

Hunger and Food Insecurity Up in PA

Data collected in December 2002 by the Census Bureau show that both hunger and the risk of hunger have increased sharply in Pennsylvania.

According to this latest report, 450,000 Pennsylvania households (9.4 percent) were unsure of having enough food for all household members. This is up 12 percent from 2001, when 400,000 households (8.4 percent) were food insecure. In approximately 130,000 households (2.7 percent), the lack of food was not resolved and at least one household member missed meals entirely. This number is also up sharply from last year's report, which indicated that hunger was present in 2.2 percent of Pennsylvania households.

The 2002 totals are the worst recorded for Pennsylvania since the Census Bureau added a Food Security Supplement to its Current Population Survey in April 1995. On

a more positive note, the State continues to rank at the top of the large-population states with a rate of hunger well below the national average.

Nationally, both food insecurity and hunger increased in 2002 but not as sharply as in Pennsylvania. The national rate of food insecurity in 2002 was 11.1 percent, up from 10.7 percent in 2001. The national rate of hunger was 3.5 percent in 2002, up from 3.3 percent in 2001.

Jim Weill, president of Food Research and Action (FRAC) in Washington, linked the national increase in hunger to the weak economy. However, "the economy alone does

not fully explain these unacceptably high numbers. They reflect as well the growing inequality of income in this country, and the harmful holes in the safety net."

Since 1995, the US Department of Agriculture, using data from surveys conducted annually by the Census Bureau, has released estimates of the number of households that are "food insecure with hunger" and "food insecure without hunger." In this latest survey 5,298 Pennsylvania households were interviewed. For a full copy of the USDA study, go to www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr35/. [See related article on page 2.]

PA School Breakfast Report Card

Do the children in your school district start the day ready to learn? The answer to that question varies considerably from place to place all over Pennsylvania. Hunger Action has compiled and released its fourth annual Pennsylvania School Breakfast Report Card, which can help school district residents gauge whether or not their school children are getting the best chance for success.

In Farrell Area School District in Mercer County, breakfast is almost as well attended as lunch. In Shamokin Area in Northumberland County, breakfast isn't available at all. In Wallenpaupack Area School District in Wayne County, about 6 of 10 low-income children get breakfast at school every day. In Bethlehem Area School District in Northampton County, not even 1 in 10 enjoy the privilege.

Why these dramatic differences? Because Pennsylvania, in contrast to most other states, has no state law requiring schools to offer the breakfast program. It's entirely a local option. So while all Pennsylvania school districts offer the school lunch program, only about two-thirds offer breakfast. And among districts that participate in the breakfast program, many offer it in only one school building. As a result, for every 100 low-income children who eat lunch at school, only 36 eat breakfast. This mediocre ratio places Pennsylvania well back in the pack among the states - 37th to be exact.

Continued on page 4...Breakfast

IN THIS ISSUE

**December 2003
Volume XXIV Issue VI**

WIC	2
Summer Meals	3
Director's Column	3
Breakfast Begins	6
Food Stamp Policies	6
Child Nutrition	7
Federal Budget	7

Visit our website at
www.pahunger.org

Pantry Survey Documents High Need

Twice each year Hunger Action surveys 1,400 food pantries and cupboards across Pennsylvania to ask how many people are being served in this way. It's one statistically accurate way of assessing whether our Commonwealth is progressing in the fight against hunger.

Based on the latest responses from 531 pantry and cupboard managers, the need for food assistance is growing. During October, on average, each pantry or cupboard served 136 households, a 12 percent increase over October 2002 when a similar survey showed an average of 121 households served.

This large increase is consistent with anecdotal reports from food bank executives, who report that the demand on their inventories is up sharply over the past year.

In a December 3rd news release, Hunger Action executive director Berry Friesen attributed the rising need to low wages. "America has plenty of food to go around, as evidenced by the generous sharing of food over the Thanksgiving season. Throughout the year, people gain access to this bounty by working. But, for an increasing number of people, the system is broken. Though they have a job and are earning a paycheck, the only way they can keep food on the table after day is by getting some of their groceries from an emergency food pantry."

Hunger Action's Food Information Line helped 341 callers in October and 234 callers in December.
1-800-FOOD-997

How to Change the WIC Food Package?

An invitation from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for ideas on how to change WIC food packages has drawn mixed responses from two national organizations.

The National WIC Association (NWA), formerly known as the National Association of WIC Directors, is calling for major changes so that the WIC food packages "help participants establish dietary patterns that promote life-long good nutritional health." NWA wants WIC food prescriptions to be built around all the groups of the Food Guide Pyramid. This would enable participants to buy a greater variety of foods with their WIC coupons. Food generally not available through WIC, such as whole grain bread, enriched rice, pasta, bean/peas and fruits and vegetables, would be added. So would yogurt and soymilk.

To make room for these additional foods and to keep the total cost from increasing, NWA would reduce the size of the children's food package. Quantities of milk, cheese and protein-rich foods (items such as eggs and peanut butter) would be cut. NWA also would eliminate juice from the infant food package and reduce the quantity of juice in children's packages.

Finally, NWA would give states unprecedented flexibility to make adjustments in the food packages based on cultural preferences, the participant's skills and preferences and the individualized WIC nutrition education plan.

The Food Research Action Center (FRAC), the leading anti-hunger advocacy group in Washington, recommends only modest changes. In a sign-on letter posted at its website, FRAC emphasizes the effectiveness of the existing food packages. While calling for an expansion of cultural food

package options, the addition of high-calcium yogurt and soymilk, and the addition a whole new category for fruits and vegetables, FRAC urges FNS not to add bread, rice and pasta. "These (are) low-cost foods that are consumed as staples and would be purchased and consumed regardless of availability from WIC. This kind of addition is unlikely to have a positive impact on the health or nutritional status of WIC clients."

FRAC also opposes cuts in the quantity of food in the children's package. "Less WIC food for these young children will result in more non-WIC foods, which all too often includes junk food." Moreover, FRAC asserts less food in the children's package will undermine a key incentive that encourages parents to keep their children enrolled in WIC until age five. "If parents decide not to enroll their children because the food package is too small to be worth the effort, then the children can't reap any of the Program's benefits."

Finally, FRAC would expand flexibility to accommodate cultural preferences on a "food-package to food-package basis." This would ensure that each participant received a package of relatively equal nutritional and economic value.

The requirements for WIC food packages were last revised in 1980. In its request for public comment, FNS stated: "While WIC has been successful in many areas, obesity and inappropriate dietary patterns have become significant concerns for many." Moreover, it noted that recommended dietary practices are constantly evolving in response to new research. Finally, FNS cautioned that "food package recommendations should not increase the cost of the WIC Program nor change the supplemental nature of the Program."

2003 Summer Meals Program Report

This past summer, about 133,000 children per day ate lunch or breakfast through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). As reported by the PA Department of Education (PDE), average daily participation was up by about 2 percent over the summer of 2002. However, the number of meals served throughout the summer declined from 7.4 million to 7.2 million.

PDE efforts to recruit additional sponsors of the SFSP were moderately successful as the total reached 181, up from 166 in the summer of 2002.

As in previous years, during the summer of 2003 low-income children in 14 rural counties had no access at all to these meals because no local organization sponsored the program. Shut out entirely were children in Bedford, Bradford, Cameron, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Juniata, Montour, Perry, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Children in 20 other counties (Bucks, Butler, Carbon, Clarion, Clearfield, Columbia, Cumberland, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Pike, Snyder, Somerset, Washington, Wayne and York) had severely limited access.

Children had excellent access to summer meals in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties where the number of low-income children served per day over the summer approached 75 percent of the number served when schools are in session. Children in Berks,, Blair, Chester, and Lackawanna counties had moderate access, with participation approaching 40 percent of the school rate. In all other counties summer participation was below 30 percent.

Hunger Action is calling on Congress to make changes in the law that would make summer meals available to more rural children. Two changes are needed: lower the threshold for "area eligibility" from 50 to 40 percent, thereby making available many more sites to host the meals; and simplifying financial administration so that sponsors may obtain meal reimbursements on a set rate per meal served.

Hunger Action, along with PDE, is recruiting new sponsors for the summer of 2004. Rural nonprofit organizations with interest in sponsoring the SFSP should contact Sue Mitchem at 717-233-6705.



PA House Legislative Session Calendar

December 8-10, 15-17

January 6, 26-28

Senate schedule was unavailable at publishing time.

Director's Column



Earlier this month I met with my congregation's youth group to talk about hunger. Given the setting, we started by looking at texts from the Bible.

Moses was our first authority. He's the one who said, "You will always have the poor among you." He also provided detailed instructions about giving the "first fruits" of the harvest for the benefit of aliens, orphans and widows – people who had no established support system in that society. Next, we looked at the prophet Isaiah. He was critical of public displays of religious piety. Instead, he asked people to share their food with the hungry, to share their homes with the destitute and to stop oppressing their employees. "Then" he said, "your light will shine out from the darkness and the darkness around you will be as bright as day."

Last, we looked at the words of Jesus. He repeated the words of Moses about "always having the poor among you." Nevertheless, making sure people had enough to eat was one of his most spectacular activities. And his description of the last judgement, when the peoples of the world gather before the throne of God, suggested that much would depend on whether we fed the hungry.

These words comprise an important part of our moral tradition in America. And for that I am grateful.

Still, even in my congregation's youth group, questions are raised. "There'll always be hunger, right? So what should we expect by way of success?" "This means we should be generous with our food. Does it also mean we should be willing to pay higher taxes or support a higher minimum wage?" Good questions, all of them and worthy of wrestling through, generation by generation. During this holiday season, as our thoughts turn to the people and the things that are most important, may these questions be part of our reflections.

Breakfast...from page 1

Statewide, during 2002-03, schools in Pennsylvania served 7,000 more breakfasts each day than they did during the previous year. The statewide total, 186,000 breakfasts a day, was up 4 percent from 2001-02. Last year the U.S. Department of Agriculture paid \$40.5 million to Pennsylvania schools to help cover the cost of breakfast. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) contributed an additional \$7 million, including a higher lunch reimbursement rate for districts that also offer breakfast.

The Pennsylvania School Breakfast Report Card includes five categories. In addition to citing schools that are not providing needed nutritional support, it gives recognition to schools that are offering exemplary breakfast programs. Key findings follow.

Star Performers

"Star Performers" are school districts that integrate breakfast into the school day and encourage all children to participate. Selected for recognition this year are districts in which average daily breakfast participation was at least 50 percent of average daily lunch participation. Leading the way in 2002-03 for the third consecutive year was Farrell Area School District in Mercer County. Breakfast participation at Farrell last year was 86 percent of lunch participation.

Donna Cartwright, Aramark School Food Service Director at Farrell commented on their district's excellent performance in the first two categories, "I think that the first thing that helps us is the 1993 commitment from the school district to go to Provision 2 (Universal Breakfast) to eliminate the stigma. That is what made our breakfast program so successful. We work hard at marketing and making the experience a positive one, like doing a school-wide show with kids on the benefits of school breakfast. We also have great support from Superintendent Richard Rubano and the administration."

Increasingly, the option of eating breakfast in school is also taken by children who can afford to pay. Statewide, during the past
Continued on page 5...Breakfast



Star Performers

Making Breakfast a Regular Part of the School Day

	Daily Lunches	Daily Breakfasts
Farrell Area (Mercer)	909	780
Midland Borough (Beaver)	224	179
West Beaver County (Beaver)	547	429
Aliquippa (Beaver)	1,044	681
Southeast Delco (Delaware)	1,837	1,047
Jeanette City (Westmoreland)	1,073	608
Carbondale Area (Lackawanna)	688	383
Sto-Rox (Allegheny)	1,101	581
Harrisburg City (Dauphin)	5,542	2,817
Philadelphia City (Philadelphia)	92,424	46,850



Getting the Job Done

Serving Breakfast to Most Low-Income Children

Farrell Area (Mercer)	82 percent served daily
Midland Borough (Beaver)	64 percent served daily
Western Beaver County (Beaver)	64 percent served daily
Wallenpaupack Area (Wayne)	58 percent served daily
Jeanette City (Westmoreland)	56 percent served daily
Sto-Rox (Allegheny)	52 percent served daily
Aliquippa (Beaver)	52 percent served daily
Western Wayne (Wayne)	51 percent served daily
Conemaugh Township (Somerset)	50 percent served daily
Cornell (Allegheny)	50 percent served daily



Moving Up!

Starting or Growing Breakfast Programs Last Year

	Breakfasts Daily
Carbondale Area (Lackawanna)	383
Valley Grove (Venango)	288
Mount Union Area (Huntingdon)	287
Allentown City (Lehigh)	285 more than 2001-02
Upper Darby (Delaware)	232 more than 2001-02
Union City Area (Erie)	198
Morrisville Borough (Bucks)	81

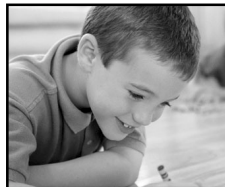
Breakfast...from page 4

school year the number of full-price breakfasts increased by 7 percent.

Getting the Job Done

Schools with many children from low-income families have a special responsibility because of the likelihood that some of those children had nothing to eat before they were sent off to school. Among school districts in which at least 30 percent of the children came from low-income families, ten stood out for serving breakfast to at least half of those students each

day. Again topping this list of schools that are "Getting the Job Done" was Farrell Area School District; 82 percent of its low-income students had breakfast at school every day.



Improvement Needed

Lots of Need – Few Breakfasts Served

	Needy Students	Daily Breakfasts	% Needy Students Getting Breakfast
Derry Area (Westmoreland)	974	48	5 percent
Mountain View (Susquehanna)	505	41	8 percent
Bethlehem Area (Northampton)	5,123	434	8 percent
Forest Hills (Cambria)	802	86	11 percent
Bloomsburg Area (Columbia)	562	64	11 percent
Mifflin County (Mifflin)	1,919	238	12 percent
Monaca (Beaver)	278	36	13 percent
Northgate (Allegheny)	534	68	13 percent
Somerset Area (Somerset)	783	99	13 percent
Coatesville Area (Chester)	2,471	349	14 percent

Moving Up!

Eleven school districts began offering the breakfast program last year including five school districts from last year's list of "failures". By starting breakfast, these eleven districts joined others that have made the link between nutrition, health and academics. Also meriting special recognition for a change for the better are Allentown City School District, which increased its daily breakfast attendance by 285 students, and Upper Darby School District, which increased daily breakfast attendance by 232 students.

Pat Rorke, Assistant School Food Service Director, of the Upper Darby School District commented on their district's improvement in number of breakfasts served. "We added the high school and more students were able to take advantage of breakfast. This year we added another elementary school and hope to add more."

Improvement Needed

Ten school districts with at least 30 percent low-income students are cited for reaching only a tiny fraction of those students with breakfast. Derry Area School District (Westmoreland County), with 974 low-income students, led this list; only 1 in 20 received school breakfast on a typical school day. At Bethlehem Area School District, which has over 5,000 low-income students, the ratio was a bit better (1 in 12) but still far from acceptable.



Failing the Children

No Breakfast Despite the Need

Shamokin Area (Northumberland)	56 % low-income
Pottsville Area (Schuylkill)	39 % low-income
Dubois Area (Clearfield)	36 % low-income
Rockwood Area (Somerset)	36 % low-income
Cranberry Area (Venango)	35 % low-income
Sayre Area (Bradford)	32 % low-income
North Schuylkill (Schuylkill)	32 % low-income
Forbes Road (Fulton)	31 % low-income
Johnsonburg Area (Elk)	31 % low-income
Upper Adams (Adams)	31 % low-income
Riverside (Lackawanna)	30 % low-income

Gwen Kozar, School Food Service Director at Derry, said her district is "working on the numbers. Hopefully with some scheduling changes and new point-of-sale equipment, we will make a difference in the near future."

Failing the Children

Ten districts with a high ratio of low-income children did not participate at all in the breakfast program. Shamokin Area School District, with 1,500 low-income children and no breakfast program, had the dubious distinction of leading this list. In light of the strong link between nutrition and the ability to learn, the failure to offer breakfast at these schools lowers the likelihood that these schools will achieve their educational mission. (See "Breakfast" on page 6.)

Starting Breakfast

Several school districts on our Failing the Children list have decided to implement a breakfast program. Heartiest congratulations to:

Upper Adams School District – Late this fall Upper Adams implemented breakfast at the high school level, and they plan to pilot the program soon at the elementary level. Superintendent Dr. Ross Blust says, "Breakfast is the right thing to do. I think it's a good service to students and a good educational tool. I am pleased that the breakfast program will now become a reality at Upper Adams."

Shamokin Area School District - Diane Dabulis, R.D. is School Food Service Director at the Shamokin Area School District. She stated, "We were working at establishing breakfast for well over a year in our larger elementary school. It has been a struggle to find the best way to do the program in a 1200 student school, but now we're on our way. Spring 2004 was always our goal."

Cranberry Area School District – Dr. Nick Bodnar, Superintendent, informed Hunger Action that they will be piloting breakfast in the high school in the next few weeks. They are continuing to study options for expanding breakfast in their elementary schools with visits to neighboring districts and further research. They hope to start breakfast in one of the elementary schools this spring. Additionally they will be using the breakfast program with their summer programming."

Sayre Area School District – Lisa Keysaw, School Food Service Director, reported that the School Board voted unanimously at their December meeting to start breakfast at Litchfield Elementary School in January. They are hopeful that more schools will be added next year.

Food Stamp Policies Changing

The PA Department of Public Welfare is in the process of implementing several important changes in Food Stamp policy.

Transitional Food Stamps. Families going off cash assistance due to increased earnings are already guaranteed at least five months of extended FS at the previous monthly allotment level. Effective November, the monthly allotment will automatically be adjusted upward to reflect the loss of the cash assistance grant. Effective February, those qualifying for Transitional Food Stamps will be expanded to include virtually all families going off cash assistance, whether or not increased earnings are a factor.

Mandatory Standard Utility Allowance. Effective January, all households will be able to use the Standard Utility Allowance so long as they pay at least some of their own utility bills. Previously this option was not available to shared households nor to those living in subsidized housing. As part of the same policy change, and as part of simplifying the application process, no household will be permitted to claim utility costs higher than the SUA by showing actual utility bills.

Waiver of ABAWD Time Limits. Able-bodied adults without dependents are limited to 6 months of FS out of every 36-month period. This time limit is waived in areas of high unemployment. Effective June 2003, waivers have been in place for 31 entire counties plus 7 cities. Effective December 1, Carbon County is newly covered by a waiver.

According to Ed Zogby, Director of Policy for the DPW Division of Income Maintenance, additional policy changes are under review, including the following.

Resource Verification. Federal law permits Pennsylvania to simplify the FS application process by aligning its FS eligibility requirements with another program, such as Family Medicaid, which does not consider resources at all. For the FSP, advocates have asked DPW to ignore completely the following kinds of resources: real estate, vehicles and retirement accounts.

Face-to-Face Interviews. Federal law permits DPW to waive this interview for households in which all members are elderly or disabled and there is no earned income. Currently the interview is waived only upon request on a case-by-case basis.

Remote Pinning. In Pennsylvania, after a household is found eligible, the head-of-household must return to the County Assistance Office (CAO) to receive his/her Access card and confidential PIN number. In at least five states, this process is handled by mail and telephone, thus avoiding another time-consuming trip to the office.

In September, FS participation reached 885,000, a 15 percent increase over September 2002. Federal dollars for the purchase of groceries totaled \$71.7 million, up nearly \$13 million from the same month a year ago.

In November the USDA released its analysis of FS participation for the 12 months ending September 30, 2002. In Pennsylvania 67 percent of eligible households participated, up from 65 percent the previous year. Although well ahead of the national average (57 percent), Pennsylvania's ranking among the high-population states slipped from 1st to 3rd with Ohio and Georgia jumping ahead.

Child Nutrition Shut Out of Congressional Spending

The congressional agenda over the past few months has been chockablock with big spending bills. Leading the list is the Medicare prescription drug program, requiring \$400 billion in new funding over the next ten years. Earlier, Congress approved the President's \$97 billion request to support the U.S. military presence in Iraq and loosened the rules related to retirement benefits for veterans, a \$22 billion cost item. Still awaiting final action is the \$31 billion energy bill.

In contrast, Congress to date has not come up with any new funding for America's child nutrition programs, which include school breakfast and lunch, meals in summer when schools are not in session, meals for children in day care and WIC. This is especially sobering because 2003 was to be the year when all of these programs would be reviewed and refunded. Generally, if no new money is made available to fund improvements during such a review year, then the *status quo* remains in place for at least another five years.

There is plenty of evidence that the *status quo* isn't good enough. For example, two nutrition programs (the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program) are rarely made available to children in rural Pennsylvania counties because of the high cost of serving at-risk kids whose residences are scattered across a wide area rather than clumped in one particular neighborhood. Last summer, ten members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation requested the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to address this deficiency. The response from the chairman was short and to the point: good suggestion but we have a budget deficit and no money to make improvements.

Fixing the lack of access to child nutrition programs in rural areas would cost about \$2 billion over ten years. Real money, to be sure, but only a small fraction of what the President and Congress have been spending in recent days. These improvements in child nutrition could easily be paid for by scaling back the \$100,000 tax break Congress gave business buyers of big SUVs earlier this year. And have lowered risk of obesity.

But children don't make campaign contributions, and children won't vote in the next election. To the extent that these two factors set spending priorities for the President and Congress, we can begin to understand why child nutrition has been shut out while

others' interests are gorging themselves at the public trough. Certainly politics plays a big part—always has, always will. But we also expect our leaders to keep an eye on the years beyond the next election when those now too young to vote will be asked to shoulder the load.

When Congress picks up its work in early 2004, the first order of business will be the 2005 federal budget. President Bush will get the process started by offering his proposal, and then the House and Senate Budget Committees will again hammer out a spending plan. With the office of President at stake next November, we can be sure that the 2005 spending plan will again include lots of goodies for voters. And what about child nutrition? Will there be funding that looks beyond the next election to the potential of the next generation?


Congress Again Late on Budget

With only one political party in charge of the federal government, Congress was expected to deliver a budget by the September 30th deadline. Alas, as January nears and the first quarter of the new fiscal year slips away, much of the federal government – including the U.S. Department of Agriculture - continues to operate on temporary funding.

Before leaving Washington for the Thanksgiving holiday, a House-Senate Conference Committee cobbled together a \$820 billion spending bill that included a dozen executive agencies (including the USDA). The House approved the bill in early December; a final Senate vote is scheduled for mid-January.

Although the date of passage remains in doubt, the dollar amounts in the Conference Report are not likely to change. Those numbers follow. Note that although the reduction in CSFP is substantial, the Program itself will not be cut because of the availability of carry-forward funds from the previous fiscal year.

<u>Program</u>	<u>2004 Funding</u>	<u>Change</u>
WIC	\$4,639,232,000	(-01%)
TEFAP	\$ 190,000,000	(—)
CSFP	\$ 98,991,000	(-15%)
FMNP-WIC	\$ 23,000,000	(-08%)
FMNP-Seniors	\$ 15,000,000	(—)
CFNP	\$ 7,227,000	(—)



**Pennsylvania
Hunger
Action
Center**

208 N. Third Street
Suite 200
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 647

Save the Date

Conference in Harrisburg

Where can you go for stimulating topics, good food and great opportunities for networking? The answer is right here in Harrisburg on May 4-5 2004 for the "Strengthening the Food Resource Safety Net" Conference. This year promises to be even more exciting with the addition of the PA Association of Regional Food Banks as a sponsoring partner along with Hunger Action and the PA Nutrition Education Network.

Join us for the latest topics in food and nutrition as well as for time for networking and advocacy!

Upcoming County Workshops

Don't miss our next free workshops February 6 in Chester County and February 26 in Columbia County. Call Hunger Action to register 717-233-6705.

Simple Gifts

Struggling with choosing presents this year? Here's one solution. Make a gift to the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center. The donation will assure more hungry children get nutritious meals and that people in need have a better chance at food security. Your gift will make a difference.

Use the enclosed envelope and give a real gift this holiday season.

The official registration and financial information for the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center can be obtained by calling the PA Department of State, toll free within Pennsylvania, at 717-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HUNGER ADVOCATE

The Pennsylvania Hunger Advocate is made possible in part by a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. 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
Website: www.pahunger.org