



SHARE News

Winter, 2025
40th Anniversary Edition



Larry Wonders, inside his truck, works with volunteers to unload food at Project Share in Carlisle.

'Wonder'-ful food helps need

by John Murdoch
Sentinel Correspondent

families from Carlisle, Mt. Holly Springs, by collecting food and making contri



PROJECT SHARE, DICKINSON COLLEGE

Food bank may move to college site

y David Blair
Sentinel Reporter
3/30/12

The Project SHARE food bank in Carlisle is working on a possible alternative to a proposed building project. If the Carlisle zoning hearing board approves next week, Dickinson College would offer the food bank to occupy about 10,000 square feet inside the former Kinross shoe factory building, said Oran Stamos, the college's president. Stamos said the college would extend the offer after meeting with Dickinson College President William D. Stamos and Project SHARE Executive Director Emma Wong. "They have a building campaign going on; they could focus their energies on outfitting this space with what they need," Stamos says.

FREE FRUITS, VEGGIES

Saturday, June 3, 2006

CARLISLE SHARE offers new 'choice' format

ZACK HOOPES
The Sentinel

Beginning with November's distribution week, Project SHARE will offer a "Your Choice Distribution" day that will allow clients to come into the nonprofit's warehouse and do their own shopping. November's distribution week for the local food pantry in Carlisle will feature three days of drive-thru pickup, where families will receive a pre-selected bundle of food, as well as a "your choice" day, Project SHARE recently announced. On a Your Choice Distribution day, the warehouse will be designed to mirror a grocery store setting. Instead of receiving a pre-selected variety of food, clients will be able to select food based on their preference and family size.



Life/Times

Project SHARE serves food to 1,000 monthly

40 Years of Project SHARE

Timeline of Project SHARE

The Voices of SHARE

From Our Executive Director

40 years of "Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope!"

Stories from the staff and volunteers behind SHARE

Emma Wong reflects on SHARE's 40-year journey

40 years.

1985

Project SHARE was founded in January by the Carlisle Council of Churches (now Carlisle Area Religious Council) to establish a local food distribution center.

Elaine Livas was chosen as its leader. At the first distribution, 72 families were served.

1993

Gleaning begins in June at Spiral Path Farm, owned by the Brownback family since 1978.



2002



Outgrowing the space in Stock Hall, Project SHARE moved into a 10,000-square-foot warehouse owned by Dickinson College.

Today, Project SHARE occupies 23,000-square-feet and pays \$1 in rent, thanks to the generosity of Dickinson College.

1992

Project SHARE outgrew its original location and moved to Stock Hall in St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



1997

Cooking and nutrition classes began being taught by Project SHARE volunteers.



2006

Project SHARE purchased the Farmstand property, located on the corner of Pitt and Lincoln St. in Carlisle.

The current Farmstand building, re-built in 2014, includes expanded pantry space, refrigerator storage, and a kitchen.



2021



Reimagining how to provide for neighbors in need, Project SHARE implemented a full Client Choice pantry in September, 2020.

The pantry distribution room was remodeled to resemble a grocery store, empowering clients with choice.

2014

Responding to the increase in hunger among children during the summer, Project SHARE launched Lunch & Learn, which has evolved into the current Summer Feeding 4 Kids.



2020

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Project SHARE adapted to a strictly Drive-Thru model keeping the health and safety of volunteers, staff and clients in mind.



2025

Project SHARE celebrates serving the community for 40 years and continuing the vision of "Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope!"



Darrell moves inventory in the Project SHARE warehouse, summer 2022.

Reflections on Growth: SHARE's Lasting Impact

From sweat equity to success, Darrell Beam has played a pivotal role as Warehouse Receiving & Logistics Coordinator during Project SHARE's growth

My experience at Project SHARE encompasses a little over a dozen years. I've seen a remarkable amount of flexibility and growth as an organization. Most recently, the pandemic forced us to change our whole distribution model on a dime. As a team, we had to rethink everything about how we distributed food while still maintaining a positive experience for our clients and volunteers. In turn, I believe it has opened us up, post-pandemic, to some new horizons such as our "Your Choice" model, which continues to evolve even to this day.

When I first came to Project SHARE, the basic equipment was in place to run a warehouse, but

much of it had undoubtedly seen better days and required quite a bit of sweat equity. Over the years, we have been so blessed by the community with all kinds of tools and machinery that help increase our efficiency and streamline our daily operations. It truly is unbelievable, the contrast!

Looking back, I'm also reminded of the multitude of amazing, selfless souls that have volunteered and worked here over the years. Unfortunately, many of them are gone, but certainly none of them are forgotten. "Extraordinary" is the only word that comes to mind!

I must now reluctantly inform the editor, that my story is long, so very long. It's extremely col-

orful and contains many a fond unforgettable character. A story I'm afraid, that is not befitting the limitations of a "word-count..."

Happy 40th Anniversary Project SHARE!

Darrell Beam is the Warehouse and Logistics Coordinator at Project SHARE.

He is the guy that you may find trying to start a truck at 6:30 in the morning, unloading a truck on a holiday or shoveling snow by himself in the dark.

Darrell truly loves working at Project SHARE and dead set on doing whatever it takes to help keep Project SHARE around for the next milestone!

A Journey of Service

Micki Paxton chronicles her nearly 20 years of experience with Project SHARE

I began volunteering at Project SHARE in 2007, bringing my youth group from church. We participated in monthly distribution, gleaning and other projects. The youth group considered Project SHARE a highlight each month. Most had jobs they preferred, but all enjoyed interacting with the clients. Afterward, we reflected on how much we had learned. Many were unaware of the struggles in our community, but they felt a responsibility to help alleviate food insecurity in our area. Many felt they received as much as they gave. Distribution became a time of unity and joy for all of us!

I was able to call Project SHARE home for three and a half years as the Recipient Coordinator, working directly with clients for most of my time there. Hearing their stories was often heartbreaking. Along with many volunteers, I was able to offer clients a smile, a listening ear, sometimes a hug, additional resources and food to lift their spirits for the day, maybe the near future. Many clients showed tremendous resilience, and several even volunteered at Project SHARE to give back. Every day, I received more than I gave!

Now, back as a volunteer, I get to enjoy the company of clients, staff and fellow volunteers. “Your Choice” excites me, as it gives clients the dignity of shopping for

nutritious food for their families. I’m proud to be part of Project SHARE, a place of love and acceptance in our community. I am always happy and have fun, even when things get hectic. A common thread throughout my time at Project SHARE is the positive atmosphere during distributions and events. We are all equal members of this community, and the staff and volunteers reflect that daily. I am often reminded that we are all one devastating situation from needing the services that Project SHARE offers.

Something many don’t realize is that the staff at Project SHARE is small but mighty—twelve people to be exact. Project SHARE is essentially a community effort. Guided by staff, volunteers do so many of the tasks required to make things run smoothly. After all these years, I am still in awe of all of everything this organization accomplishes! With the mighty staff and so many gracious members of the community, we all pull it off!

A lifelong Carlisle resident, Micki graduated from Carlisle High School and earned a BA in Elementary Education from Shippensburg University. She raised two children in Carlisle, worked in the community, and retired in 2023.



Micki (left) and volunteer Larry (right), pack and distribute oranges at Project SHARE’s Volunteer Appreciation Day, 2014.

Every day, I received more than I gave!”



Building a Tradition of Giving

Pat McEvoy and family continue to inspire others through their 40 years of service to Project SHARE



Pat McEvoy sorts food drive donations on Saturday, December 18, 2010.

Our family's association with Project SHARE began several years before "SHARE" became an official food pantry. The founder, Elaine Livas, was a student at Dickinson College and my first husband, Coach Joe McEvoy, was her swim coach. He was so impressed by Elaine's desire to feed the hungry in both body and soul, that we began collecting food to donate as a family. I began volunteering at distribution in 1985 and would bring our kids to help out in the summertime.

When Joe passed away in 1993, I wanted our three children to realize that, although we were grieving deeply, we were luckier than many others in our community. We began the McEvoy Family Food Drive in our Nottingham neighborhood. That year, we collected 75 bags of food, along with kind notes and even cookies! It really cheered us—not just because of our neighbors' generosity, but because we knew we were helping others have a happier Christmas. We continued this tradition for 23 years, expanding to two other neighborhoods and my office at the MassMutual agency.

In 2013, I remarried, and Mike Pasquarett joined me in supporting SHARE, both financially and by working

at distribution and the Summer Feeding program. We love greeting the staff and clients, and as is often true when you give your time to help others, we receive more in return. No matter what is going on in our daily lives, helping and giving comfort to others truly helps us.

2025 will mark my 40th year volunteering at SHARE, and I believe that sharing is an essential part of recovery. I encourage others to help in any way you can—by volunteering, organizing a food drive in your neighborhood, donating canned goods at your church or making a check donation directly to SHARE. As my daughter says, "Doing something for someone else has been a great way to get out of my own head and to channel my energy into something productive." We hope you'll come join us!

Originally from Manchester, CT, Pat retired in 2013 after a career in the financial services industry. Mike, a native of Warren, PA, retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 after 31 years active duty and 16 years as a professor at the U.S. Army War College.



Bulletin BOARD

From our Board of Directors Chair, James Markley

The year 2025 marks the 40th anniversary of Project SHARE making a difference to the greater Carlisle community.

These 40 years would not have been possible without the dedication of hundreds of people from across the community, including our volunteers who give their time, our board members who contribute their talent and our donors who share their resources. Many of you reading this fall into one or more of these categories, having served Project SHARE in various capacities over the years. For that, please accept my thanks for your past and continuing contributions to Project SHARE's mission to reduce food insecurity for neighbors in the greater Carlisle area by offering

access to nutritious food, programs and a support network that promotes self-sufficiency, fosters dignity and instills hope.



James (Jim) Markley is the Board Chair of Project SHARE and has been a dedicated volunteer since 2013, following his retirement from the Army after 30 years of service. He joined the board in April 2020. During his time with SHARE, Jim has contributed in various roles, including driving forklifts, operating the cardboard baler, painting and assisting with distribution.

After a brief period as a part-time government contractor, Jim secured a

full-time position as Deputy Director of Strategic Wargaming at the Army War College. In 2019, he was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award for his work in elective instruction.

As Grand Knight of Saint Patrick's Council, Knights of Columbus, Jim actively encouraged members to volunteer regularly for SHARE's distribution. His wife, Linda, has been a dedicated Project SHARE volunteer since 2017.

Firms, Businesses, Foundations, Organizations

Who, as part of our community donate funds or in-kind gifts received between Sept. 11 to Dec. 17.

AES Hearthplace, Inc.
Beechwood Orchards
Beeman's Bakery
Boost Burger
Brad Mentzer Financial Adviser
Bricker's French Fries
Carlisle Construction Materials, Inc.
Chameleon 1360 Grill LLC
Colyott & Watson Insurance Agency
County of Cumberland
Creekview Food Co
Cruise Holidays Of Carlisle
Erie Insurance
Exquisite Chocolate of Carlisle
Falafel Shack
George Fitzpatrick & Son
Giant Food Stores
Grappling Crab Shack LLC
MotivAction, LLC dba Augeo
Mountz Jewelers
Nationwide and the Nationwide Foundation
PerformCare
Peters Orchards

Pledgeling Foundation
Pratt Industries
RC Herr, LLC/Farm Show Milkshakes
Rich Valley Golf
Spencer & Spencer, Realtors
Spiral Path Farm
Strickler Agency, Inc.
STV
The Italian Job
Thrivent Choice
Tucker & Co
Uday Chekuru
Wegman's
Weis Markets Inc
Carlisle Rotary Club Foundation
Cumberland Valley Corvette Club
Cumberland/Carlisle Chapter AARP No. 4377
Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County
Sigma Lambda Gamma at Dickinson College
Susquehanna Clay Club
Women of the Moose Chapter 235
Big Spring High Class Of '57

Messiah University
Ahold Delhaize USA Family Foundation
Bruce and Andrea Kimmell Charitable Fund
Bubbler Foundation
Clee K. Morrison Foundation TUW
Emergency Food & Shelter
Flip Flops Foundation, LLC
G.B. Stuart Charitable Foundation
Gill Giving Fund
John Crain Kunkel Foundation
Karen Hall Trust
Menasha Corporation Foundation
The Cindy and Glenn Shope Fund
The Kahle/Fiduccia Family Fund
The S&C Mckeehan Family Charitable Fund
Troxell Giving Fund
DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation
Community Aid, Inc.
Sadler Health Center Corp.
Samaritan Fellowship Inc
United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County
United Way of the Capital Region
United Way Worldwide - Frontstream

For a Better Tomorrow

Chip and Janet Kascur detail how volunteering at Project SHARE has enriched their lives and strengthened their connection to the Carlisle community

Our journey with Project Share has enriched our lives and outlook. We returned to the Carlisle area for Chip's final assignment in the Army with the U.S. Army War College. Having been stationed at the War College

unteers who are passionate about serving our community. We were encouraged to explore all the opportunities that Project SHARE had available for us to help nourish, provide hope and show respect to clients facing hardships, whether in life, health or due to misfortune.

We continue to help and grow with Project SHARE in many ways. Janet's favorite role is serving as the volunteer coordinator for the "Summer Feeding 4 Kids" program, teaming with the Amelia Givin Library providing food, books and smiles to families throughout the summer. For Chip, it is respectfully listening to and qualifying clients for food assistance while also providing information and assistance to other programs throughout Carlisle, based on each client's specific situation.

Every opportunity to serve with Project SHARE gives us hope for a better tomorrow.



Chip and Janet Kascur have called Boiling Springs home for over 15 years, as Chip completed 30 years of service as an U.S. Army officer.

He continued to serve as a Defense Department civilian until his final retirement. Janet continues with her calling to be a teacher. She currently leads the preschool/pre-K program for South Middleton Township's Parks & Recreation Department and also leads the Friends of Amelia Givin Library.

Together, they serve as PA Lottery Drawing Witnesses for the nightly drawings.

“Over time, we found open arms, welcoming us to participate at Project SHARE.”

as a student and family, we immediately sought opportunities to get to know and serve the community.

Over time, we found open arms, welcoming us to participate at Project SHARE. We met staff and vol-

Congregation Connections

Thank you to our congregational financial supporters who contributed between Sept. 11 to Dec. 17.

Bethel Assembly of God
Carlisle Area Religious Council
Carlisle Baptist Church
Carlisle Evangelical Free Church (CEFC)
Carlisle First Church of the Brethren
Carlisle Quaker Meeting
Carlisle Seventh Day Adventist Church
Carlisle United Methodist Church
Church of the Brethren
Dickinson Presbyterian Church
Faith Chapel of Carlisle
First Presbyterian Church

First United Church of Christ
Green Spring First Church of God
Hickorytown United Methodist Church
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Lighthouse Church of God
Mt. Victory United Methodist Church
Opossum Hill Union Church
Otterbein United Methodist Church
Plainfield First Church of God
Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

St. Matthews United Church Of Christ
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Episcopal
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Susquehanna Conference UMC
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
The Meeting House
Trinity Global Methodist Church
US Army War College Memorial Chapel
Waggoner Church
Youngs Church of Mechanicsburg

Serving Through a Decade of Change

Carol Baer shares her journey of change and connection through volunteering at Project SHARE

Thinking back on my years of volunteering at Project SHARE, I've seen significant changes within the organization. When I started volunteering in August 2012, there was a clothing room, along with separate areas for backpacks, sorting and miscellaneous items. There was also a greenhouse where Bill Chronister and I sold produce and flowers, which we purchased at markets to fundraise for Project SHARE.

During my time at Project SHARE, I was trained in all areas, including the backpack and sorting areas, which I took over when Gene Roth retired. Today, we prepare about 300 backpacks weekly for the Carlisle and South Middleton schools. Our team consists of retired schoolteachers, other retired volunteers and a pastor and his wife.

In the sorting area, our team—Melva Kuhn, Tammy Keller, Nancy Mellerski and myself—checks the expiration dates of donated food, which is then distributed through Project SHARE's services, including Your Choice Distribution. This area sees thousands of pounds of food each month.

In addition to these tasks, I also had the opportunity to connect with clients in the miscellaneous area. The miscellaneous area, located at the back of the warehouse, allowed clients to choose items like

laundry detergent, vegetables and more. This area was one of my favorites, as it gave me the chance to connect with clients, hear their stories and see how happy there were to receive the help they needed. Afterward, clients would move to the distribution room (where Your Choice is) to grab groceries.

Everything changed during COVID when Project SHARE began a drive-through food distribution, once a month. This shift benefitted the clients, as they no longer had to wait in harsh weather for their food. Eventually, this led to the successful Your Choice distribution, which allows clients to select their own food, catering to those with special medical needs.

Do I enjoy volunteering at Project SHARE? Oh my, I thoroughly love it. Seeing clients' faces light up when they visit, and hearing about their families and life challenges they're facing continues to be a deeply rewarding experience.

Carol (left) volunteers at her first Christmas Distribution in the Project SHARE warehouse, December 2012.

Whoever said diamonds are a girl's best friend doesn't know Carol Baer. A farmer's daughter, she learned to milk a cow and ride a tractor at eight. Today, she owns 12 acres, raising hay with her brother and tending a vegetable garden. A passionate traveler, Carol has visited 49 states and many countries, with Barbados being a favorite—she's been there five times.

Carol graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Shippensburg University in 1965 and worked in benefits and Human Resources for over 40 years.

Her life is simple and unpretentious. She enjoys volunteering at Project SHARE and the Senior Center in Newville. Has everything worked out for Carol? Yes, it has—and she's loving every minute of it.



A Legacy of Hope: 40 Years of Project SHARE

In celebrating Project SHARE's 40-year journey, Executive Director Emma Wong reflects on the organization's growth, from humble food distributions from car trunks to serving thousands across the greater Carlisle community.

In the canon of Project SHARE history, one story is repeated more often than the others, passed through the decades. The story is shared in awed tones. It is an origin story—the first Distribution, when Elaine Livas filled her car with groceries and distributed food to those in need. The simplicity of that initial act laid the foundation for what has grown into an established 501(c)(3) that now serves more than 1,000 families each month across programming.

This year, Project SHARE celebrates 40 years of serving our community by addressing food insecurity. Since our founding, it is not an exaggeration to say that hundreds of thousands of families have been touched by the work of Project SHARE.

Project SHARE began under Elaine Livas'

leadership, with the sponsorship of the Carlisle Council of Churches (now Carlisle Area Religious Council) and grew exponentially under her visionary tenure. Bob Weed then led Project SHARE for six years, guiding the organization through our emergency COVID-19 response and stabilizing the organization as

we emerged post-pandemic. In 2023, I took the mantle of responsibility leading the organization. When I reflect on my experiences at Project SHARE and our history, I am in awe. The current team stands on the shoulders of giants who created a solid foundation of care, trailblazed new programs and built partnerships

Project SHARE's Your Choice Pantry, 2024 (Photo courtesy of Joel Witwer)





Project SHARE volunteers break down pallets of Rice-a-Roni and Kix cereal at the organization's first established food distribution location, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on N. West St., Carlisle.

that have enabled Project SHARE to be a non-profit of longevity.

This newsletter celebrated Project SHARE's history, recounting major milestones—from our scrappy beginnings to outgrowing multiple locations in the 1980s and 1990s, to finally settling in a warehouse owned by Dickinson College (which, since 2002, has generously charged us an annual rent of \$1). It spotlighted the innovative programs added over the years, including the advent of gleaning in the 1990s, the addition of Farmstand in 2006, nutrition education programs, and the start of Lunch & Learn (now Summer Feeding 4 Kids) in 2014. It traced Project SHARE's recent history of navigating COVID-19, adjusting distribution methods at warp speed to ensure neighbors did not go hungry. Emerging out of the pandemic, Project SHARE re-imagined distribution methods and re-modeled the pantry to resemble a grocery store.

Project SHARE's history is saturated with community champi-

ons of our work. We are sustained through the enormous generosity of our community, through gifts of time, food and money. We would also not be who we are without our clients, for there is dignity in both giving and receiving.

This year, Project SHARE is celebrating our vibrant and car-

ing history. Stay tuned for more information as we reflect on our past and look forward to a future where we remain a pillar of support that "Nourishes Our Community...and Awakens Hope."

Emme Wong

Asani Mukusa, Food Pantry Operations Manager, checks inventory in Project SHARE's warehouse, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Joel Witwer)





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Match Madness Campaign



Help us fight food insecurity by *making a gift in support of Project SHARE in this year's Match Madness campaign*

March 1-31, 2025

Project SHARE receives 100% of your contribution plus a matching percentage.

A matching gift incentive is funded by the Partnership for Better Health, WellSpan Health and M&T Bank.

To qualify, donations **MUST BE MADE** between March 1 and March 31.

Give online at www.partnershipforbetterhealthpa.org. Click on Match Madness and choose Project SHARE as your nonprofit of choice.

Or, make a check payable to "Partnership for Better Health" with "Project SHARE" in the memo line. Checks **MUST** be dated in March and delivered to the Partnership for Better Health, 274 Wilson St., Carlisle, PA 17013.

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