The Feed!

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

PHILABUNDANCE



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Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

From Loree's Table

Dear Friends,

As we move into this season of reflection and giving, I find myself thinking about the power of community and what it truly means to show up for one another.

This year, Philadelphia marked a historic moment with the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding—a moment that called on all of us to live our ideals in real and tangible ways. Through our "We the People, Feed the People" campaign, Philabundance has embraced a simple but urgent truth: ensuring our neighbors have enough to eat is a responsibility we all share.

Across our region, too many families continue to face impossible choices as costs rise and critical subsidies disappear. And yet, time and again, this community responds with compassion, generosity, and action. Each donation, whether $10 or $10,000, directly allows Philabundance to provide nourishment, stability, and dignity to those who need it most.

The spirit of this season reminds us that giving is not only about what we provide, but about who we're supporting. When we say, "We the People," we mean everyone—and that commitment has never felt more important.

Thank you for being part of this work and for standing with your neighbors.

With deepest appreciation,

Loree D. Jones Brown
Chief Executive Officer

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We The People, Feed The People

This summer, as Philadelphia took center stage for the World Cup, the All-Star Game, and America's 250th anniversary celebrations, Philabundance launched "We the People, Feed the People," a new campaign grounded in both urgency and hope.



"We the People, Feed the People" celebrates the founding ideals of liberty, justice, and the common good, while recognizing a stark reality: nearly 700,000 people in our region, including more than 200,000 children, are facing hunger. At a time of rising grocery prices and changes to SNAP that have already impacted thousands of people, too many of our neighbors are being forced to choose between food and other basic needs.

But this endeavor isn't just a campaign; it's a call to action. It affirms that hunger is not a problem of scarcity, but of access—and that ending it will take all of us. Every donor, volunteer, community partner, and advocate at Philabundance plays a role in ensuring that families have the nourishment they need to thrive.

This campaign serves as a reminder that when we say, "We the People," we mean everyone. We must each do our part to address the issue of hunger in our communities—whether by raising our voices in advocacy, volunteering at Philabundance or a pantry partner, hosting a food drive, or making a donation. Only then will we see real change.

As we celebrate our nation and its founding ideals, we thank each of you who have come together across our region to strengthen nutrition programs, support local food systems, and meet this moment with collective action—because we know that true freedom includes freedom from hunger, and that stronger, healthier communities thrive when everyone is fed.

Philabundance Legacy Society

Since 1984, Philabundance has grown, adapted, and responded to help 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.

Looking for other ways to make an impact? You can also support our neighbors facing hunger with gifts from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), naming Philabundance as one of your charitable beneficiaries of your IRA, charitable gift annuities, and more!

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**.



Mike Cerino, President and CEO of Warminster Food Bank

Food Is Easy; Dignity Is Harder

How Warminster Food Bank and Philabundance are turning a community pantry into a model for compassionate, dignified food distribution—one neighbor at a time.

When Mike Cerino became president and CEO of Warminster Food Bank in Pennsylvania in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had just begun—the first in a series of challenges that would test his community, and define his leadership, in the years ahead.

Before COVID, they were distributing around 30,000 pounds of food per year. At the height of the pandemic in 2021, the demand quadrupled—at least. And today, they distribute about 53,000 pounds of food per month.

“Philabundance was a great rescuer of our mission,” Mike recalled. He partnered with the organization in 2021, when Warminster Food Bank could no longer meet demand on its own. That partnership has only deepened since, growing from a lifeline in crisis into an enduring collaboration that continues to shape what Warminster Food Bank can offer its community. “Without hyperbole, we wouldn’t exist without Philabundance.”

As one of Philabundance’s 300+ community partners, Warminster Food Bank has extended its reach even further, not only reaffirming its position as a reliable source of nutritious food for its own clientele, but also practicing a dignified model of food distribution that is central to its mission and values, according to Mike.

“I always say, ‘food is easy; dignity is a lot harder,’” he said. “It’s a tough situation to be in when you’re food insecure; why make it harder? We want the pantry to be a welcoming environment, an experience where people get the food they need and the care they need.”

Support from Philabundance has transformed Warminster Food Bank from a grab-and-go pantry into a dignified shopping experience that gives neighbors real choice, selection, and agency over what goes on their tables. It’s a small but meaningful shift that affirms their dignity during every visit.

Today, shoppers frequently comment on the attentiveness and intention that goes into the food bank's market basket, according to Mike. Rather than feeling like they're receiving a random collection of canned goods, they leave with food that feels chosen for them. Each market basket, designed for clients' meal planning, includes a selection of protein, like poultry, beef, sausage, or deli meats; fresh fruits and vegetables; dairy items, like eggs, milk, and cheese; cooking staples like flour, sugar, and spices; shelf-stable items like tuna, condiments, and pasta; as well as personal care, oral care, and household cleaning and laundry items. The average basket is approximately 110 pounds of groceries and retails at $250.

Long-term, Mike hopes that the model Warminster Food Bank has worked so hard to achieve—and continues to build, thanks to its ongoing partnership with Philabundance—will act as an open door to anyone facing food insecurity, replacing the shame, embarrassment, and stigma that has long accompanied hunger with something far more powerful: belonging.

For example, a local resident on a fixed income was prescribed a new blood pressure medication, which cost him $300 each month. Instead of taking the medication daily, as prescribed, he was taking it every other day, hoping to stretch his supply to cut costs and leave funds for groceries, utilities, and transportation. Too ashamed to admit he needed help, the man was hesitant to accept weekly groceries from the food pantry—until Mike offered him a different way to think about it.

"I finally said to him, 'If we can provide you with groceries every week, will you promise to take your pill every day?' What we're doing is allowing people to make a shift, and if they can allow themselves to be part of the community's generosity, we can help close those gaps."

Thanks to Philabundance and a network of supporters that share a commitment to investing in one another, that spirit of generosity is stronger than ever.

"I see it every day—people want to be a part of something good. It's transformative to make a difference in the lives of others," Mike said. "I tell our volunteers and our staff, 'We can't fix a broken world, but we can fix the brokenness in ourselves when we do the work on this mission.'"



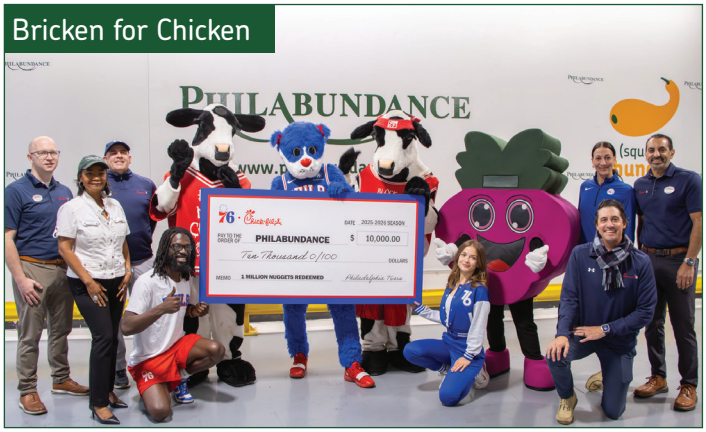


Warminster Food Bank's pantry allows guests to browse and select the items they need.

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!

Bricken for Chicken



MAY 26. SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HUNGER RELIEF CENTER: In celebration of Chick-fil-A and the 76ers giving out 1 million nuggets through their in-arena activation "Bricken for Chicken," the duo donated $10,000 to support Philabundance and our neighbors.

Feeding America CEO visits Philabundance



JUNE 11. PHILABUNDANCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Feeding America's new CEO, Denis McDonough, visited Philabundance and attended our Summer LunchBox kickoff event.

Live Broadcast from FOX29



JULY 29. PHILABUNDANCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN: FOX29 held an all-day campaign for Philabundance, which was featured on *Good Day Uncut!, Good Day Philadelphia,* and *Behind the News.*

Class 109 Graduates



JULY 10. PHILABUNDANCE COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Congratulations to the 19 students who recently graduated from PCK's culinary training program.

Wawa Hoagie Day



JULY 1. NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER: Thanks to Wawa, our community partners distributed 9,500 hoagies to our neighbors.

9/11 Day of Service



SEPTEMBER 9. LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD: Thousands of volunteers packed 1 million meals to distribute to our neighbors.

Phans Feeding Families: Striking Out Hunger



Philabundance Director of Events and Volunteers Laura Macenka throws the ceremonial first pitch.

On Saturday, June 20, Philabundance joined the Philadelphia Phillies, Aaron Nola, and Citizens for the annual Phans Feeding Families game, which brings fans together at Citizens Bank Park for a night of baseball, community, and giving back.

Since 2011, Phans Feeding Families has engaged Phillies fans in the fight against hunger by collecting non-perishable food donations and raising critical funds to support Philabundance's mission. Together, the Phillies and Citizens have generated more than $1 million, providing the equivalent of 4 million meals for neighbors facing hunger.

This year's event continued the longstanding tradition, with fans showing that their generosity extends far beyond the ballpark. To kick off the evening, Philabundance Director of Events and Volunteers Laura Macenka threw the first pitch, celebrating the community spirit that makes this event possible.

The night was made even sweeter when the Phillies secured a win over the Mets, giving fans plenty to cheer about both on and off the field.

6th Annual Top Guac Competition

Great guacamole starts with great ingredients—and thanks to our partners, Philabundance and our neighbors have plenty to work with. For National Avocado Day, The GIANT Company and Avocados From Mexico once again donated nearly 60,000 avocados to support our mission to provide fresh and nutritious food to neighbors across the region.

To celebrate the donation, Philabundance Community Kitchen graduates and GIANT staff teamed up for the 6th annual Top Guac competition, a friendly culinary challenge filled with creativity, collaboration, and plenty of delicious guacamole. Teams put their skills to the test as they created unique recipes and celebrated the power of food to bring people together.

"We are deeply grateful to The GIANT Company and Avocados From Mexico, both for the delicious avocado donation for our neighbors and for hosting such a fun and unique experience for our culinary students," said Philabundance CEO Loree D. Jones Brown.

Best of all, the fresh avocados were quickly delivered to communities across our service area by the Philabundance Transportation team. Kudos to GIANT and Avocados From Mexico for making this flavorful tradition possible and for their commitment to supporting healthy food access in our community.



GIANT Store Manager Sarah Hamel (left) and Philabundance Community Kitchen Chef Kahiem Love-Miller earned the title of Best Guacamole in Philly with their fire-roasted classic guac.

Supporter Spotlight: Scott Jackson



(From left to right): Scott Jackson with his wife, Lisa; Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro; and Philabundance CEO Loree D. Jones Brown at Camp Out for Hunger in 2025

For Scott Jackson, the work of Philabundance has never been abstract—it's rooted in something he heard at the dinner table as a child.

Growing up, Scott listened as his mother described what it was like to be raised by a single parent in Philadelphia, in a household where dinner was sometimes bread and ketchup. There were no programs like Philabundance back then. That memory never left him.

"I thought, 'If I'm ever in a position where I can help out, I want to do so,'" Scott said.

When Scott discovered Philabundance as a listener of WMMR radio's *The Preston & Steve Show*, he found his vehicle. What began as a first-time donation grew into something far greater—volunteering alongside his wife and children, joining the board's Development Committee, and eventually becoming a member of Philabundance's board itself.

Along the way, a lightbulb moment at a South Philadelphia food distribution event brought the mission into sharp relief.

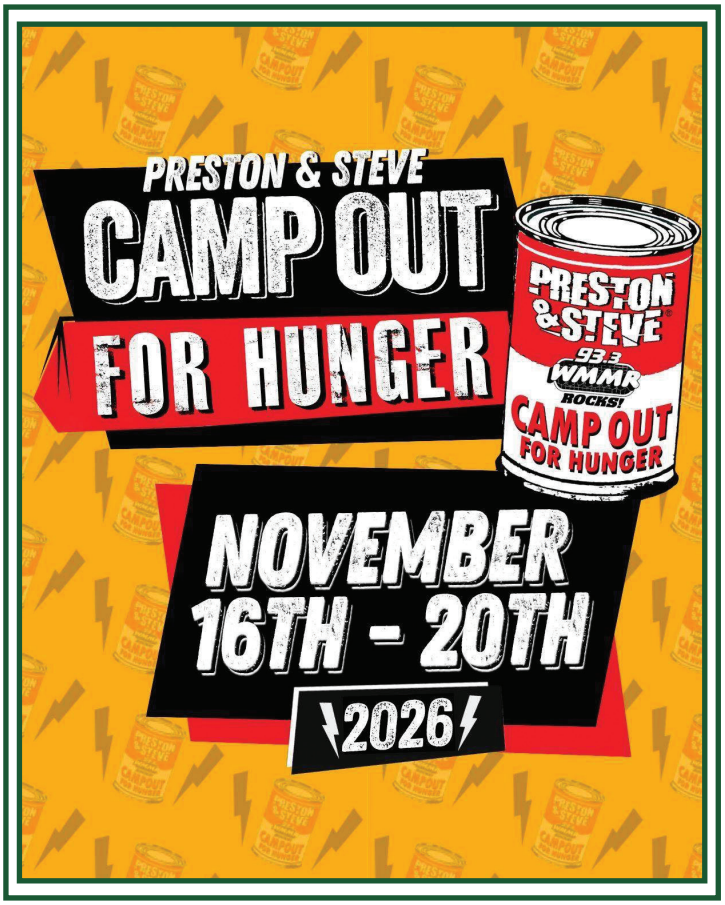
"All of a sudden, you're seeing the people who are benefiting, as opposed to a box that you're packing," he recalled. "People were already queued up, as much as an hour early. It really touched me."

Today, Scott's 90-year-old mother still joins him at Camp Out for Hunger—the nation's largest single-site food drive—each year. For this family, the commitment runs as deep as the memories that first inspired it.

"You do well by doing good."

Read Scott's full story at philabundance.org/doing-good

SAVE THE DATE



From November 16-20, visit Camp Out for Hunger outside Xfinity Mobile Arena to donate food, watch live radio broadcasts, and so much more!