



PACS

Nurturing
Food Security

2020-2021 Annual Report

Board of Directors

BOARD PRESIDENT



Meeting people where they are with compassion

In our last annual report, I talked about the journey we are on at PACS. How our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and supporters are exploring new ideas to foster food security in Phoenixville. Each day, we begin by listening to our clients and our community, asking questions openly and honestly, and above all recognizing our shared humanity.

It's this compassion that drives our vision for PACS. We know that the traditional food pantry model is changing, and we're working hard to identify how we can help meet people where they are. Within the last year, we've added pop-up food pantries, additional free food bins, expanded our services into Phoenixville's north side, and leveraged our van to recover more nutritious food.

As the lead resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville, we're also thinking outside the box, exploring new ways we can distribute healthy food in respectful and sensitive ways. We are passionate about meeting people—all people—where they are. That's why you'll soon see us unveiling new programs, like a senior delivery service, to help our community.

I admit there is still a lot of work to do. But I promise you this: Our staff and volunteers are among the most hardworking, dedicated people I know. With your continued support and compassion for our community, I know this is just the beginning of what's possible.

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

CURRENT MEMBERS FOR 2022

Frederick Hubler Jr.
Board President

Susan Starling
Board Vice-President

Don Dewey
Board Treasurer

Janet Gerner
Board Secretary

Members

Chuck Benz

Marc Circus

Dave Garlick

Tony Odorisio

Suzanne Rokosny

Karen Schweizer

Susan Verbonitz

Marrea Walker-Smith

The Power of Community



If you're reading this, you are part of the PACS community—a collection of people from all walks of life who choose to volunteer, donate, work, and support our neighbors.

You are an essential part of this organization because we simply could not do the work we do without you. As Margaret J.

Wheatley said, "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." And clearly, we all care about the people in Phoenixville.

For many of us, living through a global pandemic shined a spotlight on the number of people in our community who struggle to feed their families. In addition, many area agencies need help accessing quality food.

Here at PACS, we've never been more passionate or committed to being the lead resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville. As food prices skyrocket and need continues, we're finding new ways to get healthy food to the individuals and agencies who need it. We've launched new services and recovered increasing amounts of food from area grocers and restaurants—food that may have otherwise been wasted.

For PACS to work to its fullest potential, we do need to complete some essential infrastructure needs, including electrical upgrades and refrigeration, in our new building. I'm confident we'll achieve this and more with your help. Because this community—our community—is comprised of resilient, kind, compassionate people like you.

**All my best,
Mary Fuller**
Executive Director

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

Laying the Groundwork to Serve Phoenixville for Years to Come

How we plan to leverage our building to assist our neighbors

In October 2021, PACS celebrated its first anniversary at its new location, 101 Buchanan Street. After a year in the 23,000+ square foot space, our vision for how this building can serve the community is clear.

“We wanted to use the first year to evaluate the space and our infrastructure needs,” says Mary Fuller, Executive Director. “For that reason, we acquired the building first and then, once we were operating from this space, we saw how we were actually using the building and what could be improved.”

Supplementing donations to meet escalating needs

Our neighbors continue to need access to healthy, nutritious food. In fact, the demand for our services has skyrocketed over the last two years. Currently, we’re spending between \$7,500 to \$10,000 a month to buy additional food, including essential staples like milk, eggs, butter and meat, to feed the people in our community.

Without refrigeration, fresh food doesn’t last as long

To better meet these needs, we need more refrigerators and freezers to keep fresh food. As of this publication, we have zero commercial-level, walk-in refrigerators in our building. This makes food distribution difficult, particularly at times like Thanksgiving, when we have hundreds of turkeys that require refrigeration.

Refrigeration requires upgraded electrical system

“Now that we’ve been in the building, we have a better sense of how much refrigeration we need and where to put it,” says Fuller, “but this level of refrigeration requires an upgraded electrical system.” This, in fact, is one of PACS’ key infrastructure needs, one that its staff and volunteers have been working on for some time.

“We’re very grateful to the volunteers on our building committee and the contractors and electricians who have helped us scope out what is appropriate for the building,” continues Fuller. “What we really need now is the funding to complete these projects.”

Getting back to what we do best

Once funding is secured, PACS can move forward with the electrical upgrade and refrigeration needs—and get back to focusing all its efforts on feeding the community. “At the end of the day, we’re trying to provide healthy options to our community in a respectful, comfortable setting,” says Fuller. “It’s the least we can do for our neighbors who struggle to feed their families.”

If you’d like to tour PACS or donate to our infrastructure needs, contact Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@pacsphx.org.



Special thanks to our amazing

Staff & Volunteers

Staff for 2022

Mairi Dewey
Operations & Volunteer Manager

Maria Jordan
Pantry & Eligibility Coordinator

Julie Mokrzycki
Grant Writer & Daily
Pantry Manager

Meredith Ferry
Warehouse Assistant

Steve Lachman
Warehouse & Facilities Manager

Mary Fuller
Executive Director

Not to mention the
180+
Tireless Volunteers!

Doing our part for the planet

Food recovery in Phoenixville

About 40% of food produced in the U.S. is wasted and ends up in landfills, while as many as 1 in 8 Americans face food insecurity.¹ At PACS, we believe a strong food recovery program can help address both of these important concerns.

Here in Phoenixville, PACS has increased its food recovery efforts by creating community partnerships with neighboring stores and restaurants.

“It’s a great example of community feeding community,” says Mary Fuller, Executive Director. “We’re working with our neighbors to recover healthy, nutritious food that would otherwise be thrown away. This enables PACS to provide more choices to those who need it and helps our entire community increase sustainability efforts.”

As of Spring 2022, PACS has recovered an estimated 350,000 lbs of food. Our food recovery partners include:

- **Wegman’s**
- **Giant**
- **Trader Joe’s**
- **Redners**
- **Lidl**
- **Kimberton Whole Foods**
- **Acme**
- **Wawa**
- **Vanguard**
(via West Chester Food Cupboard)

Renewing our commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

As PACS continues to grow in service to the community, we strive to include talented people with diverse backgrounds, cultures, perspectives, experiences, and innovations to support our mission as the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

PACS’s commitment to diversity is woven into its goal to embrace and serve the people in the community, regardless of what they look like, where they come from, or what leads them to the PACS door.

We recognize that inclusion plays a key role in the success of having a diverse team. PACS is dedicated to creating an inclusive work environment which recognizes, understands, and appreciates the differences and uniqueness of people – promoting an environment where people are respected and valued for their individual best.

PACS strives to create an environment where people of diverse backgrounds can contribute at their own highest level, where people are treated with dignity and respect, and where the differences in people make a difference in the continued success of PACS.

As part of this commitment, we are participating in work sessions with the Nonprofit Justice & Equity Institute.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2020

Grants	\$975,929
Government	\$46,748
Contributions	\$380,729
In-Kind	\$2,695,977
Inv Income & Other Revenue	\$387,228
Total Revenue	\$4,486,611

Program	\$3,104,451
Administrative/General	\$59,506
Fundraising	\$49,759
Total Expenses	\$3,213,716

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 weekly calendar showing where and when food is available. Current members include:

- **Allianzas de Phoenixville**
 - **Ann’s Heart**
 - **First United Methodist Church**
 - **Grace Crossing Community Church**
 - **PASD**
 - **Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)**
 - **Phoenixville Hospital**
- **Phoenixville Senior Center**
 - **St. Ann’s**
 - **St. Peter’s**
 - **The Clinic**
 - **Trellis for Tomorrow**
 - **You Are Worth It Foundation**
 - **Your Mom’s Place**

