



Contact: Beth Burrell

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

P: 412-460-3663 x458

E: bburrell@pittsburghfoodbank.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update on charitable feeding network in Washington County

Expansion expected in coming months

Duquesne, PA (May 4, 2021) - In December 2020, the Washington County Department of Human Services (DHS) recommended, and the Washington County Commissioners decided, to shift the county's State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) contracts from Greater Washington County Food Bank to Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Since then, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has been working with the Washington County Commissioners and current pantry network to better understand who the current network is reaching and identify gaps in service.

This work has led to one pantry reopening their doors to the community. More network expansions are expected in the coming months.

Greater Washington County Food Bank has been a member of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's network since 1986 and has served as the lead agency serving Washington County residents facing hunger. The biggest change coming as of July 1, 2021, however, is that it has chosen not to renew its contract as part of the Feeding America network through Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

"Thank you to Greater Washington County Food Bank for the years of service they have provided to Washington County residents," said Lisa Scales, president and CEO of the Food Bank. "We are working diligently to expand the charitable feeding network in Washington County and are confident that the families we serve will experience minimal disruption and will see new opportunities for assistance in the coming months."

As part of its work, Greater Washington County Food Bank has been operating drive-up distributions in six communities including Charleroi, Coal Center, Meadowlands, Monongahela and two in Washington. As of July 1, five of the six distributions will continue under new leadership while families of the sixth event will transition to visiting the existing neighborhood food pantry.

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Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is assuming responsibility for the Charleroi monthly drive-up distribution at the Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, 1 Chamber Plaza, Charleroi, PA 15022. The first event under Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's responsibility will take place from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 8 and expects to serve nearly 250 families.

Additionally, Greater Washington County Food Bank has been providing food for several drive-up distributions that local hunger-relief partners manage. These distributions in Burgettstown, Canonsburg, Community Circle and McDonald will continue to take place as planned with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank supplying food resources.

Washington County has been a part of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's 11-county service area for 40 years. Amidst COVID-19, Feeding America estimates that hunger in the county increased from 10.1 percent in 2019 to 13.5 percent in 2020.

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