

## Hunger Action Hosts PA Nutrition Education Network

The Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network (PA NEN), resident in State College since its inception in 1996, opened a Harrisburg office in early March. The new office, located with Hunger Action across from the State Capitol grounds at 208 North Third Streets, will bring PA NEN staff into more frequent contact with nutrition-related staff from state agencies and private associations.

The PA NEN is a membership arm of the Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Program (PA NEP), which provides information about healthy eating to food stamp eligible households. It is administered by Penn State's College of Health and Human Development in cooperation with the PA Department of Public Welfare and the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The PA NEN's mission is to ensure that nutrition education appropriate to the needs of low-income households is available across the State. Toward that end, its staff and 130+ members plan and implement a social marketing campaign related to healthy eating, coordinate work groups and events that enhance the quality of education being provided, and pilot projects that deliver nutritional messages in innovative ways.

Joining Hunger Action to implement this mission are two staff: Meg Bruening and Steve Gauvry. Tom McKenna, the PA NEN staffer responsible for social marketing, will remain at the State College office. Also in State College is Dr. Barbara Lohse, director of the PA NEN and Principal Investigator for the PA NEP.

Writing in the spring 2005 issue of *Food for Thought*, the PA NEN's newsletter, Dr. Lohse remarked on the significance of the PA NEN's accomplishments in recent years. The new office in Harrisburg, she said, would allow for more interaction with state agencies and policy makers. "The subcontract for Network management is being awarded to an organization with strong policy and networking skills, Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center. As a result of this physical shift, PA NEN will have increased staff with more specialized skills and a full-time nutritionist."

Readers who are interested in nutrition and healthy eating are invited to become members of the Nutrition Education Network. There is no membership fee. Membership provides for up-to-date nutrition information, access to PA NEN events and work groups and opportunities for collegial interaction and professional development. To find out more contact Steve Gauvry at 717-233-1791 or [panen@pahunger.org](mailto:panen@pahunger.org). *Join the Network!*