



PACS

Nurturing  
Food Security

2018-2019  
Annual Report

## Board of Directors

### BOARD PRESIDENT



#### **The Path Forward**

At PACS, we believe in the kind of world where people look out for each other. We believe that everyone, no matter their circumstance, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe in people helping people.

To that end, our board spent the last fiscal year doubling down on our efforts to help reduce food insecurity and make sure our new mission is aligned to our clients' needs. We had to adjust some of our processes and make some hard decisions—but the result is we are better positioned than ever to help our community.

We recognize that people face food insecurity daily and that the need for healthy food doesn't end after a certain day of the week or hour of a day. That's why we expanded our hours and reorganized our floor plan for added inventory space and are increasing our focus on providing healthy food for our clients.

Our ongoing goal is to help connect everyone in the community who needs access to nutritious food with those providers who can help. That's why we created the Phoenixville Food Insecurity Team (PFIT) and are working with our community partners to expand and organize PFIT's efforts in the future.

But it doesn't stop there. Well aware of the age and limits of our current building, the board continues to strategically evaluate and plan for a new location for PACS as part of our five-year plan. We can't, however, do any of this work without your help. Whether you are a donor or a volunteer, your support can make the impossible possible. Together, we can work to help ensure no man, woman, or child goes to bed hungry in Phoenixville. Are you with us?

**All the best,  
Frederick Hubler Jr.**

### Current Members for 2020

#### **Frederick Hubler Jr.**

Board President

#### **Susan Starling**

Board Vice-President

#### **Don Dewey**

Board Treasurer

#### **Jeff Gardiner**

Board Secretary

#### **Members**

Chuck Benz

Marc Circus

Dave Garlick

Janet Gerner

Josh Klotzbach

Tony Odorisio

Karen Schweizer

# A Year of Change



This annual report comes to you during a key time of transition for PACS. As I look back on the last year, I am profoundly moved by our staff, volunteers, and donors who dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help those who face food insecurity. They are determined to ensure that every person in Phoenixville has access to quality food to sustain their health and well-being.

The challenge is real. As I write this, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is working on a new rule that could take food stamps away from nearly 700,000 Americans. The need to help may have never been greater.

There are approximately 35,000 people living in poverty in Chester County and many more who live above the government-defined poverty threshold—yet still struggle to make ends meet due to the higher cost of living in Chester County. Rent, for example, is about 50% higher in Chester County than the state's median.

As a PACS volunteer for 15 years, I know that anyone can face food insecurity. People from all walks of life face challenges—a major illness not covered by health insurance, unexpected job loss, and more—that cause them to struggle to put nutritious food on their tables. It's why I accepted the Interim Executive Director role.

This past year, our staff and board worked to refocus our mission to aspire to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community. With the help of the Chester County Food Bank, we transformed PACS into a food pantry and Information & Referral Agency, aligning our staff with new responsibilities, expanding our hours, and identifying new volunteer opportunities.



In total, we provided financial aid, food, and information & referral services to 1,079 individuals in the fiscal year 2018-2019. But there is so much more to do. To learn how you can help us, visit [www.pacsphx.org](http://www.pacsphx.org).

Thank you,  
Mary McGown  
Interim Executive Director

# Celebrating Empty Bowls

Hunger in America is a reality. Feeding America reports that 1 in 6 Americans struggle to get enough food to eat on a daily basis ([www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)). The greater Phoenixville area also feels the impact of our neighbors who are hungry and need assistance. In 2018-2019 PACS fed 297 children,



498 adults and 114 seniors—  
a total of 909 people in 385 separate households.

Many people need to return each month to receive food to keep their families going. We assist an average of 303 people each month with an emergency supply of groceries to cover three meals per day for a 3 to 5 day period.

Because our community cares so much, our neighbors are being fed! PACS receives many generous food donations throughout the year. And some government food is also obtained to help feed local residents.

Empty Bowls originated when, in 1990, a high school art teacher in Michigan helped his students search for a way to raise funds to feed hungry residents of their community. What evolved was a class project with students crafting ceramic bowls for a fundraising meal. Guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread and were invited to keep their bowls as a reminder of hunger in their midst and throughout the world. What one group of students began in their art class was the seed for changing many lives.

By the following year, the originators developed this concept into Empty Bowls—a project to provide support for food banks, soup kitchens, and other organizations that fight hunger. Since then, Empty Bowls events have been held throughout the world and millions of dollars have been raised to combat hunger.

This project takes place in communities across the United States and in other parts of the world—all because of the efforts of one high school class that felt compelled to help their community.

At PACS' first Empty Bowls in November 2007, soups and bread were on the menu of Artisans Gallery & Café were served as the meal. Gifts of pottery bowls, created by students from local schools and camps, as well as professional artists, were the centerpiece of the event. Each participant selected a bowl to keep as a reminder of the need to fight hunger in our community.



## Grateful for Our Sponsors

Our event has grown over the years, moving from its original location at Artisans Gallery & Café to a location that provides the opportunity to display the nearly 700 hand-crafted bowls that are made and donated, giving everyone the chance to view the great selection before choosing a bowl to keep.

We continue to offer delicious soups (made by TCHS-Pickering students) and delicious bread (donated this year by Green Lion Breads, Sweetwater Bakery and St. Peter's Bakery).

Because the need is still so great, our many volunteers continue to give their time and energy crafting bowls, heating and serving soup, serving bread and cold water to drink, and setting and clearing tables—to help end hunger and food insecurity.

It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes the whole community to resolve the problem of hunger that families and individuals struggle within our midst! Hunger knows no season. But you CAN make a difference!!



## New Executive Director



**Mary Fuller** joined Phoenixville Area Community Services as Executive Director on March 9, 2020. Fuller brings both nonprofit community involvement and food pantry experience to PACS.

Previously the Community Relations and Outreach Director at Variety—The Children’s Charity, Fuller is passionate about social service and community partnership. She is a previous Board Chair with Manna on Main Street in Lansdale, which is a program committed to ending hunger in the North Penn region. Fuller earned her Bachelor’s degree in Communications/Journalism, with a concentration in Public Relations, from Shippensburg University.

“When we began the search for a new executive director, we hoped to find someone who could bring a new level of partnership with the community to PACS,” says Fred Hubler, President of PACS Board. “We understand that our new mission to aspire to be a lead resource for food insecurity in the community will require a leader who understands how the role of food pantries have evolved in recent years and how organizations like PACS can work with others to more fully meet community needs. I believe we’ve found the right person with Mary Fuller.”

Fuller intends to bring her vast experiences as both a volunteer, President, and Board Chair of service organizations to help PACS further meet community needs. “I am excited to join PACS,” says Fuller. “Food insecurity is an invisible challenge. In many communities, people don’t realize how many of their neighbors are unable to make ends meet. I’m thrilled to be able to work with the great staff at PACS as we help to meet the needs of the Phoenixville area.”

## *A big thanks to our Staff & Volunteers*



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2019**

Grants	\$68,000
Government	\$55,659
Contributions	\$252,876
In-Kind	\$570,893
Inv Income & Other Revenue	\$18,335
Prepaid Expenses	\$13,175
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$965,763</b>

Program	\$822,281
Administrative/General	\$34,044
Fundraising	\$28,527
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$884,852</b>

## Phoenixville Food Insecurity Team

PACS facilitates a bi-monthly meeting with food pantries and meal providers in Phoenixville. This group is called the Phoenixville Food Insecurity Team (PFIT). Working together our goal is to improve food security for all in the Phoenixville Area. We create a monthly calendar showing where and when food is available.

Current members include:

- **Allianzas de Phoenixville**
- **Ann's Heart**
- **Bethel Baptist Church**
- **Congregation B'Nai Jacob Synagogue**
- **Grace Crossing Community Church**
- **Paragon United**
- **PASD**
- **Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)**
- **Phoenixville Clergy Association**
- **Phoenixville Hospital**
- **Senior Center**
- **Sol Kitchen**
- **St. Ann's**
- **St. Peter's**
- **The Clinic**
- **Trellis for Tomorrow**
- **You Are Worth It Foundation**
- **Your Mom's Place**



## Service Numbers:

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

# 8,700

number of times PACS helped individuals and families

PACS helped

# 909

individuals in

# 385

separate households:

# 297

 children

# 114

 seniors

# 498

 adults

PACS provided over

# 15,000

referrals for

# 1,079

people who needed help to overcome challenges

