



Quick Facts

1. The Community Food Warehouse began operations in October 1983, in the basement of the Sharon Herald and is the primary source for supplemental food assistance in Mercer County.
2. We are a founding member of Feeding Pennsylvania and a member of Hunger-Free PA. Both are state associations which advocate for the hungry and food insecure.
3. In 2010, we moved into our current location on Sharpville Ave., thanks to the Greenwood Group and the generosity of those who donated to our capital campaign.
4. We have distributed a cumulative total of nearly 34 million pounds of food in our 39 years.
5. In 2021, the CFWMC distributed over 1.2 million pounds of food to those in need.
6. The CFWMC is the local Feeding America food bank in Mercer County. Food banks store food and other non-food items. Food pantries distribute directly to those in need.
7. There are over 200 Feeding America food banks across the nation.
8. Our staff consists of 7 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee, making us one of the smallest staffed food banks of the FA network.
9. The CFWMC has 30 member agencies, which distribute directly to those in need. They are made up of not only food pantries, but also abuse and homeless shelters, afterschool programs for children, mental health treatment centers, soup kitchens, and youth centers.
10. Through these agencies, we serve over 4,000 people across Mercer County each month.
11. We, along with our agencies, rely heavily on volunteers. Some of our agencies are entirely run by unpaid, volunteer staff. In 2021, our volunteers contributed 5,040 hours right here at the CFWMC, which is the equivalent of over \$50,000 in paid time.
12. Our volunteers do a variety of things- some sort donated food from food drives, some help set up events, some pack boxes for various programs, and some do office-related tasks like answering the phone, filing, and opening mail.
13. 12.6 % of Mercer County residents are food insecure. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the definition of food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. This means that there are 14,000 people in Mercer County who often don't have enough to eat, don't have enough healthy food to eat, and who may often not have anything to eat.
14. 18.9% of Mercer County's children are food insecure and 31% of all our clients are children.
15. Our Backpack Program for children provides weekend meals to 900 elementary-aged children in 19 schools, in 10 school districts, during the school year. The average cost of \$248 per child provides them with weekend meals for the entire school year (roughly 36 weeks) and is funded by your (the community's) donations! Each bag of food contains 2 milks, 2 juices, 2 cereals, 2 entrees, 2 fruits, and 3 snacks!
16. 17% of CFWMC clients are senior citizens.

17. 450 senior citizens are part of the CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program), also known as the Pennsylvania Senior Food Box Program.

18. Seniors receive their food once a month at 27 sites throughout Mercer County. The boxes are packed and delivered by our volunteers.

19. Harvest Helpings, our fresh produce program, provided 197, 313 pounds of fresh produce to those in need in 2021.

20. Many local organizations, schools, businesses, and clubs hold regular food drives for us. One of the largest food drives we receive each year is the annual Truck-Full of Hope Food Drive, collecting over 3,400 pounds. 2021 food drives brought our agencies over 30,000 lbs. of food!

22. Our MilitaryShare Program serves more than 150 individuals and families. We distribute the food at private locations, nine times per year. Any current service member or veteran in need, of any branch, can participate.

23. The CFWMC holds a "Farm Day in Town Field Trip" each year for first-graders from all over Mercer County. The CFWMC covers all costs for the attending schools, in large part thanks to a grant from Red Nose Day. The goal of this event is to provide agricultural education to young children who otherwise might not have the opportunity to learn where their food comes from and in tandem, learn healthy food choices.