



hunger & hope



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2020 Summer Newsletter



FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK is a not-for-profit organization working to eliminate hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy in cooperation with the community. The Food Bank is the primary food supplier for 282 emergency food programs in our eleven county service region of central and northern New York.

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Friends,

I hope that this finds you and your families safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

This year has brought many changes and challenges for Food Bank of Central New York and the communities that we serve. The unforeseen impact of COVID on us individually and as a business has turned all of our worlds upside down and has brought about an unusual new normal.

Through all of this, the little things and the surprises along the way have humbled me as we face the unknown day to day needs of those around us. I was brought to tears during mass food distributions when I saw young children waving and yelling thanks, parents whose faces showed worry, and seniors venturing out for the first time in months so they could obtain nutritious food.

The Food Bank team has been steadfast in their work to ensure that operations and food distribution to our service area was continued. There were quick changing and fast paced work needs that the team met head on and always with a smile on their faces. They never wavered from their passion to ensure that nutritious food was available for everyone.

Even during these challenging times, I find inspiration around all of us: the relationships that have been fostered during these times, the desire of so many to volunteer, and the determination and spirit of Caden, a young man who was granted his wish to help children facing hunger. It is because of all of this and all of you that we are able to continue the great work that helps so many. The resounding message that has come out of all of this is that we are so much stronger together.

I'm grateful for the wonderful communities that surround us and support us. I am thankful for the partnerships that have been formed and grown during this time. Thank you for being a valued partner and collaborator during these times and throughout the year. Whether you or your family has personally been impacted by COVID, I pray that you are able to enjoy the summer months, relax on a sunshiny day and are able to enjoy the little things in life!

Warmest Regards,
Karen

Karen L. Belcher

GRAND OPENING OF THE FURMAN VOLUNTEER CENTER



Mr. David Furman's name became well known at the Food Bank on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Prior to this date, Mr. Furman would make a small yearly donation but no one working at the Food Bank knew him. It was on this date that we were informed that Mr. Furman had passed away and left a considerable gift in support of our work. Once the paperwork was completed and funds were received, the Food Bank was gifted more than \$475,000 through Mr. Furman's estate. Any gift we receive is appreciated but we were blown away to receive such a transformative gift from a man whom we had not met.

Food Bank of Central New York has a small, but growing, volunteer program. Mr. Furman's gift has allowed us to realize our vision to expand our volunteer opportunities while offering a space for trainings and orientations as well as a welcoming location for volunteers to gather. Due to restrictions on volunteers in our warehouse when our forklifts and pallet jacks are in use,

this space will allow us to offer more family-friendly volunteer opportunities. We also wanted to offer a secure location for volunteers to hang coats and store personal belongings while in our facility.

Along with grants from the Allyn Foundation, Central New York Community Foundation, and The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, the David Furman Volunteer Center has officially opened! We thank these local foundations and are thrilled to recognize the legacy gift Mr. Furman left to the Food Bank with the naming of this volunteer center after him.

CADEN'S WISH BREAK BOX: MAKE-A-WISH PARTNERSHIP

In late February 2020, we received a call from Make-A-Wish of Central New York. During the call we learned about an amazing young man, Caden Custer. Caden has been living with Cystic Fibrosis but has never felt like he wanted to use his wish until he found out he could use it to give back. After a presentation learning about how we could grant his wish, Caden chose to support our School Break Box program.

Caden's wish was broken into three phases - a community food drive, Caden and his family packing break boxes, and finally Caden joining us in July to help with the first break box distributions. By the end of the summer, a total of 2,125 boxes will be distributed to programs spanning Cayuga and Onondaga counties. The boxes are full of child friendly foods, such as macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, and are designed to help supplement meals the child would receive during the school year.

Caden hoped the School Break Box program would carry on beyond this summer's distributions. To ensure the continuation of the program, The Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation, along with the Gorman Family, have collectively gifted \$15,000 to begin a permanent source of funds for the program.

We are thrilled to announce that we have renamed our school break boxes, the "Caden's Wish Break Box". Caden, thank you for your support and for being an inspiration to all of us!





WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

Partnerships with community organizations, businesses, donors, and volunteers allow us to continue to meet the demand in our communities. In addition to the tremendous amount of donations that we have received from donors like you and local businesses, the Food Bank received a grant from New York State, Nourish New York, and food assistance from the federal government through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

The Nourish New York initiative provides funding to the ten food banks in New York State to purchase dairy and produce from local farmers in New York that have been impacted by COVID-19. We distributed these products to our partner agencies and have hosted several large-scale distributions, including at the New York State Fairgrounds, Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, Jefferson Community College in Watertown, and NBT Bank Stadium in Syracuse.

CFAP is a federally funded program that aims to keep workers in the food industry employed and provide people in need with access to food. Through partnerships with Russo Produce, Broccoli Associates, Renzi Foodservice, Smith Packing Company, and G&C Foods, the Food Bank receives thousands of boxes of fresh produce, dairy, and meats each week. These boxes are distributed to our partner agencies as well as through large-scale distributions in our communities to help meet the increased need.

Both programs, along with our normal distribution to our partner agencies, will aid us in getting healthy, nutritious food into the hands of people struggling with hunger. As we look forward, we know that the level of need will remain high for months if not years to come. *We promise the Food Bank will continue to ensure that nutritious food is available to people struggling with hunger.*



GOLF OPEN, SAVORSYRACUSE & DUNKIN' ICED COFFEE DAY

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020 dozens of golfers will hit the links at Camillus Hills Golf Club for our annual Golf Open presented by Dunkin'. We are excited to host this event and see our sponsors and golfers. We thank our sponsors: Dunkin', Bailey Financial Group, Carrier, Kinney Drugs Foundation, Morse Manufacturing Co., Inc., Marathon Energy, Mutual of America, Reagan Companies, Broccoli Associates, PeopleSystems, 570 WSYR, and iHeart Media.

We have worked closely with our event site, the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, but have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event. In 2021, SavorSyracuse is slated to take place on Thursday, April 22. Thanks to our presenting sponsor Delta Air Lines as well as Wegmans, The Image Press, Tops Friendly Markets, Carrier, Community Bank, N.A., National Grid, Dunkin', and the Digital Hyve for their support of the event.

We are excited to announce the rescheduled date of Dunkin' Iced Coffee Day on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. More details to come!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE



Do you want to leave a legacy of hope and nourishment for neighbors in need throughout our community? One of the simplest ways to leave a legacy is with a bequest. A bequest allows you to designate either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to the Food Bank. In addition to supporting our work, your bequest will serve as an example of your values to your family, friends, and the community.

To leave a bequest to Food Bank of Central New York, your will should contain the following language: "I give and bequeath to Food Bank of Central New York, 7066 Interstate Island Road, Syracuse, NY, the sum of \$___ or the following ___% of the rest and residue, to support the general purposes of Food Bank of Central New York."

We encourage you to seek counsel from an attorney or your financial planner for your estate matters.

SHARE YOUR STORY



We thank you for being a part of our story and now we want to hear from you. By telling us your story, it will help inspire others to give, volunteer, and advocate. Your story may be so powerful that it could potentially change legislation that will affect the Food Bank and the people we serve. With your permission, we may share your story with our elected officials, foundations, and other donors to help secure funding to strengthen and improve nutrition programs that support our work. Visit www.foodbankcny.org to learn more!



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Visit our website at foodbankcny.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information and volunteer needs.

SPECIAL THANKS

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