



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 10 million pounds of food distributed amid COVID-19

COVID-19 response results in 3.4 million pound increase in food distributed
Summer Youth Café and other programs ramp up in green phase of reopening

DUQUESNE, PA (June 10, 2020) - COVID-19 hit the southwestern Pennsylvania region hard in March shutting down much of the community's daily operations, leaving thousands of children learning at home and adults suddenly jobless. As a result more families than ever turned to the Food Bank and its network for support. From March 16 to May 31, together with its network of 365 agencies, partners and programs spanning 11 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania, the organization has provided more than 10 million pounds of food, enough food for more than 8.3 million meals to individuals facing food insecurity.

This is a 3.4 million pound (49 percent) increase from last year during the same time frame and includes food distributed through a variety of sources, including:

- The Food Bank's network of food pantries have provided more than 7.4 million pounds of food to the community.
- Thirty-one drive-up food distributions serving nearly 26,000 vehicles, accounting for nearly 1.4 million pounds of food.
- More than 163,000 pounds to more than 3,200 people through its emergency food assistance program at its warehouse.
- More than 195,000 pounds to new partner agencies designed specifically to respond to this ongoing crisis.
- More than 7,700 people received 214,300 pounds of food delivered to their home through the Food Bank's Doorstep Delivery program.
- Nearly 118,000 pounds of food were distributed to children through 24 grab-and-go meal sites.

In addition to these direct food assistance methods, the Food Bank's SNAP Team has assisted 704 people with completing SNAP applications resulting in more than an estimated 683,000 meals (one meal equals 1.2 pounds of food), more than 1 million dollars in SNAP benefits and an economic impact of more than 3.2 million dollars to the local economy.

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More than 10 million pounds of food delivered to the community from March 16 to May 31 amid COVID-19 including...



7.4 million pounds of food to our neighbors

delivered by **365** agencies, partners and programs

across **11** counties of southwestern Pennsylvania



nearly **26,000** cars received nearly **1.4 million** pounds of food through **31** drive-up distributions



3,269 people received **163,450** pounds of food at emergency food services at the Food Bank warehouse



nearly **195,000** pounds of food through were distributed through COVID-19 Food Bank partners



7,712 people received **214,300** pounds of food through the Food Bank's Doorstep Delivery program



nearly **118,000** pounds of food to children through **24** grab-and-go meal sites



704 people applied SNAP (food stamps) resulting in more than **820,000** pounds of food

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In the past two months the organization has had more than 44,000 visits to its 'Get Help' webpage. In comparison, in 2019 during the same time period, this page had 3,680 visits. Additionally, the organization has fielded more than 4,800 calls for food assistance, mostly from people who are newly unemployed.

What's next at the Food Bank

As the region continues to move into the green phase of COVID-19 recovery, the Food Bank and its network will continue to maintain its social distancing policies while distributing food to as many of our neighbors as possible. This means that drive-up distributions will continue while the organization also looks to begin transitioning some of its pre-COVID programs back into operations.

Families with children age 18 and under can take advantage of the Summer Youth Café program. This program provides free meals and/or snacks to children over the summer when school is not in session and school meals are unavailable. Hundreds of sites are available across the region. Those looking for a site should call 211 or text FOOD to 877-877.

The Food Bank has started to reopen its doors to the organization's passionate and mission critical volunteers. To keep everyone safe and adhere to social distancing guidelines there are a few key requirements for the immediate future pertaining to participation. Through June, a minimal number of volunteers (no more than five) will work per shift. Shifts are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. All volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of three shifts per week and all volunteers must register prior to arriving for a volunteer shift. No walk-ins will be accepted at this time. Those interested in volunteering onsite should visit pittsburghfoodbank.org/volunteer, email volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org or call 412-745-7600.

Finally, the first program that will be transitioning back into operations is the Green Grocer program. This program is a mobile farmers market that is designed to travel into food desert communities (communities without grocery stores) to help to alleviate food inequity by creating access to fresh food options at an affordable price. A schedule for stops is in development and will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Drive-up distributions are still continuing for the foreseeable future as well. Upcoming events include:

Station Square Food Distribution

Location: Highmark Stadium
510 W Station Square Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Date: Thursday, June 11
Time: 10 a.m. - noon
Capacity: 600 vehicles, no walk-ups permitted
One food share (one set of boxes) per car

Johnstown Food Distribution

Location: Johnstown Galleria
500 Galleria Dr., Johnstown, PA 15904
Date: Tuesday, June 16
Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Capacity: 750 vehicles, no walk-ups permitted
One food share (one set of boxes) per car

South Hills Food Distribution

Location: Bethel Park High School
309 Church Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102
Date: Saturday, June 20
Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Capacity: 1,000 vehicles, no walk-ups permitted
One food share (one set of boxes) per car

Additionally, while the Food Bank has always provided its network of agencies across southwestern Pennsylvania assistance with food, equipment, funding and administrative needs, thanks to the wonderful outpouring of support from the community, the organization will continue to do so throughout this crisis. The organization has been in touch with its agency network on a weekly basis to evaluate what support agencies need and is working directly with them to fulfill those needs. Any agency in need of support should contact the Food Bank directly to discuss its situation.

In these uncertain times, the Food Bank is committed to continuing its nearly 40-year mission of feeding people in need and mobilizing the community to eliminate hunger. The organization is continuously monitoring this ever-changing situation and evaluating the best way to provide assistance to individuals and families in need of food assistance.

A full schedule of upcoming distributions; information on volunteer opportunities; and a comprehensive list and map of what schools and community organizations are doing to feed children while schools are closed are available on the Food Bank's website at pittsburghfoodbank.org/covid19.