



YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE CHAIR

During this Hunger Action Month, I am proud to report the first year highlights from Hunger-Free Lancaster County, a broad coalition of business, faith-based, school, non-profit and public-sector organizations listed below. Working together as a community, we set a bold goal to ensure sustainable access to three healthy meals a day for every Lancasterian by 2018.

With its strong agricultural, faith and philanthropic communities and an unacceptable number of residents regularly experiencing hunger, Lancaster was the ideal site to launch such an audacious initiative. The county's food insecurity rate of 10.5%, while not the highest in Pennsylvania, represents nearly 55,000 people. By comparison, nearby Dauphin County, home of the state capital of Harrisburg, has 38,000 residents with food insecurity.

Hunger-Free Lancaster County has had an incredibly productive first year. Follow us in year two as we continue to build a county in which not one person lives without access to three healthy meals a day. We hope you volunteer to help and stay in touch with us online, on Facebook and on Twitter!

Proudly,

Mike Brubaker
 Chair, Hunger-Free Lancaster County
 Former Pennsylvania State Senator
 President and CEO, Blackford Ventures, LLC
 Founder, Pennsylvania Legislative Hunger Caucus



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COALITION PARTNERS

FIVE COMMUNITY SECTORS, WORKING TOGETHER

BUSINESS

Blackford Ventures LLC	Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association
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CHARITABLE / SOCIAL SERVICES

Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster	Central Pennsylvania Food Bank	Community Action Program of Lancaster County
Hand Across the Street	Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness	Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine
PowerPacks Project	Spanish American Civic Association	United Way of Lancaster County

GOVERNMENT

City of Lancaster	IU13 Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit	Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Human Services
Lancaster Recreation Commission	Pennsylvania Department of Education	Penn State Extension Nutrition Links
School District of Lancaster		

FAITH-BASED

Church World Service	Lancaster County Council of Churches	Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Zion Lutheran Church		

MEDIA

Engle Printing and Publishing Co., Inc.	Lancaster Farming	LNP Media Group, Inc.
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HFLC YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS



Fewer Hungry Kids

HFLC's top commitment is to make sure that every child in Lancaster gets three healthy meals a day – before, during and after school and in the summer months, too. Our school partners play a critical role in the fight against child hunger and Lancaster County's 16 school districts have been amazing.

- A remarkable **194,917** additional school meals were served during the 2015-2016 school year in Lancaster County - a total of **2,042,193 meals** - with many schools adopting effective alternative and kid-friendly strategies, such as "Breakfast After the Bell," breakfast smoothies or "Grab and Go" kiosks.
- **20,482** more meals were served this summer over the prior year and Lancaster County kids ate healthy meals at 42 sites around the county, five more than last year.
- The [Power Packs Project](#), using donated vans and hot trucks, even took summer feeding on the road, distributing 1,250 backpacks this summer, helping families throughout the county.



A Focus on Healthy

HFLC enthusiastically promotes access to healthy meals for everyone and our partners have embraced the growing emphasis on providing fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy and protein.

- [Power Packs Project](#) alone sent home over **20,000** quarts of fresh milk packed in cooler bags as part of its innovative weekend food program that empowers families to regularly provide healthy meals so their children can return to school, well-fed and ready to learn.
- The [Central Pennsylvania Food Bank](#) grew by **28%** the amount of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy and protein (**1,597,024 pounds/1,330,853 meals**) available in Lancaster County food pantries and community meals.
- [Lighten Up Lancaster](#) now provides "Menu Makeovers," popular and free consulting services donated by [Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine](#) nutritionists to improve the meals served at area community meals.
- All but one Lancaster County school district has at least one vegetable garden and 10 more schools broke ground this year for a total of 38 school gardens countywide. [Lighten Up Lancaster's toolkit](#) on how to start a school or community garden is a must-read for anyone interested!

HFLC YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS



Food Safety

Because everyone deserves food that has been prepared in a safe and hygienic manner, HFLC members worked together this year to improve compliance with food safety and handling regulations in Lancaster County.

- Nearly **30 soup kitchens and food pantries** obtained their ServSafe food safety certification this year, an intensive course offered by the [Lancaster County Council of Churches](#) and the [Central Pennsylvania Food Bank](#).
- HFLC partners are hard at work coordinating a community solution to help improve the nutrition and safety of food served by hundreds of churches and other community meal programs throughout the county.



Reducing Barriers to Access

To ensure more and healthier meals, HFLC members continue to innovate ways to reduce the many barriers those in need face in accessing healthy food, nutrition education and healthcare services, including:

- HFLC members helped preserve the long-standing Anchorage breakfast, finding it a new home at the [First United Methodist Church of Lancaster](#);
- Created a new satellite office for SNAP (food stamp program) application assistance at member [Community Action Program of Lancaster County](#), one of the busiest social service agencies in a high-poverty area of Lancaster City;
- Included SNAP eligibility screening in the [United Way of Lancaster County](#)'s free tax preparation services ([VITA](#));
- Brought mobile farm stand that accepts WIC vouchers and a mobile grocery store that accepts SNAP benefits to the Southeast neighborhood of Lancaster City;
- Member [Community Action Program of Lancaster County](#) launched "WIC on Wheels," the first mobile medical and nutritional clinic to serve pregnant women and children up to the age of four in rural and underserved areas and that has helped more than **151** new participants.
- HFLC members are also turbocharging efforts to reduce food waste and increase other food distribution efficiencies.

HFLC YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS



The Growing Project at Witter Farm

Witter Farm is a charitable endeavor sponsored by the [Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania](#) at the beautiful Witter Farm Retreat in the rolling hills near Elizabethtown, dedicated to growing fresh vegetables to help feed the hungry in Lancaster County.

- Two acres of veggies were planted by 40 volunteers in May.
- Hundreds of volunteers have weeded and harvested sweet corn, squash, pumpkins, beans and tomatoes over the summer; by “Harvest Day” on September 24, the expected yield: 13,400 pounds of produce equaling 11,166 meals.
- Five acres will be planted in 2017 with the goal of growing to 40 acres in future years.
- Not only does this add good, healthy produce to our food banks, it gives Lancaster’s enthusiastic volunteers a place to get their hands in the dirt and connect with what really matters – wholesome food for everyone!
- Contributing partners are the [Lancaster County Council of Churches](#), the [United Way of Lancaster County](#) and the [Central Pennsylvania Food Bank](#).



Hunger-Free Lancaster County is a coalition of business, faith-based, school, non-profit, and public sector organizations committed to ensuring sustainable access to three healthy meals for every Lancasterian by 2018