

FEEDING HOPE NEWS



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Dear Friends,

The Summer season has officially kicked-off here at Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, and we are working diligently to source and provide food to our friends and neighbors who find themselves in need of a hand-up.

Summertime as a food banker is invigorating as we gear-up for an influx of fresh fruits and vegetables available to us for distribution to families in need, but this summer is extra special for us here at CFWMC as we introduce two new programs to Mercer County.

On June 14, Myron's Meal Mobile, a school bus that has been retrofitted to serve hot meals to children and their families throughout the summer months, made its maiden journey and is traveling to neighborhoods throughout Mercer County for the next 10 weeks. Myron's Meal Mobile is a true community effort!

We offer our sincere gratitude to Anderson Coach & Travel for donating the school bus as well as the plethora of financial donors who gave so generously to transform the school bus into a fully functioning mobile feeding unit.

We extend our appreciation to local artists Alane Jewel and Tony Kropp, George Jr. Republic who gave their time and expertise to transform the exterior of the meal bus and to Weber Catering and Whole Life Services for partnering with us to provide wholesome meals to those who need it most.

I would be remiss if I did not tip my hat to the incredible board of directors, staff and fleet of volunteers of CFWMC who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of Myron's Meal Mobile. Please visit our Facebook page to see when Myron's Meal Mobile will be stopping in your neighborhood! www.facebook.com/CommunityFoodWarehouse

In addition to Myron's Meal Mobile, CFWMC adopted a vacant lot through the Lots to Love program - a partnership between Community Action Partnership of Mercer County and the City of Sharon with the goal of revitalizing vacant lots created by the city's demolition plan. The adopted lot has been transformed into a Community Garden that will give additional access to fresh fruits and vegetables to those who need it most. We are extremely grateful to those who donated seeds, plants, fertilizer, and their time to make this vision a reality.

As we continue to work through the pandemic and these uncertain economic times, please know that because of your generosity, CFWMC and its 32 member agencies will continue assisting residents of Mercer County with the most basic of necessities, food.



With gratitude,
Rebecca Page
Executive Director

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Gwen Martino, President

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AND WE'RE OFF!

By Mimi Prada

The week of June 14th, 2021 was such an exciting time for us! The wheels on Myron's Meal Mobile went rolling along on its maiden journey week from Sharon to Sharpsville, Transfer to Farrell and finally to Greenville, providing a hot meal to our neighbors in need. Our opening day on Monday, June 14 was a celebration with invited guests, the media, Myron himself, and many families being served a tasty meal from the bus at Musser Elementary School. We had an enjoyable time meeting some of our neighbors, however, we were rained on for the greater part of the time and some of us were soaked to the bone! But the rain didn't dampen our spirits, because we had waited for this day for such a long time (nearly 5 years from concept to wheels on the road) and regardless of the weather, it was truly a special day.



For many years, the Community Food Warehouse has struggled with the realization that a summer feeding program was an overwhelming need in many communities throughout the county. Summertime means children are not eating free breakfast and lunch at school, and the already burdened home food budget is now overwhelmed for many low-income residents of Mercer County (and especially so throughout the past and current years). Some attempts have been made in the past to provide simple summer meals for children, but attendance was poor. Many either did not know about it or had no transportation to the site where meals were being served. An overarching summer feeding program has been logistically difficult...until now! Myron's Meal Mobile represents the official Summer Meal Program of the Community Food Warehouse. The primary goal of the meal bus is to decrease the number of children and families going without a meal during the summer weekdays. We are now able to bring summer meals to children (and families) where they live, where there are congregates of low-income households.

The school bus, donated by Anderson's Coach & Travel, has undergone a complete interior transformation done by Final Finish in Morgantown, Kentucky taking 7 months, with some delays due to the pandemic slowdown in 2020. The bus is retrofitted with half cafeteria tables/benches, coolers, food warmers, compressor and air conditioning, back door retractable stairway, and an outdoor awning. An unveiling celebration on September 30, 2020 marked the 4-year journey from concept to completion of this retrofitted school bus. The target year for the launching of the Meal Bus was the summer of 2020, but due to the pandemic, we were forced to postpone until summer 2021. Having



recently undergone its exterior artistic transformation (the final leg of the completion) Myron's Meal Mobile, in all its glory, made its debut on June 14, 2021. A generous grant from an anonymous donor of Feeding America made it possible to partner with Weber Catering from New Wilmington, PA to provide the fresh hot meals for the 10-week summer program. This grant also made it possible to hire a professional school bus driver and a Meal Bus Coordinator to complete the program planning.

And of course, our many dedicated volunteers, (Myron's helpers), help to make the execution of this program possible...and FUN!



Jean Sinkus
Meal Bus Driver



Emily Wood
Meal Bus Coordinator



WKBN Media Coverage



Weber Catering Staff

MEAL BUS DONORS

Allegheny Health Network / Highmark

Anderson Coach & Travel

AQUA

Cafaro Foundation

Dallas W. Hartman, P.C.

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

F.N.B. Wealth Management

First National Bank

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Huntington Bank

Lindsey Memorial Charity Foundation

Mercer County State Bank

PNC Foundation

Sharon American Legion Post 299

T. Bruce Campbell

Thomas Family Endowment

Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation



Alane Jewel & Tony Kropp
Local Artists

And we are so happy to say that another generous donor, the Zekelman Fund, has provided funds to help with the purchase of food for the Meal Bus already for the summer of 2022!

So all summer-long...keep your eye out for Myron's Meal Mobile!

The Wheels on the Bus go 'round & 'round!



MYRON'S MEAL MOBILE

SITE LOCATIONS

MONDAYS: MUSSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHARON

TUESDAYS: SHARPSVILLE GARDENS, SHARPSVILLE

WEDNESDAYS: SUNNYVIEW MOBILE HOME PARK, TRANSFER

THURSDAYS: CHAVERS CENTER, FARRELL

FRIDAY: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENVILLE



SPOTLIGHT: WHOLE LIFE SERVICES



Stephanie Coutryer has been with Whole Life Services, Inc. for the last 13 years and recently joined Myron's Meal Mobile through Weber Catering, LLC who is providing meals for the meal bus. Stephanie has been working for Weber Catering, serving meals on Myron's Meal Mobile as well as helping to cook food and bake cookies when needed. She has gained these skills through the supported employment services at Whole Life Services.

According to Stephanie, the best part of her job with Weber Catering is being with people. Her job coach, Lynn McCormick, accompanies her to the job site and offers support. When asked to describe Lynn, Stephanie said, "She is friendly, nice and kind. She gives me a little push when I need it." In her spare time, Stephanie makes deco mesh wreaths, which she sells at Studio C, a retail storefront that allows Whole Life Services individuals to sell their wares.

Stephanie is really enjoying working on Myron's Meal Mobile so far and said the staff of the Community Food Warehouse is the "highlight of my joy!" We here at CFW are thrilled to have Stephanie (and Lynn!) as part of our team this summer, serving lunch to our neighbors in need.

Whole Life Services, Inc. provides quality supports to people with disabilities and their families. Studio C is located at 1565 E. State Street in Hermitage.



Stephanie Coutryer
and her job coach, Lynn McCormick



Scan Here
to Sign Up



Register for the 12th Annual
Race to End Hunger Today!
Saturday,
September 18th

Interested in being a Race Sponsor?

Contact Sarah at

724-981-0353 ext.106



Starve Hunger ~ Feed Hope
Spring Campaign raised over
\$35,000!
Thank you for your generosity!

BOARD SPOTLIGHT: SAM HUSTON



**Mahoning Valley Region Community
President & Business Banking Market
Manager**

**What inspired you to join the
Community Food Warehouse Board
of Directors?**

Mimi and Lori (former CFW director) are really the ones that inspired me to get involved. It's great being a part of this board and all the dedicated people who are passionate about helping the community.

**How do you hope to help the
Community Food Warehouse? What
events or committees to do you look
forwarding to helping with most?**

I am here to serve in any way I can help. I've been a part of the building committee since I joined, but am always willing to help where my schedule permits.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

I have 3 kids I am very proud of: Brandt, 21, is in the US Coast Guard, Alyssa, 19, is attending YSU, and Jake, 9, is into football and rodeo.

**Save
The
Date!**

EMPTY BOWLS

Thursday, October 21, 2021

3:00-7:00 pm

Hope Center for Arts and Technology

Visit

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/845264369157255](https://www.facebook.com/events/845264369157255)

for details.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSIT

By Sarah Worthington

It has been said that when times get tough, you often find out who you can count on to get you through. When most of the country shut down last year due to the pandemic, essential workers, including the staff at the Community Food Warehouse, continued working. In most cases, this meant longer hours, adjusting to ever-changing directives and simply, figuring "it" out. With so many people forced to stay home and fearful of going out or ordered home to quarantine, the Community Food Warehouse had to find a way to reach these folks that were in need of food assistance. Enter Mercer County Community Transit.

During a conversation with Michael Nashtock, MCCT Transit Director, he offered the services of Mercer County Community Transit as a way to deliver food to anyone who couldn't leave home to meet this most essential need. "Our agency is in the mindset of helping others, and when the pandemic began we knew we could be called upon by others that held this same conviction. When contacted by Community Food Warehouse, we were happy to step up and assist in keeping their deliveries to the community safe and successful" said Michael. As the calls flooded in from seniors stuck at home as well as local hospitals informing us of quarantined families that needed food assistance, it didn't take long to call on their offer to help. With little notice and enough information, they stepped right up and began delivering emergency food boxes to people's homes in a safe, no contact manner from Mercer and Volant to Grove City.

Mercer County Community Transit was such a help during the height of the pandemic and they continue to be a valuable community partner even now, offering to deliver disabled veterans their MilitaryShare allocations. MCCT also travels to Stoneboro regularly, bringing additional MilitaryShare allotments to our veterans that live further away from our distribution sites. We are so thankful for the staff and drivers at Mercer County Community Transit and for their

willingness to help serve our neighbors in need.

We are grateful for the support of this community partner as we continue to work to Starve Hunger ~ Feed Hope here in Mercer County.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Bosco's

GRAND OPENING

\$5

CHARITY DAY
SHOPPING PASS
-SHOP FOR A CAUSE-

\$5

Be the first to shop the brand new Bosco's at the Eastwood Mall and help support the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County!

**Purchase your shopping pass now
through Thursday, October 7th @ CFWMC**
Between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm

★ **VOLUNTEER!**

★ **DONATE!**

★ **HOST A FOOD DRIVE!**

VISIT FOODWAREHOUSE.ORG TO FIND OUT HOW!