



Hunger Facts

- **More than one in seven Americans – including more than one in five children – live below the poverty line (\$22,113 for a family of four).**
- **The number of people at risk of hunger in the United States increased from 36.2 million in 2007 to 48.8 million in 2010.**
- **Food banks in the United States saw a 46 percent increase in clients seeking emergency food assistance between 2006 and 2010.**
- **One in seven Americans currently receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) (formerly food stamps).**
- **Nearly half of SNAP participants are children. Another 8 percent are age 60 or older.**
- **85 percent of SNAP households have incomes at or below the poverty line.**
- **Refundable Tax credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), boost household earnings, provide a critical buffer for emergencies, and lift millions of Americans out of poverty every year.**
- **These tax credits encourage work. Parents with two children who work 10 hours a week at a minimum-wage job receive less than \$100 from the Child Tax Credit. If they work full time, they receive about \$1,800.**
- **In 2010, the EITC lifted 5.4 million people out of poverty, including 3 million children. Bread for the World Fact Sheet 2012 www.bread.org**



Danny Califf (Philadelphia Union Defender) and his wife Erin with their children took the opportunity to learn about hunger and served Westside Brunch during the Christmas holidays.



Fred, Terry, and Judy prepared and served Westside Brunch, enjoying the opportunity to get together and provide service.



(Front) Cass, Carolyn and Kate (Back) Nancy, Ted, and Charlotte from St. Mary Magdalene Community; members prepare and serve a delicious meal to the Bernardine Center brunch clients monthly.



Sister Carolyn Muus
Coordinator of Westside Brunch
Sister plans the menus, prepares and oversees the serving of healthy brunch meals three times each week for hungry folks in the neighborhood. Sister also works alongside volunteers who offer to prepare and serve occasional brunch meals.



Mary Lou Laboy
Food Pantry Coordinator
Orders food, organizes food shelves and plans for the distribution of emergency and supplemental food; creates the weekly menus; is part-time bookkeeper and prepares the thank you letters for mailing.

Sister Maria Denise Prorock
Food Pantry Assistant
Organizes and distributes supplies and donated clothing to families and individuals who seek assistance from our center. Sister develops the diverse monthly thank you letters that receive so many compliments from our donors.



Sister Sandra Lyons
Director
Oversees all programs of Bernardine Center, organizes advocacy-educational programs, community garden, and overall building maintenance; creates annual budget and BC newsletters.



Bernardine Center
2625 West Ninth Street,
Chester, PA 19013
www.bernardinecenter.org

Stamp

THE Bernardine Center

TIMES

A Ministry of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Bernardine Center is grateful to
**ETHEL SARGEANT CLARK SMITH
MEMORIAL FUND**
for a \$6,000 grant to service its Food Programs

"Souper" Bowl of Caring

I'VE NEVER BEEN AN AVID SPORTS FAN, BUT THIS SUPERBOWL SEASON TOPPED THE CHARTS FOR ME! No, I did not sprawl in front of the TV to hoot and howl over every good or not-so-good play. Rather, I delighted in the 6,000-plus pounds of food that St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield, PA collected during its "Souper Bowl of Caring" food collection event, leading up to the big day of football. Can you even imagine what 6,000+ pounds of food looks like in one place? Bernardine Center staff and St. Francis of Assisi parishioners spent several hours on Saturday loading into vans and then unloading from vans into every nook and cranny of Bernardine Center this magnificent amount of non-perishable food, destined to provide emergency and supplemental meals for struggling families who seek food assistance from our food pantry. We are so grateful for the dedicated and concerned families at St. Francis of Assisi Parish!



Ryan Scanlon, Kim Laboy and Sr. Carolyn help unload the "Souper" Bowl food donations from vans.



Tom Wimer and the Panczner Family still smile in the midst of transferring and weighing the "Souper" Bowl food donations.



Do we even have space for one more box of food?



Tom counts the boxes to make sure that all have been delivered.



Mission Statement

The Bernardine Center provides a helping hand to low-income Chester area residents by distributing emergency or supplemental food and supplies.

The Bernardine Center also offers educational, spiritual and advocacy programs to help clients build better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

All the ministries of the Bernardine Center are rooted in Franciscan hospitality and the social teachings of our Catholic Christian tradition.

Bernardine Center is grateful to Connelly Foundation for a \$15,000 grant to be used over two years to support its Food Programs

“Let us thank God for God’s priceless gift.” *2 Corinthians 9:15*

YOU are that gift!

Thank you for your cash donations
May 1, 2011 to February 28, 2012

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The Soccer Hall of Fame donated 275 winter coats to Bernardine Center for families-in-need. Pictured (R) is Christian Kozlowski with helper.



Members of St. Madeline’s Parish Christmas Giving Tree provide Bernardine Center with many, many gifts for low-income families.



Members of Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. RSVP, donate holiday food that thrills Marylou, Food Pantry Manager.

Bernardine Center staff initiated the Homebound Food Program in 2002 after realizing that some in-need clients could no longer get to the Center for food distribution days because of compromised health and mobility problems. Presently, 20 persons receive Homebound Food services.



Jim Judge (volunteer) and Ron Lee (Goodwill Trainee) prepare to deliver food to a homebound client.



Ron, Vonshelia, Neshay, Jim
“I’m very grateful. I’ve been with you guys for 9 years and I’m so thankful that you help me.”



Mildred
“Thank you for my guardian angels.”



H O M E B O U N D F O O D D E L I V E R I E S

Marylou phones each individual prior to the monthly food delivery date and reviews the menu of available food so each person has a choice. Sr. Maria Denise prepares the food boxes based on the chosen food items. Marylou and volunteers travel together to deliver the needed food, as well as to offer camaraderie.



Neshay (BC student intern) and Joseph
“It’s perfect. Thank you for your service and God bless.”



Neshay and Ron with Rosa
“Thank you for helping. I’ll be 90 in May and never been in the hospital.”



Ron, Jim, Neshay with James Kiser
“ This program is great, outstanding!”

“I was hungry and you fed me . . . I tell you whenever you did this for one of these my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.” Mt. 25:35, 40

In gratitude for your IN-KIND donations May 1, 2011 to February 28, 2012

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Joan and Gill Bardsley are faithful donors to Bernardine Center.

"FEINSTEIN FOUNDATION CHALLENGE" PARTNERS TO MAKE YOUR DONATION LARGER.

Each year, during March and April, Alan Feinstein challenges food banks and pantries to increase their donations of food and funds by offering \$1 million to match in proportion to the donations garnered by food agencies. We ask that you consider making a donation during this time to support us even more than your usual generous giving. Thanks so much!