



101 Buchanan Street • Phoenixville, PA 19460 • Phone: 610-933-1105
Email: info@pacsphx.org • Web Page: www.pacsphx.org

PACS aspires to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

Dear Wendy McKeon,

The generous support from 100 Women of Phoenixville was instrumental in PACS' successful move to 101 Buchanan Street. We used the \$14,858 awarded to us to re-establish operations in our new location, which kept everything running smoothly for the 600-1,000 clients we serve each week from our building and the 5,000 additional individuals we reach each month through our food distribution to other agencies.

As the pandemic is still ongoing, our COVID-19 safety measures remain in place, and we provide masks to any clients who forget to bring their own. The cost of restocking the pantry is still high, but it has begun to go down recently; we are currently spending around \$7,500 each month to keep the pantry stocked for our food appointment clients, compared to \$10,000 each month for the majority of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have remained open six days a week as a choice pantry and continue to offer our main services of the daily pantry (formerly "free bin"), emergency food boxes, monthly food appointments, and senior boxes, while also maintaining two bread bins in the community and holding weekly food distribution pop-ups from our refrigerated van. The extra space at our new building allows us to receive more donations as we become a hub for food distribution; as a result, we require more volunteers and have added a new position of Warehouse & Facilities Manager.

We currently allow clients into the daily pantry area of our building one person/household at a time and wearing a mask, so they can shop for themselves. Additionally, staff and volunteers keep the bread bin and hallway well-stocked with bread, produce, and assorted pantry items so clients can choose some food for themselves while they wait in line. As part of Philabundance's Grocers Against Hunger program, we now receive much more recovered food and our clients benefit from the great variety. We are always looking for new ways to get food to those who need it in our community; in late fall, we will be adding repurposed newspaper boxes as mini distribution sites. Additionally, on 11/13, we will have the first pickup for "A Simple Gesture," a new program that will give community members yet another way to contribute to the food security of our neighbors in need by purchasing extra pantry items and leaving them in reusable bags to be picked up by volunteers.

Our clients seem to be doing better emotionally; the improvement was most obvious once we were able to allow them into the building. Instead of waiting outside, now clients can catch up with staff and volunteers, share how their days are going, and take a break from the weather, even if just for a moment. Overall, clients are doing a bit better financially, as demonstrated by the decreased cost for monthly restocks of the pantry, but it is clear that there is still a long way to go to get back to where clients were before the pandemic when our monthly restocks cost only \$2,700. We fear, however, that with benefits being cut and no eviction moratorium, our clients' financial situations will decline and the costs to restock the pantry will increase again.

PACS is making good progress at paying down the mortgage for 101 Buchanan Street; \$330,000 remains. Our budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$3,521,336, with total operating expenses at \$187,145. Seventy-four percent of our budget consists of in-kind food donations received from the community.

We thank you and the 100 Women of Phoenixville for everything you've done to help us nurture food security in the greater Phoenixville area.

Sincerely,

Julie Mokrzycki
Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)
Grant Writer
(610) 933-1105
pacs.grants@pacsphx.org