



2022 Annual Report

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A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER AND CEO

Dear Friends,

When we talk about food insecurity or childhood hunger, what do you picture?

Each of us will have our own image of what childhood hunger “looks like” which is often shaped by our experiences and those around us. The reality is that children and individuals who face food insecurity do not look or act a certain way. In fact, food insecurity can live right next door to you, and you may never know it.



With the rising costs of food, we’ve observed more and more families turn to our programs throughout the year to help fill the grocery gap at night and over the weekends. We know that by feeding these children, we are doing more than just filling their bellies; we are aiding in better school attendance, behavior, mental health, and other long-term effects that can be attributed to food insecurity.

With the help of our staff, board, volunteers, and donors we have been able to meet the growing need of our community, while expanding our programs. Our goal is to continue to support children through school-based programs, which you will read more about in this report.

We continue to be grateful to our generous donors and corporate partners who make our work possible.

In Partnership,

Dani Ruhf
Founder & CEO

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.

Looking Forward

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The importance of our organization's mission stems from the staggering national statistic that 15.3 million children live in households without consistent access to adequate food. However, this is more than just food insecurity. We know that children who live in households with food insecurity are more likely to be sick, recover from illness at a much more gradual pace, and face increased hospitalization rates. Lack of adequate food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school, and it is also linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence. How can we expect children and teens to reach their full potential if they are constantly hungry?

While we have the ability to open our refrigerator and grab something to eat whenever we want, many of our neighbors do not. We want a community, state, nation, and, ultimately, a planet where nobody goes hungry. But before we can change the world, we have to address our community first.

This drives our work every day at CHOP. As a board, we are not only focused on the success of meeting the hunger gaps we observe today in but also on the longevity of our organization.

We acknowledge that CHOP is uniquely positioned to build bridges within our community that extend beyond food rescue. Our goal over the coming year is to establish a strategic expansion plan for the state, while also continuing to strengthen our current community relations.

All of this work, both current and future, could not be accomplished without the dedication of our phenomenal staff, volunteers, and generous donors. Your investment today will reap endless rewards in the future as we position children and teens for success by ensuring they never have to worry if they will have enough food to eat.

Ty Holmes
Board President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TY HOLMES, CHAIR

MICAH WOODARD, VICE CHAIR

HENRY DUNN, TREASURER

DEANNA WATKINS, SECRETARY

CONRAD BOSLEY

SHERRI COONEY

ANN MARIE JENNINGS

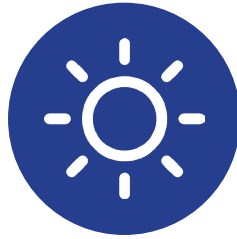
JULIE KERRICK

CAROL RUBEL

BY THE NUMBERS



110 SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS SERVED



29 SUMMER PROGRAM EVENTS



17 COMMUNITY POP UP PANTRIES



49 PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS



953,980 POUNDS OF FOOD

SERVICE AREA



5,000 STUDENTS SERVED EACH WEEK THROUGH BACKPACK PROGRAMS



12,380 STUDENTS HAVE DAILY ACCESS TO AN IN-SCHOOL PANTRY



164,819 TOTAL BACKPACK PROGRAM BAGS DISTRIBUTED

Financial Recap



796 TOTAL DONORS



\$738,717 TOTAL FUNDS RAISED



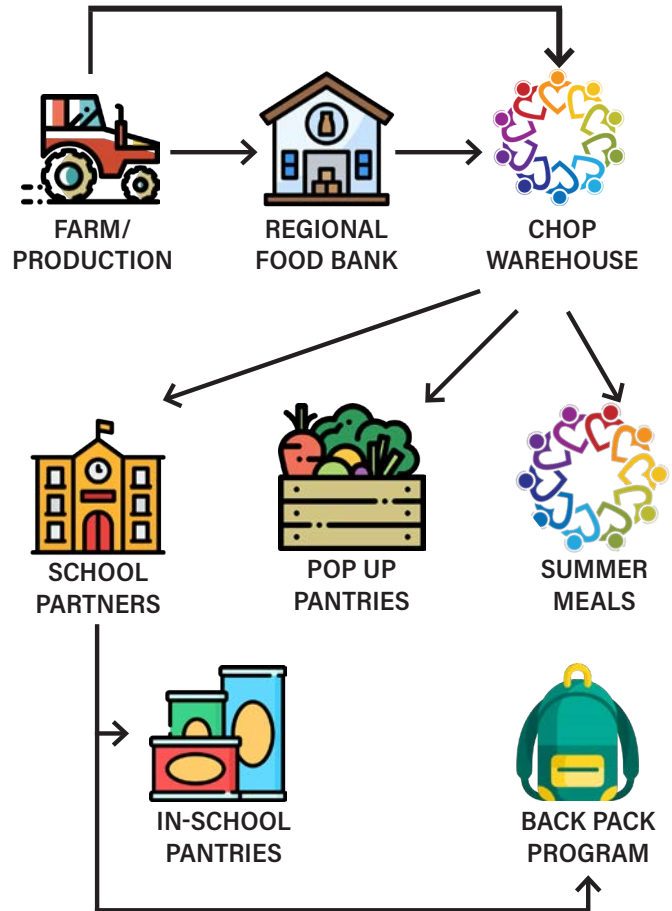
\$513,764 IN GRANT AWARDS

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 Meal Programs.

Because of our purchasing power, it costs CHOP \$1 per student for our school programs.



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 often include pantry staples, fresh produce, frozen meats, and dairy. Boxed food is distributed to families using a drive-thru model, helping with anonymity.

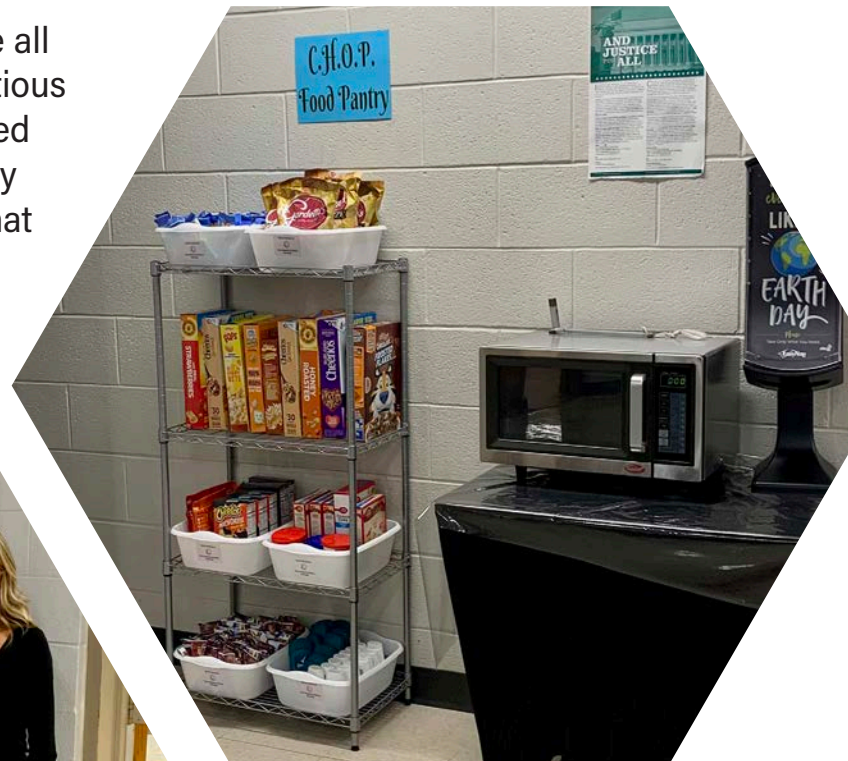
EMPOWERING TEENS

While the pandemic seems to be far off in the rear-view mirror of our daily lives, we can't ignore the lasting impact that it has had on many of the students and schools we serve. For CHOP, it connected us with many of the school partners we work with today, including Berwick Area Senior High School.

"When COVID struck, CHOP began assisting our community's need for supplemental food items. Even though we are in post-pandemic times, CHOP continues to provide our students with delicious snacks," explained April Zluchowski, School Counselor. "I love that our students have food to eat throughout the day when they feel they need it. The pantry is available between breakfast and lunch hours and after lunch."

Like many of our school partners, Berwick highschoolers needed supplemental snacks and meals but they needed to be presented in a stigma-free way. The best option was a grab-and-go cart system that was readily available to all students throughout the day. To this day, students have daily access to the CHOP pantry, normalizing self-advocacy.

"Our school pantry is an amazing area where all students are welcome to enjoy healthy, nutritious snacks, on a daily basis, which are contributed by CHOP. Berwick Area School District is truly grateful and appreciative of the generosity that CHOP has shown to our students," shared Zluchowski.



VOLUNTEER DRIVEN



1,035 INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS AT TWO
CHOP BRANCHES

CHOP volunteers provided more than 12,227 hours of their time in 2022. Their support allows CHOP to supplement staffing resources and operate with a lower over-head. The volunteers are truly the driving force behind the mission.

**VOLUNTEER SUPPORT
= 5.89 FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES**



PARTNER WITH US TO #CHOPOUTHUNGER

WWW.CHOPOUTHUNGER.ORG

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TOWANDA, PA 18848

SCRANTON BRANCH

(570) 209-7675

300 BROOK ST.
SCRANTON, PA 18505

CHOP STAFF

DANI RUHF, FOUNDER & CEO
LARISSA BACORN, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
NICK MONTORO, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SAMANTHA ECK, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
AMANDA COLEGROVE, GRANTS SPECIALIST
SHARON BACORN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
KALA COOLBAUGH, OPERATIONS ASSISTANT
DEBORAH MIGLIONICO, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

TOWANDA BRANCH

LINDA LAMPHERE, PROGRAM MANAGER
NICOLE HEYER, DELIVERY ASSOCIATE
TOM MURRAY, WAREHOUSE MANAGER

SCRANTON BRANCH

KOREN CLARK, PROGRAM MANAGER
LYNNE HUNTING, PROGRAM MANAGER
CARMEN BOLYARD, DELIVERY ASSOCIATE
ROBERT THORNE, DELIVERY ASSOCIATE

