mohamed, area manager at ICNA Relief. “A lot of students and families don’t have access to food, so with Philabundance’s partnership, we’re able to provide that.”

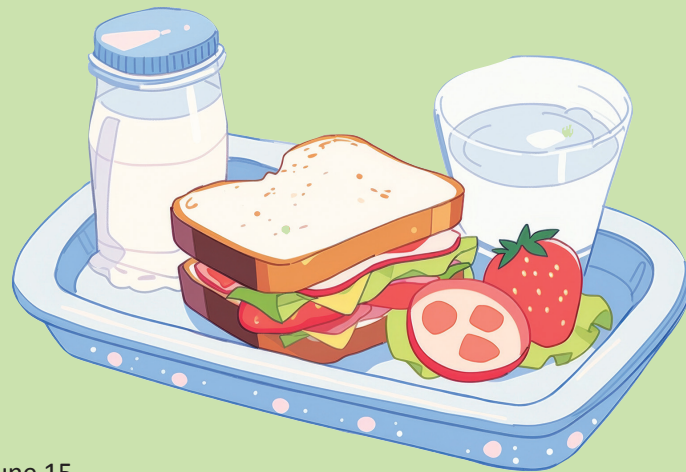
The program’s design has been shaped directly by the families it serves. Over four years and learning from more than 500 participating families and 45 community partners, Philabundance has refined its approach based on real feedback.

The results speak for themselves: in 2025, 96% of families said LunchBox meals were healthy for their children; nine in 10 reported that their kids genuinely enjoyed the food; and the vast majority of parents praised the mixed-format meal plan for its flexibility and convenience.

“I love the LunchBox program. It’s very helpful for us working parents who might not be home or have the time to make lunch,” said a parent from Episcopal Community Services in West Philadelphia.

From roasted chicken and fresh veggie grain bowls to waffles with fresh berry compote and summer picnic boxes packed with fruit, cheese, and turkey pepperoni, LunchBox menus are crafted to be nutritious, delicious, and kid-approved.

Because every child deserves a full plate this summer—regardless of what the school calendar says.



What’s on the menu?

Here are just a few
of our offerings:

- ◆ Roasted Chicken and Fresh Veggie Grain Bowl
- ◆ Primavera Pasta Salad and Fresh Fruit
- ◆ Waffles with Fresh Berry Compote
- ◆ Summer Picnic Box: Fresh Fruits and Veggies, Cheddar Cheese, and Turkey Pepperoni

In the Community with Philabundance

Check out some of the things we've been up to recently across our region to serve our neighbors in need and drive hunger from our community!

Flyers and Penn Medicine Team Up to End Hunger



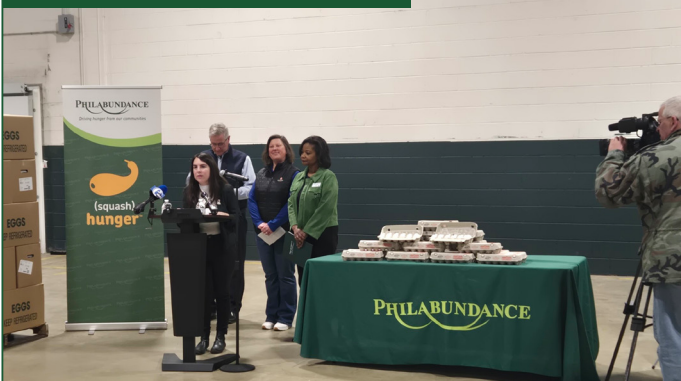
MARCH 25. SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HUNGER RELIEF CENTER: The Philadelphia Flyers and Penn Medicine visited us for a volunteer shift. This season, for every assist made on the ice, Penn Medicine and the Flyers donated 50 pounds of food to neighbors in need.

Community Cook-In



APRIL 8. PHILABUNDANCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Held throughout the year, these demonstrations show local neighbors ways to prepare meals for themselves and their families. And, attendees leave with the ingredients and tools to do so.

The Great American Egg Drive



MARCH 27. ROXBOROUGH WAREHOUSE: Sauder's Eggs and the Great American Egg Drive donated 72,000 eggs for Philabundance to distribute to our neighbors!

Supporting Neighbors in Grays Ferry



APRIL 12. GRAYS FERRY: Philabundance distributed free food to neighbors in Grays Ferry while the neighborhood's only grocery store was closed in the aftermath of a parking garage's tragic collapse.

Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Future Feeds Philly



APRIL 2. ENON TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Enon hosted a Future Feeds Philly event to address food insecurity during Christian Holy Week. Over 1,000 volunteers packed more than 600,000 meals to distribute to Philabundance's partners across the region.

Earth Day Award for Sustainability



APRIL 21. PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT: Philabundance was awarded the 2026 Earth Day Award for our role in sustainability efforts with MarketPlace PHL, which has donated over 160,000 meals to our Retail Rescue program.

Dealing a Hand Against Hunger:

Aaron Nola's Second Annual Charity Poker Tournament



Board member Nyeema Watson (left) shares Philabundance's mission with event attendees.

On Thursday, April 16, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Aaron Nola and his wife, Hunter, hosted their second annual Charity Poker Tournament, benefitting Philabundance and Team Red, White & Blue, which supports veterans and military service members, at Citizens Bank Park.

Presented in partnership with Yuengling and the Phillies, attendees played poker alongside Nola, his teammates, and celebrity guests like Jason and Kylie Kelce, plus fellow Phillies players Bryson Stott, Orion Kerker, Jesus Luzardo, J.T. Realmuto, and Brandon Marsh. Guests enjoyed a silent collectibles auction, on-field photo opportunities, and more. Philabundance staff, volunteers, and board members were also in attendance.

The evening reflected Nola's commitment to giving back. Named the 2025 MLB Philanthropist of the Year by the Major League Baseball Players Trust, he has supported Philabundance's mission for five years as a donor and partner in the fight against hunger.

"When we come together for a purpose bigger than ourselves, lifting up the people who make our communities stronger, everybody wins," Nola said.

The event raised approximately \$275,000 for Philabundance and Team Red, White & Blue.

Justice for the Hungry: A Community United Against Food Insecurity

Philabundance's third annual Justice for the Hungry campaign ran from April 1 to 30, 2026. Thirteen law firms and legal organizations participated this year, competing to earn points through corporate gifts, food drives, individual fundraising, and volunteer hours. Collectively, this year's participants raised \$129,000 and over 400 pounds of food.

What began as an idea by David Antzis of Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld—a challenge to his peers to take collective action against rising hunger rates—has grown into one of Philabundance's most dynamic and spirited fundraising initiatives.

"Supporting Philabundance's vital mission to help families secure their next meal has been deeply meaningful for our firm," Jami McKeon, firm chair at Morgan Lewis, said. "Rooted in our longstanding tradition of service and volunteerism, we remain committed to offering resources, hosting food drives, and creating new opportunities to strengthen our impact in the community."

With food costs continuing to rise and demand at Philabundance remaining high, the Justice for the Hungry campaign translates directly into meals for neighbors across the region.

We are profoundly grateful for the firms, attorneys, and staff who competed, volunteered, and gave during the Justice for the Hungry campaign.



Philabundance CEO Loree D. Jones Brown and Zarwin Baum Managing Director Mitchell Kaplan attended the firm's annual March Madness-themed fundraiser, which kicks off the Justice for the Hungry campaign.

The Heart Behind the Work:

Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week

Every box sorted, every meal packaged, every snack kit assembled—none of it happens without the dedicated volunteers who show up for Philabundance and their neighbors in need. This April 20–26, we celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Week by honoring the individuals who make our mission possible every single day.

Volunteers are not simply a helping hand at Philabundance; they are the backbone of our operations. Last year alone, our steadfast volunteer community contributed over 22,400 hours of service, sorting food in our warehouses, assembling nutritious snack kits for children and individuals experiencing homelessness, and supporting Philabundance Community Kitchen by prepping ingredients, portioning meal servings, and packaging meals for distribution. That time, energy, and commitment translates directly into food on family tables across our region.

The scale of food insecurity in the Philadelphia area means that the work is never done—and neither is the need for people willing to roll up their sleeves and be part of the solution. Whether they come as individuals, families, corporate teams, or community groups, our volunteers bring a spirit of generosity that sustains everything we do.



Celebrating some of Philabundance's most committed volunteers at Very Important Volunteer Night.

"I'm just a small part of this great thing," said Paul Schumacher, a volunteer who has dedicated nearly 600 hours of his time over the past two-and-a-half years. "I get so inspired by all of the amazing people I work with; they're just amazing people. After a while, you just realize what clients want and how to help them."

To every volunteer who has given their time to Philabundance—thank you. You are the reason hunger doesn't win.

Philabundance Legacy Society

Since 1984, Philabundance has grown, adapted, and responded to helping our neighbors in need, thanks to our generous and caring community of donors. You can support our work today and beyond by including Philabundance in your estate as part of the Philabundance Legacy Society.

Visit philabundance.mylegacygift.org to learn how you can establish a legacy of fighting hunger today. Questions? Contact our Development office at giving@philabundance.org or (215) 339-0900.