



# President's Letter:

Bringing meaningful help to our community, together



“During a year that

has brought so much change and hardship to the world, I try to find the silver linings. Among them, how a group of individuals can come together, unite for one common purpose — and make good things happen.

PACS is a testament to this power. From staff and volunteers to donors and board members, we are all united in our commitment to make sure the people in our community have access to healthy, nutritious food.

As the lead resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville, PACS helps many individuals and families while also supplying between 12 and 15 other agencies, like churches and other nonprofits, with the food they need.

This work is vital to the health of not only individuals but also our community at large. That's why, when we realized we needed new, larger space to house and distribute food, we were determined to find a location in downtown Phoenixville. It's what the community needed.

As we look to the near and distant future, the needs of the Phoenixville community remain our north star. Our new location at 101 Buchanan Street, our refrigerated van, our partnership with the Chester County Food Bank, these are the foundational elements PACS needs to deliver on our promise to help provide access to healthy, nutritious food for years to come.

Phoenixville is a special place that I'm proud to call home. Here, people from all walks of life come together to bring good, meaningful change to our community. With your help and support, PACS will continue to explore new ideas that help foster food security within our community.

I am honored to have you on this journey with us.

In gratitude,  
Frederick Hubler

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## Meeting today's needs & securing the future

**As I come upon** my one-year anniversary as Executive Director of PACS, it's impossible not to notice how much has changed in the last 12 months — from the onset of COVID-19 to rising unemployment and nationwide unrest. In spite of it all, we at PACS are more determined than ever to fulfill the increasing need for food in the Phoenixville community. I am exceptionally grateful to our supporters during this challenging time.

As much of the U.S. closed down in March 2020, PACS remained open. We did what we do best: We continued to be the lead resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville, helping people and agencies obtain access to food.

In the middle of a pandemic, this was no small feat. Our small staff of five fulfilled more than 45,000 requests for food from July 2019 to June 2020. Requests for food were five times higher compared to the previous year. And like many other non-profits and businesses that serve the public, we too had to redesign our processes to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients.

This is my 10th year working with a non-profit food pantry and my experience teaches me one important lesson: The food pantry model is changing in two fundamental ways. First, clients need some measure of choice, in part due to dietary constraints (think

diabetes or heart disease). As the saying goes, food is medicine. This means clients need access to healthy food—food that often requires refrigeration or has a limited shelf life.

Secondly, food distribution is changing. To increase access to food for individuals and other agencies, we need to be able to transport it, quickly and safely. This means we need to provide food where and when it is needed.

PACS strives to provide and distribute food in a manner that offers dignity and respect to all we serve. Together, our new location at 101 Buchanan Street and our refrigerated van help us meet these needs. With added space, we can obtain the equipment necessary to refrigerate and store healthy food. And, our new van enables us to pick up and distribute food as needed.

There's only one more thing we need: You. We need your help to secure funding for our building. This would reduce our mortgage and help permanently secure the future of PACS in our community. To learn how you can help us, visit [www.pacsphx.org](http://www.pacsphx.org).

As the need for food increases, and it will even as the pandemic subsides, please know that we at PACS are doing our utmost to help ensure no one goes hungry in our community.

All my best, **Mary Fuller**

# THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW LOCATION AT

# BUCHANAN

**With more than 23,000 square feet, the new location offers much needed space to help the Phoenixville community have access to healthy, nutritious food.**

PACS celebrated the Grand Opening of its new location at 101 Buchanan Street, Phoenixville on Monday, October 26, 2020. Obtaining this new building was the culmination of years of work searching for a property that would both support our vision for the future of food security and help us remain in downtown Phoenixville. The new location is just 1/2 mile from the previous location at 257 Church Street.

PACS was pleased to receive Certificates of Congratulations from local dignitaries during the official ribbon cutting ceremony on October 26.



## Why did we need a new location?

For nearly 20 years, we worked out of the building on Church Street. That building was 184 years old and originally built as a school. We used the building to the best of our ability, stacking food in various rooms and the basement. Often our staff had to work around stacks of donated food or carry it up several flights of stairs. We had many challenges fitting in equipment and shelving essential to food pantries. We knew for several years that we needed a new space.

## Healthy, nutritious food requires space and refrigeration

In July 2020, PACS was also awarded a grant to purchase a refrigerated van. Together, both the new location and the van are important to PACS' vision for the future. "The food pantry model is changing," says Mary Fuller, Executive Director. "To help ensure food access to everyone, individuals and other agencies, distribution is critical. Our new refrigerated van enables us to pick up and transport fresh food. And our new location provides the space we need to store that food, while continuing to serve our clients with dignity and respect."

## Partnering with the Chester County Food Bank

In addition, the new location will help facilitate PACS' partnership with the Chester County Food Bank (CCFB), which is working to help increase food access in the Phoenixville area. PACS will be continuing to work on expanding this partnership in the coming year.

This new space is critical to PACS' mission to be the lead resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville. "We're helping individuals, families, and other nonprofits access the food they need, particularly during these challenging times," says Frederick Hubler Jr., Board President. "Our new building is right in the heart of our community. It provides much needed space for food refrigeration and storage, while still providing nearby access for many of our clients."

**Our new building is right in the heart of our community.**

# A model for community feeding community

**TO BE THE LEAD** resource for food insecurity in Phoenixville requires an understanding not just of the individuals and families who need access to food but also the other community agencies who are trying to support the Phoenixville community. This is what true partnership looks like and it's what PACS has been working on throughout this past year.

In 2018-2019, PACS supported two other agencies with food. Today, we're supporting between 12 and 15 other agencies, like churches, senior centers and other non-profits who try to connect their clients with resources for healthy food. Throughout the pandemic, PACS has also partnered with the Phoenixville Area School District to help ensure all students and their families have the food they need to thrive during this challenging time.

"This work is fundamental to impacting food insecurity in Phoenixville," says Mary Fuller, Executive Director. "By sharing our food and resources with other agencies, PACS ensures our stock goes to where it's needed when it's needed. This expands our reach and enables the agencies we support to focus on their many other important works, knowing PACS is here to help with food."



## Agencies PACS supports include:

Alianzas de Phoenixville  
Ann's Heart  
Good Samaritan

Grace Crossing Community Church  
Phoenixville Area Senior Center  
You Are Worth It Foundation

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2020

Grants	\$166,326
Government	\$55,155
Contributions	\$376,692
In-Kind	\$603,767
Inv Income & Other Revenue	\$4,984
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,206,924</b>
Program	\$834,537
Administrative/General	\$30,961
Fundraising	\$18,710
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$884,208</b>



## Meet our new staff member!

Distribution is an important part of the food pantry model. Our refrigerated van, which we acquired thanks to a Department of Environmental Protection grant, enables us to safely pick up healthy food from those who can donate it and transport it to PACS or to other agencies who need it. Quick, reliable food transportation and distribution also helps to limit food waste. Look for the PACS van throughout Phoenixville as we continue to support needs across our community.

## This Past Fiscal Year...

**7x** Increase in our food support to other agencies

**5k** more of our neighbors in need were served via this extra support, including veterans, children and their families, senior citizens, and the homeless

We expanded our food recovery efforts by working with Fiorenza's Food For Friends and Grocers Against Hunger and now recover food from Trader Joe's, Wawa, Wegmans, Lidl, Giant and many local Phoenixville restaurants to prevent food waste in our community

**≈4k** number of people PACS directly served every month

**1.3k** Thanksgiving meals provided (including turkey, sides, fruit cup, and dessert)

**+4x** The amount of Christmas meals provided (turkey or ham, sides, and dessert)



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