

## Specter Requests Nutrition Fix

In a May 12<sup>th</sup> communication to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Senator Arlen Specter requested language in the 2005 appropriation bill directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to authorize Pennsylvania to continue Food Stamp Nutrition Education in pantries and shelters.

Specter's request came on the heels of a May 11<sup>th</sup> letter from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Under Secretary Eric Bost effectively shutting down nutrition education in pantries and shelters. The letter stated: "After much review and consultation with our Office of General Counsel, FNS has determined that State Food Purchase Program funds are not an allowable reimbursable expense for FSP nutrition education. The cost of food is an allowable FSP nutrition education expense only for the

purpose of demonstrating cooking and food preparation lessons."

As reported more fully in previous editions of the *Hunger Advocate*, about a dozen private agencies in Pennsylvania have combined food distribution and nutrition education. Many do so by distributing food packages that enable the household to prepare at home the recipes that are demonstrated at the pantry during the food distribution. According to FNS, such food can be counted as a nutrition education expense when consumed at the pantry but not when it is taken home.

Specter's amendment would direct the USDA to "assess the existing public and private capacity among the 50 states to conduct nutrition education

in conjunction with the distribution of federal food commodities." Pennsylvania's existing pantry and shelter-based project would be authorized to continue as a model that already has been implemented. Its effectiveness would be evaluated as part of a broader USDA report that includes recommendations to Congress on how to strengthen the linkage between food distribution and nutrition education.

According to Mike Oscar, legislative aide to the Senator, the Subcommittee has not yet responded to Specter's request. Final action by the Appropriations Committee and full Senate is not expected until September. About \$7 million in USDA funding for nutrition education in Pennsylvania is at stake.

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## The Heroes of Summer

The heroes of summer come in all shapes and sizes, manners and means. From a United Way, to a Salvation Army, to a church and several school districts, all have literally stepped up to the plate (that pun is intended) to bring summer food to needy rural children.

The Mifflin-Juniata County United Way agreed to sponsor several sites in two counties. Marie Havice, Executive Director at United Way, helped to organize a meeting of many county service providers so that summer food could be implemented in her counties.

No one knows better than Captain Cheryl Compton of the Salvation Army in Punksutawney (Jefferson County) that there are hungry children when school lets out in the summer. Captain Compton recently announced that "during the months of July and August, the Salvation Army will be providing both breakfast and lunch and offering a day camp for children to learn and grow."

Personnel in Southeastern Greene School District (Greene), Danville Area School District (Montour), and Mount Union Area School District (Huntingdon) also are

*Continued on page 6... Summer Heroes*

## Rural Summer Demo in 2005

As it launches the 2004 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the PA Department of Education (PDE) also is planning a rural demonstration project for the summer of 2005. The project, expected to be approved by Congress by the end of June, would authorize local summer sponsors in rural Pennsylvania to operate "open enrollment" feeding sites in school districts where only 40 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced price school lunches. Current law sets the minimum at 50 percent.

The change is expected to make the SFSP easier to operate in rural communities because sponsors will have more places where a feeding site may be located. With more convenient placement of the feeding sites, more children can be fed. "We expect this will be attractive to school districts that offer summer classes," said Sue Still, SFSP supervisor at PDE. "And we expect it will attract more nonprofits to serve as sponsors." According to a Hunger Action analysis of PDE data, 55 rural school districts qualify for "open enrollment" feeding sites under existing law. Under the change pending in Congress, an additional 78 rural districts would qualify.

In a May 10<sup>th</sup> letter to Senator Thad Cochran, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Rick Santorum expressed his support for the demonstration project. "I believe this provision will help to reduce the barriers that prevent rural children from having access to this program," wrote Santorum. "I urge you to consider including this demonstration project benefiting Pennsylvania's rural children in the Senate bill."

## Federal Budget Cuts Coming in 2006

Communications from the Bush Administration in recent weeks have confirmed the fears of those who depend on the federal budget for goods or services: funding cuts are just around the corner.

Under the Administration's plan, entitlement programs would not be affected but nearly every domestic discretionary program outside of homeland security would take a hit. Adjusted for inflation, cuts beginning in 2006 would deepen each year thereafter, reaching \$49 billion by 2009, a cut of 12 percent. According to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the impact of the cuts would be deep and widespread.

- Head Start would see a drop of 62,000 in the number of children able to participate.
- WIC would be forced to cut participation by around 450,000 women and children.
- Title I funding to improve education for low-income children would be reduced by \$660 million.
- State and local housing agencies would be forced to reduce by 30 percent the number of low-income households that qualify for a Section 8 certificate.
- Funding for veterans' medical care would be cut by \$5.7 billion.

At the same time that the Bush Administration is planning these funding cuts, it is asking Congress to make permanent the costly tax reductions that were passed in 2001 and 2003. Thus the spending cuts would not so much shrink the deficit as fund yet more tax breaks for those who have received them.

### Impact of Tax Reductions

The reduction of taxes does put more money back into the hands of taxpayers. Depending on who receives them and on how the money is spent, the extra consumer spending can stimulate the economy. And if the economy begins growing again, more revenue flows back into government. While all of this is true up to a point, there are other equally important considerations. When tax reductions are paid for by borrowed money, that causes interest rates to rise, thereby slowing the economy. And if tax breaks primarily benefit the wealthy, that widens the gap between the rich and everyone else and discourages initiative and hard work.

The Bush tax reductions of 2001 and 2003 have stimulated the economy, as evidenced by the return of modest growth in some areas. But the negatives are starting to show up as well. As noted above, plans are underway to cut necessary programs. Interest rates have started to climb. And all that borrowed money used to fund the tax cuts must be repaid. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, when one takes into consideration both who has benefited from the tax cuts *and* who will repay the debt that has been incurred to pay for the cuts, households that earn less than \$76,400 annually will be worse off as a result. Only the 20 percent of American households that earn more than that will be better off as a result of the tax cuts. Where do you fit?

# Action for Healthy Kids Charts Course

Pennsylvania Action for Healthy Kids (PA AFHK) met on May 27 to hone its mission statement and set its course for the future. Diana Fox, co-chair of the group and director of cancer control programs for the American Cancer Society, described the outcome. "Childhood obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity are complex issues with no simple solutions. PA AFHK will focus efforts on needs and not duplicate the work of others, as well as working in partnership to impact childhood obesity rates."

Currently PA AFHK is implementing a parent outreach initiative. Project PA, a partnership between Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania State University, has developed a parent outreach kit to educate parents about the obesity epidemic and actions they can take at home and within their schools and communities. During the coming school year, school teams that are part of the American Cancer Society's School Health Leadership Institute will be eligible to apply for mini-grants to implement a parent targeted awareness campaign. PA AFHK will coordinate the effort.

It also is considering additional commitments related to two national AFHK goals:

- Providing instruction that helps students adopt, maintain and enjoy healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle; and
- Adopting policies that ensure all foods and beverages on school campuses are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

To learn more call Diana Fox at 717-533-6144 or Vonda Fekete at 717-787-7698.

## Shorts

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, 56 percent of all children living in families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty have at least one parent who works full-time and year-around. And 28 percent of those children have at least one parent who works part-time or full-time, part-year. Only 16 percent do not have an employed parent.

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Oregon has implemented a bold plan to reduce hunger and food insecurity in that State. Through the use of state funds it has raised the income ceiling for the Food Stamp Program from 130 percent of poverty to 185 percent. With the same standard in place for school lunch, WIC and food stamps, targeted food stamp outreach is proving to be much more effective.

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"The challenge is to shift from an economy and eating habits that are quantity-driven to one that is quality-driven." *Lessons from the Summit*, the TIME/ABC Summit on Obesity held June 2-4 in Virginia.

## Director's Column



Remember back in the '90s when politicians said a job is the key to self-sufficiency? How quaint that sounds today. Here in central Pennsylvania, 70 percent

of the households seeking help at the Grantville Area Food Pantry include someone who already has a job. (See related story page 5.) But that doesn't put food on the table.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> *Business Week* reported that more than 28 million people - about one-quarter of the American workforce between the ages of 18 and 64 - earn less than \$9.04 an hour. (At 40 hours a week, that translates into the income marking the federal poverty line for a family of four.) Many of those 28 million workers are trying to support a family. "What's happening," asks *Business Week*, "in the world's richest, most powerful country when so many families seem to be struggling? And what can be done?"

For starters, Congress could raise the minimum wage. It has been stuck at \$5.15 an hour for nearly seven years. It has lost nearly one-third of its value since 1968. A boost of \$1.50 would directly help 10 million workers, most of whom are women over age 20.

This summer and fall, when you meet political leaders out asking for public support, bring up the problem of food insecurity here in Pennsylvania. And then, after they tell you that they want to end hunger, go to the heart of the matter: "Does that mean you will support raising the minimum wage?" That's how you'll know which of our political leaders are sincere about ending hunger, valuing work, and supporting the people who struggle to achieve self-sufficiency.

# Working Away at the Food System's Edges

By Mark Winne



Food is the place where we can eliminate one set of differences that divide us as a society. If we have two food systems – one for the poor and one for the affluent – that gap will become a giant

abyss that no politician or people of goodwill can bridge. Food, and now I will submit good, local, and even sustainably produced food, is one very concrete way that we can bring different communities together.

The task before us then is to connect an ideal with a passion. We must connect the ideal that we share of food security for all with a passion for good, locally produced food.

We are slowly developing the infrastructure and resources that we need to bring good food, a kind of renewed soulfulness, back to everyone:

- There are well over 3,000 farmers' markets across the country.
- The WIC and SFMNP programs are helping to assure that millions of lower income households are able to share in the harvest.
- Over \$16 million in Senior FMNP grants were announced last week and I saw that PA took the biggest piece, \$1.5 million. Congratulations.
- Local schools are now buying from farmers; farm-to-school or farm-to-cafeteria programs have taken root in over 400 school districts.
- There are over 1,000 CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture Projects) nationwide, and many of those have found ways, often through

non-profit partners, to make their high quality, organic food available to low-income families.

The vision I like for our food system is one that includes:

- A vibrant, viable and diverse farming community and support infrastructure;
- A well-protected and well-stewarded natural resource base;
- Food security for all people including access to healthy, affordable local food;
- A citizenry that is informed, caring and involved in the food system;
- Producing and processing food as close to the point of consumption as possible;
- High regard for the value of food, and for seasonal, regional and cultural foods; and
- Opportunity and fairness for farmers, farm workers, food service workers, and others who earn their livelihoods from the food system.

From a more practical, on the ground level, I would offer these tips:

- Not all farmers are alike; some may not have access to direct or commodity markets. This makes them good candidates for institutional/school purchasing as well as creative transactions involving food banks.
- Keep a close eye on your Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs. Are they as well utilized and focused as possible?
- Pennsylvania's new Economic Stimulus Package has \$100 million for agriculture and food retail development. Could you find creative ways to use those funds to improve connections between farmers and low-income communities?

- Local and state food policy councils are excellent ways to bring together both government and non-government food system stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to food system problems.

- Don't underestimate the value of community gardening, urban agriculture, and youth gardening/farming programs.
- Run a fundraiser to buy low-income shares in CSAs, help farmers get access to the latest food stamp EBT technology, give them information about client food preferences, work with Amish farmers who may have transportation challenges, and assist with new farmers' markets/outlets that will benefit your constituents.

I think these are some of the ways that we can eliminate the edges that separate us from each other and our food and eliminate the barriers that keep lower income people from healthy, affordable, local food.

And, finally, we need to enter both the food and farm policy arenas. Don't let anyone tell you that we must protect big agriculture and commodity subsidies at any cost, or that you must choose between policies that help farmers or aid the hungry. We must choose policies that promote healthy food, local and regional agriculture, and food security for all. New alliances between local farm, nutrition, and anti-hunger advocates can do that.

(Mark Winne is a Food and Society Policy Fellow who speaks and writes on local food system issues and food security. This speech was given at the "Strengthening the Food Resources Safety Net" Conference on May 5. For the complete text, go to [www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org) .)

## Grantville Area Food Pantry

"You might have heard that people are hungry because they are too lazy to work. But over 70 percent of the households that we serve have at least one person who is employed." This was a part of the message delivered June 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Rev. George Robertson, Pastor of the Faith United Church of Christ in Grantville, at a National Hunger Awareness Day event on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol. "We serve an average of 100 households each week," said Robertson. "In May, we served 171 different households and 930 people, including 381 children. Think about that—almost 400 children needed food. But in this richest country in the world, their parents had to come to a church, the last resort, to get help."

The Grantville Area Food Pantry is an organization of five churches located near the Dauphin-Lebanon County line. Included are Faith United Church of Christ, New Life Assembly of God, Shell's Lutheran Church, St. John's United Methodist Church and Zion Lutheran Church. Last year over 100 individuals from those churches volunteered to shelve and distribute food.

According to Robertson, "The Grantville Area Food Pantry is a Christian ministry; we do not discriminate. We try to have as little of paperwork as possible. And we try to be as caring as possible. The result has been a family of grateful clients."

The pantry is unique in that clients are allowed to shop for the food that they need. Instead of packing bags for the people, each shopper is allowed to select six pounds of food per household member (cereal and juice are not weighed). This encourages clients to choose only the food that they will actually use. It creates less waste than there is when clients pick up pre-packaged bags of food. And it enables the pantry to provide a greater variety of food.

In his remarks, Robertson emphasized the injustice of low wages. "The minimum wage—\$5.15 an hour and it hasn't been raised in years— is barely enough to support one person, certainly not a family. We have people who are frequently let go from temporary jobs. We have many single-mother households. We have people with severe health problems. We have people who have seasonal laboring jobs who make low wages even when work is good."

The Grantville Area Food Pantry receives support from many individuals, businesses and organizations. Each week it picks up 1500 to 2000 pounds of food at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. And it receives some financial help from the government via TEFAP food distributions and the State Food Purchase Program.

Robertson expressed gratitude for the broad community support. "We are fortunate that the Central Pennsylvania area is generous. We have an abundance of resources and many businesses and individuals that share their riches. But keep us in mind, for we have no guaranteed source of income. And there are always people out there who need help."

## Pantry Usage Up Again

The number of households relying on charitable food providers continues to increase. Twice a year (March and October), Hunger Action conducts a survey of 1400 pantries statewide asking how many households they have served in that month. Based on the figures reported by over 500 pantries and cupboards, during March an average of 131 households was served by each pantry – an increase of 9 percent from March 2003. The survey also revealed a long-term trend of rising demand. The March 2003 pantry survey found an increase of 10 percent from March 2002.

This confirms the experience of many pantry and food bank workers who have witnessed this increase over the past few years. Elaine Livas, executive director of Project S.H.A.R.E. Food Bank in Carlisle, reported that her food pantry has seen at least a 10 percent increase in families served during each of the last two years. "We are seeing people who never expected to have to use our services and who last year were still keeping their heads above water."

In a May 3<sup>rd</sup> news release, Hunger Action's executive director, Berry Friesen, spoke to the root cause: "The jobless economic recovery is almost certainly the key factor. As people experience a drop in their incomes due to a cut in pay or the loss of hours on the job, they increasingly are showing up in food lines at local pantries. It isn't just the disabled, the long-term unemployed and single parents anymore."



### Our Phone is Ringing

Hunger Action's Food Information Line helped 216 callers in April and 298 callers in May. Remember the number: 1-800-FOOD-997.

## Ag to Lead Inter-Agency Council

The Rendell Administration is set to launch the Inter-Agency Council on Food and Nutrition. Dawn Jackson, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs in the Department of Health, delivered that message on May 5<sup>th</sup> to attendees of the Strengthening the Food Resource Safety Net Conference in Harrisburg.

The Council will consist of the Cabinet Secretaries of Health, Agriculture, Aging, Education, Welfare and Community and Economic Development. At least one task force of individuals from the private sector will be constituted to support and advise the Council.

Donna Cooper, director of the Governor's Policy Office, has requested the PA Department of Agriculture to chair the Council and provide staff services. The Deputy Secretary for Marketing, Promotion and Program Services, Cheryl Cook, is coordinating the preparations for Secretary Dennis Wolff. Cook expects the Council to hold its initial meeting in early July.

The purpose of the Council, as defined by Executive Order 1988-4, is to work cooperatively towards alleviating hunger and related conditions of poverty in the Commonwealth and develop and implement plans and strategies which will improve the nutritional status of Pennsylvanians. The Council first functioned from 1988 – 1994 during the Casey Administration. It has served as a model for two other interdisciplinary groups formed by Governor Rendell: the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families and the Task Force for Working Families.

## Hunger Prevention Bill Introduced

Rep. Ray Bunt (R-Montgomery County) and Rep. Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster County) have introduced legislation to create an opportunity for Pennsylvania taxpayers to voluntarily fund hunger prevention efforts. The bill, called HB 2646, is co-sponsored by 44 House members with about equal number from each political party.

The bill would require the Department of Revenue to give taxpayers the option to designate a portion of their PIT refund to hunger prevention. Funds designated would be forwarded to the PA Department of Agriculture, which would award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations engaged in one of the following activities:

- facilitating the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables by food insecure households;
- improving access to charitable food distributions in counties where access is inadequate;
- improving the nutritional balance of charitable food inventories through bulk purchase of underrepresented food groups; and
- increasing participation in federally funded nutrition programs.

The check-off to end hunger, if approved, would join other check-offs already on the PIT forms including the United States Olympic Committee, breast and cervical cancer awareness and the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

The House Finance Committee approved the bill unanimously on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Readers are encouraged to contact their local representative and request support for HB 2646.

*Summer Heros....from page 1*

aware of the poverty in their communities and have decided to sponsor summer meals. Dr. Jerry Dunkle of the Mount Union Area School District stated: "When you consider the state of the economy, with high unemployment and incomes staying level, it's just a great way to give students who qualify for free/reduced price lunches a chance to enjoy good meals all year long."

Rev. Fred Hickok's Wesley United Methodist Church in Nescopeck wants to make a difference. During the first week of June and at the eleventh hour for registering as a site, Wesley's plan came to fruition with the Pennsylvania Department of Education doing handstands to approve the church as a summer food site and the Commission on Economic Opportunity serving as the sponsor and providing the meals.

One more hero bears mention, Faye Carlisle. She does summer meals in five towns in Tioga County through Laurel Youth Services. Carlisle says, "You have to find out about the area first. I used the housing agency and the local schools to establish an open site to minimize paperwork. What I love about this is the enthusiasm of the little towns. They are very helpful and grateful for the service once you get to know them." One local volunteer helps Faye find volunteers for the sites, which include church basements, a park, a youth building and the basement of a local business. "The Program should be fun too. I want the kids to be able to be kids."

Carlisle is available to talk by telephone with those who have questions about sponsorship. Given the need for more rural sponsors and sites, it's not too early to begin planning for next year. Call Hunger Action (717) 233-6705 and ask for Sue. Hunger Action and the Pennsylvania Department of Education can host an informational meeting with your agency or with several agencies in your county.

## SSA to Start Food Stamp Enrollment

Beginning in October the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW), in cooperation with the Social Security Administration (SSA), will begin implementing the Combined Application Project (CAP). All elderly and disabled individuals and couples currently receiving SSI and not receiving any other income will automatically be enrolled in CAP and, therefore, begin receiving food stamps.

Currently, DPW is conducting a study to determine average rent and utilities for persons on SSI. Those figures will be adopted as standard amounts in CAP and will be used to determine food stamp benefit levels. If actual costs are higher than the standard amounts, those individuals can opt-out of CAP and apply for food stamps through their County Assistance Offices (CAO).

SSI recipients currently enrolled in FSP will also be eligible for CAP and may find that the standard rent and utility amounts used in CAP result in higher food stamp benefits. If that turns out not to be the case, SSI recipients can always keep their higher benefit amount by having their case handled by the CAO.

The largest hurdle yet to be surmounted to date is that of pinning. Currently, DPW and SSA are working out a way for the EBT cards to be issued at the SSA office. They also are attempting to develop a means of pinning by telephone. Again, the aim is to make the enrollment and activation of food stamp benefits as streamlined for SSI recipients as possible to encourage their participation in the program.

Many recipients, especially seniors, do not view SSI as a welfare program. However, their perception of food stamps and visiting the CAO is quite the opposite. By allowing them to apply for food stamps at the SSA, food stamp participation should increase not only out of convenience, but also as a result of being able to avoid the CAO. In South Carolina, SSI recipients' food stamp participation increased from thirty-eight percent to fifty percent between 1994 and 1998. Concurrently, the national rate dropped four percent from forty-two percent to thirty-eight percent.



### Online Resource Guide

If you're in the Greater Philadelphia area and are trying to find a supplemental food or meal program, there is a new resource you need to know about. The Nutritional Development Services (NDS) of the Philadelphia Archdiocese's Community Food Program has created an online Resource Guide. You can access it by going to <http://www.ndsarch.org/RgHome.asp>. The site offers information on local food cupboards, soup kitchens, WIC offices, home delivered meals, nutrition education groups, nutrition/food advocacy groups, food suppliers, and SHARE. It covers Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Statewide pantry and kitchen listings are also provided by telephone on Hunger Action's Food Information Line at 1-800-FOOD-997.

## WIC Update

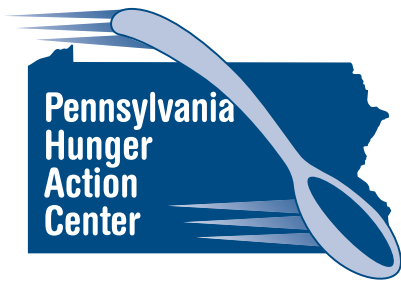
Despite a 25 percent jump in milk prices, Pennsylvania's WIC Program continues to grow. Participation this spring has climbed to over 240,000 women, infants and children.

According to Frank Maisano, acting director of the Bureau of Family Health in the PA Department of Health, the food package cost has gone up 5-6 percent this year, largely because of the increase in the cost of milk and cheese. But due to rebate contracts for formula, juice and cereal, the cost of the food package here remains lower than in many other states. "We have no plans to reduce or slow down the caseload," said Maisano. "There is no need for that."

He is concerned about federal funding for the year that begins October 1. President Bush's request would leave WIC \$200 million short of what is needed to cover expected need.

Maisano also is worried by the growth in the number of WIC-only stores in other states. Food prices in WIC-only stores are typically 15-20 percent higher than found in the conventional supermarkets. In some cases this is because these stores serve isolated areas. More commonly, however, it is because these stores are seeking a larger market share by offering incentives such as free diapers. As more WIC participants fill their "food prescription" at WIC-only stores, the cost of the entire program begins climbing. "In California, Texas and Virginia many of these stores are opening," said Maisano. "As those states require a larger share of the pie to support their caseloads, it will begin to affect our funding here."

Pennsylvania permits WIC-only stores but only if their prices are competitive.



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## Assembly Debates Will Impact Hunger

Before adjourning for their summer recess in July, the General Assembly is expected to consider several legislative proposals that will affect food security in Pennsylvania.

The first and most certain of resolution is the budget. Key legislative leaders, including Mike Waugh, Hal Mowery, Mary Jo White, Michael O'Pake and Jack Wagner in the Senate and Art Hershey, Pat Vance and Peter Daley in the House, have voiced their support for additional funding for the State Food Purchase and Farmers' Market Nutrition programs. Said O'Pake: "These appropriations have not been increased for the last three years. Additional funds are desperately needed not for program expansion but to allow both programs to continue to serve their present clientele."

The second is the proposal to legalize slot machines. According to research conducted in 1999 by the National Opinion Research Center, the presence of a gambling facility within 50 miles roughly doubles the prevalence of problem (e.g., compulsive) gambling. An increase in problem gambling would lead directly to more food insecurity in Pennsylvania and – unless food pantries again fill the gap – to more hunger. Action on this proposal before July is less certain but may be combined with action on the 2004-05 budget.

The third is the proposal to impose a 4 percent sales tax on food purchased in grocery stores. For a family of four, such a tax would increase the cost of food by \$230 a year. That's a week's paycheck for someone earning \$6 an hour. Although this increase in food costs would be more than off-set for homeowners if the property tax were eliminated, renters would not be so fortunate. Pennsylvania has 677,000 households that rent their housing and earn less than \$25,000 per year. This proposal, which also would broaden the sales tax to include many services that are currently exempt, has not yet been introduced as a bill. However, it remains a lively topic of informal debate, especially in the House where it has significant support.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA HUNGER ADVOCATE

The Pennsylvania Hunger Advocate is made possible in part by grants from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the PA Food Merchants Association. It is published six times a year by the:  
**Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center**  
208 N. Third Street  
Suite 200  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717)233-6705.

The Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of hunger through advocacy, education and collaboration. Supporters of this work include food providers, growers, religious organizations, food industry members, advocates and consumers.

#### **PHAC Staff:**

**Executive Director**  
*Berry D. Friesen*

**Communications & Special Events**  
*Sue N. Mitchem*

**Administrative Coordinator**  
*Laura Tobin*

**Food Stamp Screener**  
*Sonia Fernandez*

**Secretary**  
*Margaret Kirk*

Email: [pahunger@paonline.com](mailto:pahunger@paonline.com)  
Website: [www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org)