



2021 Annual Report

Driving Change

A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER AND CEO DANI RUHF

Dear Friends,

We believe in nourishing the whole child – mind, body and soul. While we are subject matter experts in closing meal gaps, we often turn to our incredible community partners to provide what we call “extension services.” These services do not directly relate to food insecurity, but still are vital to the overall health and wellbeing of our community’s children. One example of this wonderful programs, is our Food For Thought program, which you will read about later.



2021 continued to be a year of growth for CHOP. We have continued to develop relationships with local schools, allowing us to serve almost 5,000 children each week through our Backpack Program and provide In-School Pantry access to 11,000 children. This is a huge leap from just three years ago when we started serving Blast IU.

We are proud of these accomplishments, but we know there is so much more that can be done to ensure children do not need to worry about their next meal. With this in mind, we look to continue to expand our services to #CHOPOutHunger across the state of Pennsylvania in the coming year.

We could not do this without your ongoing dedication and support. Day in and day out, I continue to be humbled and amazed by the dedication of our phenomenal volunteers, donors and corporate partners.

Thank you,

Dani

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP) is to create an entire generation that doesn't know hunger through innovative and collaborative outreach partnerships.



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Kids Empowering Kids

It's Thursday, a day that Lynne Hunting and Lindsay Howard, program managers at CHOP Tunkhannock, look forward to each week. Around 9 a.m. the CHOP team can hear that the gang has arrived and are ready for their daily tasks. They walk out and are greeted by a group of smiling teens from Tunkhannock High School.



"Our students work in the Tunhannock CHOP distribution site three days each week. We assemble bags, recycle boxes, clean and restock bins. Our students have improved their skill sets with the development of work stamina, understanding of work quotas, their sense of teamwork, frustration tolerance, personal self worth, importance of work completion and realization of personal potential," explained John Lee, transition coordinator for the Tunkhannock Area School District.

Each week both Tunkhannock and Towanda branches welcome life skills students. These students have become an integral part of the volunteer program, as they help pack backpacks bags for CHOP's Backpack Program, fill bins for In-School Pantries and help with other operational tasks.

"The positive energy these young people bring is so uplifting. I love to listen to them work together as a team, encouraging each other to do their best. They talk about how proud they are to put the backpack bags together knowing the benefit the bags provide to their fellow students," said Lynne.



Depending on the school, these students also play a huge role when the food is delivered to their school. Some life skill classrooms are also responsible for keeping their school's In-School Pantry stocked and organized. This gives the students a sense of ownership and also helps remove the stigma around food insecurity among their classmates.

By the Numbers

FOOD INSECURITY

| NOUN | THE STATE OF BEING WITHOUT RELIABLE ACCESS TO A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD.



77 SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS SERVED



89,575 TOTAL BACKPACKS

SERVICE AREA



1,189,394 POUNDS OF FOOD



5,000 STUDENTS SERVED EACH WEEK THROUGH BACKPACK PROGRAMS



11,000 STUDENTS SERVED EACH WEEK THROUGH IN-SCHOOL PANTRIES

Financial



572 TOTAL DONORS



\$709,004 TOTAL FUNDS RAISED



\$498,651 IN GRANT AWARDS



324 EVENT PARTICIPANTS

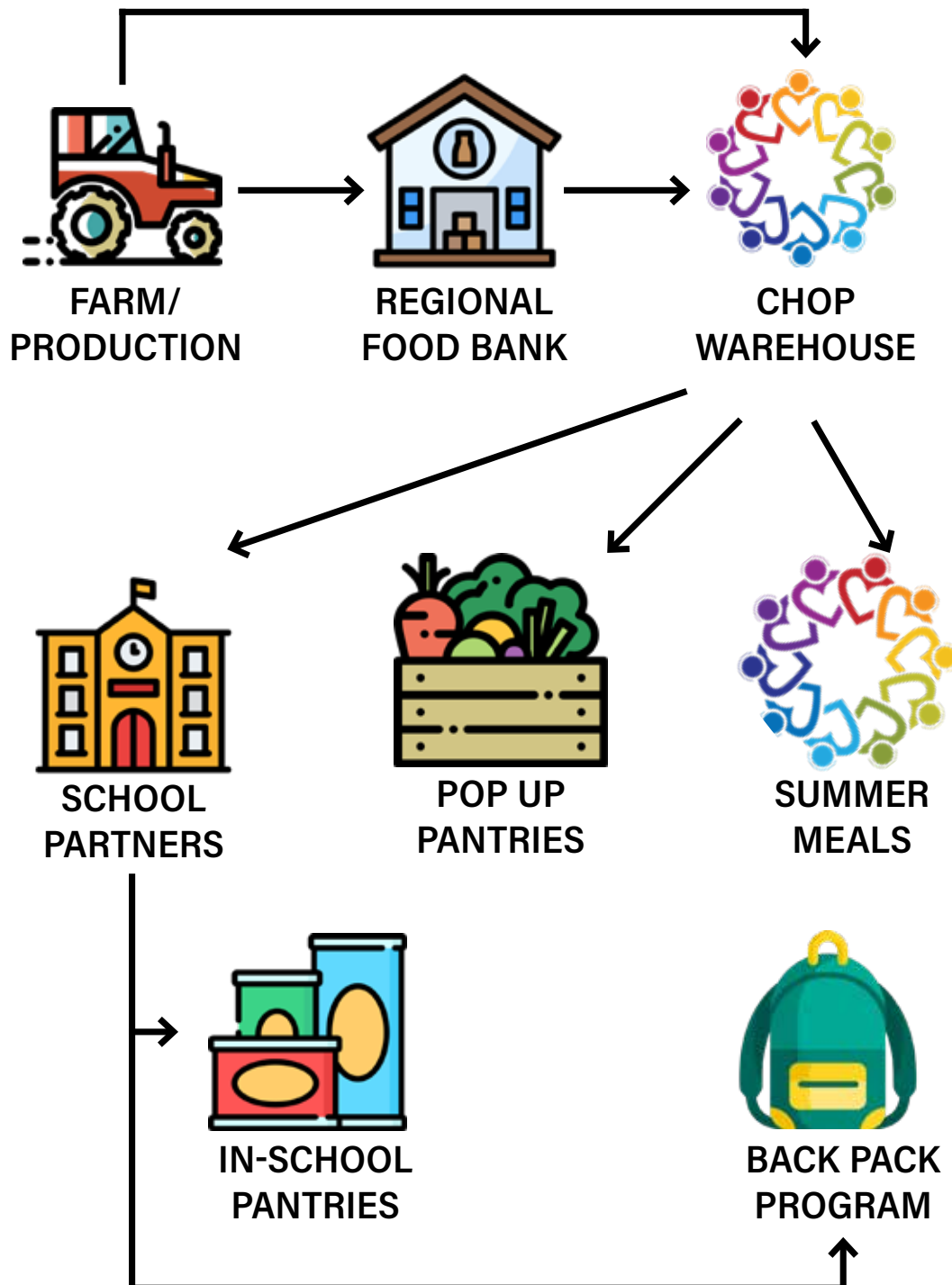


How It Works

GETTING FOOD INTO CHILDREN'S HANDS

Food banks source food donations from various locations. CHOP then purchases food from the regional food bank at a reduced cost. Food is then distributed through Backpack Programs, In-School Food Pantries, Pop Up Pantries and Summer meals Programs.

Because of our purchasing power, it costs CHOP \$1 per backpack and about \$500 to feed 250 families.



Our Programs

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is most popular among lower grade levels. Each Friday, students who are registered in the program are sent home with two breakfasts and dinners, two fruits, and five-ten healthy snacks. There are not any income guidelines, and the bags are placed discreetly in students' backpacks to ensure they are brought home. The Backpack Program helps to combat the weekend meal gap for students who might otherwise go hungry.



In-School Pantries

The In-School Pantry Program has helped close the gap for teens experiencing food insecurity. Often times, there is stigma around adolescents when it comes to hunger, which is why CHOP utilizes the In-School Pantry to normalize pantry use. This self-serve model is available daily and self-policed. It also teaches students to self-advocate for their needs, as well as the needs of their siblings.



Pop Up Pantries

Pop Up Pantries allow us to come into a community with a box truck full of food for direct distribution. Distribution boxes include pantry staples and fresh produce, frozen meats, and dairy. Boxed food is distributed to families using a drive-thru model, helping with anonymity.



Summer Meal Program

The Summer Meal Program uses a similar model as the Backpack Program, but food is distributed for a full week, versus a weekend. Each week, students receive a box of fresh produce and a box of shelf stable groceries.

CHOP also partners with schools, rec centers, daycares, summer camps, libraries, and more to provide snacks and/or the Backpack Program for their respective summer program. This helps meet the meal gap that the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program provides, in addition to reducing stigma and combating summer learning loss.



Food for Thought

We believe in not only filling tummies but also supporting young minds. CHOP has a unique advantage for reaching families and children. Knowing this, we seek additional ways we can extend services to children.

In fall 2021, the CHOP was awarded a grant from the Brabson Family Foundation for the Arts that supported the purchase and distribution of children's books.

With the grant funds, CHOP purchased over 10,000 books and distributed them to the children that we currently serve in grades K-6 during October and November 2021.

"Our team was amazed at all of the thank you notes, photos, and social media posts we received from the schools and children that received it," shared Linda Lamphere, program manager at CHOP Towanda.

Along with providing books, CHOP volunteers read the books, which we were shared on our YouTube channels.

"We were thankful for this opportunity and enjoyed seeing photos of the students with their books. It was beyond rewarding," reflected Linda.



Volunteer Driven



572 INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS AT TWO
CHOP BRANCHES

CHOP volunteers provided more than 10,560 hours of their time in 2021. Their support allows CHOP to supplement staffing resources and operate with a lower over-head. The volunteers are the driving force behind the mission. Even the CPA, accounting staff, warehouse team, and delivery staff are volunteers.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT = 5.86 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES





PARTNER WITH US TO #CHOPOUTHUNGER

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