

# FEEDING HOPE NEWS



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COMMUNITY



FOOD  
WAREHOUSE

OF MERCER COUNTY





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**MADGE TAMBER, RETIRED FAMILY AND  
CONSUMER SCIENCE TEACHER, GROVE  
CITY**

Dear Friends,

Happy Fall or, in light of tonight's (Nov 11th) forecast (3-5 inches of snow!), Happy Winter! Either way, we are into the Holiday Season – first Thanksgiving and then Christmas! At the CFWMC, we begin holiday preparations in September! Yes, we need to focus on the needs of our community much earlier than most think about the holidays.

One of the ways we begin is to plan for our holiday campaign and food drive. We have already kicked off our "Truck-Full of Hope" holiday food drive on November 1st that included a ribbon cutting with the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce! Once again, Taylor Chevrolet has partnered with us to fill a truck (or four or more!) with nonperishable food items. The City of Hermitage, spear-headed by City Treasurer, Bernie Harry and supported by the staff, collected food at the Hermitage city building and stopped by to deliver the cache of food on kick off day! Also helping to start off the season with a bang was Reynolds Services Incorporated. Between the two, one truck was nearly full! We encourage you to drop off food any time that Taylor Chevrolet is open– now through December 18th! While there, we urge you to take your picture with the truck and post it on Facebook. Your post promotes awareness of this food drive and helps us to reach out to more people than we can on our own. This, our largest food drive of the year, allows our member agencies to stretch their food budgets for their holiday distributions! If you prefer, you can still bring food to the Hermitage Holiday Light Parade and our friends from Penn State will collect them.

Our holiday mail campaign, "Starve Hunger– Feed Hope Holiday Campaign" is also in full swing and runs through the end of the year. It is our sincere hope that you will prayerfully consider supporting this holiday campaign which allows us to continue our mission to feed the hungry and food insecure in our very own community – Mercer County. If you haven't received a mailing, please visit our website [foodwarehouse.org](http://foodwarehouse.org) for a downloadable flyer or for your convenience, you can donate online.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and all those we serve, I thank each and everyone of you for your continued support – be it monetary, volunteering, encouraging us, raising awareness and/or praying – we appreciate you! It is our sincere prayer that your holiday season will be filled with love, joy, peace and family! We remain committed to "Starve Hunger – Feed Hope" in Mercer County!

Thank you for joining us!

Peace and blessings,

**Lori Weston**  
Executive Director







**Special thanks to the City of Hermitage and Reynolds Services, Inc. for kicking off Truck-Full of Hope with lots of great donations!**



# Agency Spotlight: Lakeview Area Helping Hands Center, Inc.

We recently connected with Emma Slawson, Client Coordinator with Lakeview Area Helping Hands. Located in Stoneboro, PA, and founded in 1984, Lakeview Area Helping Hands offers assistance Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am -3:45 pm. at their food pantry as well as at Faith Home Furnishings.

## ***Which services do you currently provide to your clients?***

We offer a variety of services for our community. Our largest calling is our food pantry. We offer a well-rounded food box every month on a scheduled basis. In addition to our food pantry, we also offer financial help with utility bills, gasoline for medical appointments, emergency housing, clothing and shoe vouchers to name just a few.

## ***On average, how many families do you serve a month?***

In 2019 we served an average of 235 clients every month in 90 households. Approximately 50% of our clients are adults, 30% are children and 20% are seniors.

## ***What is your paid staff/volunteer ratio?***

We currently only have 4 paid staff; our Administrator, Office Manager, Thrift Store Manager, and Client Coordinator. We had a total of 33 volunteers for October donating a total of 857 hours of their time. We could not keep our doors open without our generous volunteers.

## ***Have you had a particularly profound or uplifting moment with a client or volunteer you would share with us?***

Everyday we are presented with the faces of hardship: single parents, those that have recently lost their jobs, those that are disabled, seniors with limited resources. Hearing our client's stories, journeys and trials and then being able to provide or guide them to resources is so fulfilling. We have had many clients express appreciation for the holiday meals however, one memory, in particular, stands out. A mom with three children was going to serve spaghetti as their holiday meal since that is all they had or could afford at the time. She was nearly in tears as she received everything needed for a holiday meal for her family.

## ***What are your agency's goals for the future?***

To continue to enrich our community by lifting people up. To gain the resources to give people a hand up and not just a handout.

## ***How has being a member agency of the CFWMC helped you to provide better service to your clients?***

Being under the umbrella of the CFW has enhanced our ability to provide a variety of much needed and appreciated products. Everyone who has any part of the CFW has a generous heart to serve. We thank them for their help with serving our community.

## ***Is there anything you would like to share about your agency that people may not know?***

We operate two retail thrift stores alongside our Food Pantry. Grace's Boutique sells new and lightly used clothing and is completely run by volunteers and donations. In addition to the clothing sales, we also have Faith Home Furnishings which sells lightly used household goods. All proceeds stay within the community to fund Lakeview Area Helping Hands' many programs.





# Save the Date!



# Empty Bowls Mercer County

APRIL 9, 2020

HOPE CENTER FOR ARTS AND  
TECHNOLOGY

115 ANSON WAY SHARON, PA

4:00-8:00 PM

**A word from Gary Dalessandro, CPA/PFS, CFP®**

## Charitable Giving: [Using a Donor Advised Fund to claim a tax deduction](#)

President Trump's tax reform limited or eliminated completely many popular tax deductions that for many years, were used by taxpayers to lower their tax bills. At the same time, the new law also increased the Standard Deduction making it difficult for some taxpayers to make sure their deduction total exceeded the higher thresholds in order to receive tax benefits from claiming deductions.

One tax deduction the new law left alone was the deduction for charitable contributions. The main reason for continuing to allow tax deductions for charitable contributions is that charitable organizations provide many goods and services that the government would have to provide if charities were not in place to provide them. The government also recognizes that charities are able to provide those goods and services more efficiently and effectively than a government agency could.

One way to continue to claim your charitable deductions under the new law is to "bunch" multiple years' contributions into one tax-year. For instance, if you give \$10,000 per year to charity, that annual gift may not provide any additional tax deduction in 2019 over and above the standard deduction of \$24,400 per married couple filing jointly or \$12,200 per single person. If you bunch the next five years' contributions in 2019, you will receive a \$50,000 tax deduction. One way to bunch deductions into one year and then spread the actual donations to the receiving charities over several years is to create and then contribute to a Donor Advised Fund.

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) allows you to make a large donation in one year and then "advise" the custodian of the assets which charities you want to contribute to each year. As long as there is money in the fund, you can ask the fund custodian to forward donations to your favorite charities and you can add additional money to the DAF anytime you desire receiving a tax deduction each time your total contribution exceeds the standard deduction. Donor Advised Funds, which can be set up at our local Community Foundation, are designed to help people donate to charities during a donor's lifetime and also allows the DAF to continue to operate benefiting local charities long after a donor passes away.

Gary acts as Principal, Wealth Management Specialist at JFS Wealth Advisors and is a member of the CFWMC Board of Directors.



# Member Spotlight: Meet the Board

We are very blessed to have a Board of Directors that care deeply and are very involved with the work we do here at the CFWMC. We spoke with a few more of our board members about how and why they help serve the hungry here in Mercer County.



**Dr. Joan Humphrey, Board President, Penn State Shenango**

*How long have you been a member of the board, and what roles have you served on the board?*

I've been participating on the board for about 5 years and have been honored to serve as president for the past 2 years.

*What inspired you to serve on the board of the CFWMC?*

I've never seen such dedication and remarkable service as is demonstrated by the leaders of the CFWMC. Lori and Mimi are amazing individuals and the desire to help them achieve goals has been among the most gratifying experiences in my life.

*What is your favorite part of serving on the board? Or, what is your favorite volunteer activity?*

All of the activities we participate in are so rewarding but my favorite is the Empty Bowls event coming up in April 2020. This is held at HopeCAT, which is an inspiring facility in and of itself. The event is very humbling if a person takes the time to reflect on their good fortune in life. Being able to participate in this event and contribute to the awareness of eliminating hunger among those in our community is truly the essence of what the CFWMC represents.

*Why should someone who is considering volunteering with and/or giving to the CFWMC do so?*

I believe the question should be, "How can we not consider sharing our time and talent with others in our community?" It's especially important that we be dedicated to helping the vulnerable; such as children and the elderly that have a need.

The rewards of volunteering go beyond the ability to enhance a resume. There's an incredible intrinsic benefit to personal health and wellness that creates transformation in life. Volunteering makes a difference in not only the lives that are improved but is an investment in better health outcomes for the volunteer as well!

**Madge Tamber, Retired Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Grove City H.S.**

*How long have you been a member of the board, and what roles have you served on the board?*

I think this is the second time I've accepted a term on the board which would make it 6 years. It's amazing how time flies.

*What inspired you to serve on the board of the CFWMC?*

I coordinate the Free Community Lunch at St. John's Episcopal. CFWMC is an integral part of our ability to prepare lunches economically for the community. I felt it was important to support and learn more about CFWMC.

*What is your favorite part of serving on the board? Or, what is your favorite volunteer activity?*

I'm most active in Farm Day and Empty Bowls. I help make the vegetable soup for Farm Day and volunteer several days. I also helped with the baking of the bread for Empty Bowls at St. John's, created a basket to be auctioned off and volunteered that evening. I try to help wherever I can according to my schedule.



***Why should someone who is considering volunteering with and/or giving to the CFWMC do so?***

When I joined the Board I was only aware of CFWMC in connection with St. John's Food Pantry and Community Lunches. I was amazed to learn of all the programs that CFWMC offers. CFWMC is an important part of feeding the hungry in Mercer County. Mathew 15:32 says "I do not want to send them away hungry." This verse definitely sums up why I am involved with the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County.

**Gino Nicastro, Vice President, Allstate Insurance**

***How long have you been a member of the board, and what roles have you served on the board?***

I am in my 5th year on the board and currently serve as the Vice President. I have both served on and am now chair of the Building Committee. I am also on the Investment Committee.

***What inspired you to serve on the board of the CFWMC?***

I started volunteering at the Food Warehouse in 2007. I had a friend who worked there at the time and I was looking for local nonprofits to volunteer for and present my Allstate Foundation Grants. I've done one each year since then. I wanted to do more for the organization then simply volunteer a few hours a year, so I spoke with the then board president about joining the board and he recommended me.

***What is your favorite part of serving on the board? Or, what is your favorite volunteer activity?***

I have enjoyed my time on the board helping out with whatever I can, but because of my involvement on the Building Committee, we have done a lot of work and remodeling to most of the Warehouse and offices since I joined on. I'm also involved with the MilitaryShare Program; my team of agents and staff usually help with a few of these a year and it's really great to see how MilitaryShare has grown over the years.

***Why should someone who is considering volunteering with and/or giving to the CFWMC do so?***

There are a plenty of options for you in the area to give of your time and money, but at the CFWMC, we can really stretch out the time and dollars we receive due to our buying power. Also we work with so many pantries county-wide that it allows you to contribute to so many different people all across the area at one time. Plus the people here care about the community and everything is done with the best interest of those in need in our communities.



**Left to right: Madge & Jacque**



**Left to right: Jennifer & Gino**



## Jacque Beck, SCP Group

### *How long have you been a member of the board, and what roles have you served on the board?*

I have been a member of the board for 2 years. I currently serve on the Governance Committee and have participated with Lori in establishing a New Board Member/Solicitation Packet.

### *What inspired you to serve on the board of the CFWMC?*

I am inspired by the important work the Community Food Warehouse does to fight food insecurities in our community. I work with the Episcopal Community Services food pantry and see first hand the importance in helping people obtain the food they need. The CFWMC goes above and beyond in educating the kids about the food they eat and making good food choices at events like Farm Day In Town.

### *What is your favorite part of serving on the board? Or, what is your favorite volunteer activity?*

I particularly like the Empty Bowls fundraiser. It involves so many different people in the community giving of their time and resources. Having a simple meal of soup and bread really brings home the issue of hunger that many people in our community deal with every day.

### *Why should someone who is considering volunteering with and/or giving to the CFWMC do so?*

The CFWMC is a well run organization led by people who really care about the needs of the people in Mercer County.

## Jennifer Winchester, F.N.B. Wealth Management

### *How long have you been a member of the board, and what roles have you served on the board?*

I have been a member of the board since 2012.

### *What inspired you to serve on the board of the CFWMC?*

I want to support my community by reaching out and letting individuals know that they matter and are precious. I want to make a positive impact and inspire. Every individual has been instilled with passion and purpose. The challenge is to find both and marry the two because someone out there needs your passion and that is what I found with the CFWMC. The following quote by Marcus Aurelius is so true: "Both what we do and chose not to do in this life echoes in eternity, Life is too short not to live passionately."

### *What is your favorite part of serving on the board? Or, what is your favorite volunteer activity?*

My favorite part of serving on the board is seeing how much happiness it brings to the people that we are helping. The CFWMC Race to End Hunger is my favorite activity to volunteer for but I like all the activities that I can participate in since they are all so good.

### *Why should someone who is considering volunteering with and/or giving to the CFWMC do so?*

The CFWMC helps those who are in need. It is very easy to make others in need happy and it is very rewarding. When you spend time volunteering for the Warehouse it never feels like work so don't be afraid to get outside of your comfort zone. The best gift you can give yourself is doing something for someone else. Don't do it for the glory but rather for the joy it brings to others and that is invaluable. I have found that to the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world, so reach out and volunteer.



Dr. Joan Humphrey



# A great BIG thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors and sponsors for your wonderful support!

## Enjoy some of our 2019 highlights!

