

## Fall 2003

### Food Stamp Volunteers Pre-Screen 100+ at Pathmark Fair

On Saturday, July 12th, twenty-five volunteers armed with food stamp applications, computers and computation sheets descended upon the front sidewalk of the Pathmark Supermarket on North Broad Street.

At 11:00 a.m. volunteers were ready to pre-screen, and clients had already gathered around the tables ready to find out if they might be eligible for the Food Stamp Program. Six pre-screeners rotated with several outreach volunteers while other volunteers distributed free soft pretzels and juice. Volunteers painted children's faces while parents sat down to be pre-screened for food stamps.

The goal for the Food Stamp Enrollment Fair was to pre-screen 100 households and to promote the Food Stamp Program as a positive work and nutrition support program in the community.



Campaign volunteers, Lauren Elfant and Michael Shepherd pre-screen clients for food stamps at the North Broad Street Pathmark in North Philadelphia.

#### Save The Date Philadelphia World Food Day Celebration

Saturday, October 11, 2003  
Philadelphia Community College  
Winnet Building  
8:30am - 1:30pm

*Highlights include:*

*Workshops, Annual Soup Kitchen Cook-Off,  
One Year Anniversary of the Food Stamp  
Enrollment Campaign,  
Nourish Your Soul Cookbook Kick-off*

Don't miss this **FREE** event!!!

Reserve your space today by calling the Coalition  
at 215-430-0555.

**In four hours, volunteers pre-screened 101 households for food stamps. Of those pre-screened, about 67% were found to be potentially eligible.**

Not only did volunteers pre-screen a lot of clients at Pathmark, but the telephone continues to ring. In July, the Coalition received a record amount of calls for any one month as a result of publicity done around the Pathmark fair.

Now that we have the first Enrollment Fair behind us, Coalition staff are already planning a Food Stamp Enrollment Fair for Saturday, September 6th at the Grays Ferry Pathmark from 10am-2pm. If you would like to volunteer at these fun-filled and rewarding events, please call Katherine at the Coalition Against Hunger (215-430-0555).



## The Coalition Welcomes Two New Staff Members: In Their Own Words

### Raphael Zappala, Food Stamp Prescreener

*Why did you start working at the Coalition? What attracted you to the Coalition?*

The reason the Coalition appealed to me so much is because the goal here is to help people and that is definitely one of my favorite things to do. We have all been down and out at some point in our lives and a little help never hurts. In my life, my family has always been by my side. They have helped me a great deal. I want to let other people know how good it feels to have someone there for you to help you in your time of need.

*What do you like about the work you've done with the Coalition so far?*

I love helping people! I think there are many things that people *want*, but food is something that people *need*. I enjoy teaching people more about the Food Stamp Program because it is so misunderstood. I like coming into work each day and am very happy that I have been put in a position to help people in such an important way.

*What do you want readers to know about what you do?*

One of my main goals at this job is to educate as many people as possible about Food Stamps. I want them to know of the many changes that have occurred in the Food Stamp program and how it continues to improve. Many do not know about the vast amount of modifications that the Food Stamp Program has undergone and I would like to fill them in on all of the recent changes in the program. The way I look at it is, the more people that know about Food Stamps, the better.



Raphael  
in action.

### Hannah Chang, VISTA Volunteer

*What projects will you will be working on during your year of service?*

I will be working on three big projects during my time here. I'm helping to coordinate and expand the Walk Against Hunger, which is held in April. I will also develop a marketing strategy for the Nourish your Soul Community Cookbook, which the last VISTA here did an amazing job putting together. And finally, I'll be helping out in whatever way I can with the Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign. Other than this, I will work on whatever projects and tasks come up. For instance, I'm helping to coordinate the World Food Day celebration, which will be on October 11 this year.

*Is there any aspect of the work that you most look forward to?*

I am really excited to meet the people who have devoted so much of their time to the issue of hunger. There is a lot out there that I don't know about, and I think going into the community and meeting people, whether they be emergency food providers or county assistance office employees or professors teaching about food insecurity, is the best way to learn.

I am also excited about the wide range of things I will be working on. Karen and everyone here at the Coalition is doing a great job making sure that I'm being exposed to a lot of different things, and I really think it's going to be a busy and fulfilling year.

*What are your future plans after your year of service?*

I'm going to start at Yale Law School next fall, so I'll be in New Haven, Connecticut for at least three years after my VISTA year is up. I would like to do public interest and policy work. Even though lawyers have a bad reputation, there are many different kind of lawyers and many different fields of law. Some fields have a tremendous potential to develop and enhance social justice.



## What's New With Food Stamps?

### Food Stamp Myths:

**To qualify for food stamps, I must visit a welfare office for a personal face-to-face interview.**

**Fact:** This is not true all of the time. Food stamp clients should be sure to let their case worker know if they face certain hardships that make it difficult to go to the county assistance office. According to the memo sent out by PA Department of Public Welfare's Office of Income Maintenance in late March, hardships "include, but are not limited to: illness; care of a household member; residency in a rural area; prolonged severe weather; or work or training hours which prevent the household from participating in an in-office interview." This waiver has actually been on the books for some time, but often clients don't know to ask for it.

This recent memo also gives households more flexibility in participating in a phone interview. Before, phone interviews were granted only if work hours "prevented" the household from participating. Now, phone interviews can be granted if work hours merely "interfere". The waiver of face-to-face interviews applies to applications, recertifications and the addition of new household members.

Of course, each waiver must still be approved by a supervisor at the CAO. Someone in the household must still go in for EBT pinning.. If you or someone you know is experiencing one of the hardships mentioned above, talk to your caseworker about getting the face-to-face interview waived.

### Two New Rules Increase Access to Food Stamps

#### Semi-Annual Reporting Now A Reality in PA!

Starting June 2003, working people on public assistance or food stamps were no longer required to report monthly income in Pennsylvania. Instead, they only report their income every six months. This means less hassle for caseworkers and clients! A client's benefits will stay the same for the following six month period unless the client reports a change.

#### Food Stamps for Immigrant Children

Starting October 1, 2003, immigrant children will be eligible for food stamp benefits even if their parents are not eligible, provided that parents show proof of income and resources. (Note: Parents not applying for themselves will not be asked to provide INS documentation.)

**Your or someone you know might be eligible for food stamps.**

**Call Raphael at 215-430-0556 to see if you might qualify.**

Are you interested in knowing about the latest changes to the Food Stamp Program? Do you want to make changes to the program? You are invited to join the **Philadelphia Food Stamp Task Force**. Call Tanya at 215-430-0555 to reserve your space at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 30th from 1-3pm at the State Office Building (Broad and Spring Garden Streets), Room 901.





# Walk Against Hunger 2003

Driving through a downpour on Saturday, April 12th to arrive at Eakins Oval at 5:30 a.m., walk organizers were told the ground might be too soggy to secure the tents. It looked like the 2003 Walk would be a total disaster. However, by the kick-off at 9:00, the skies were beginning to brighten and by noon, people needed sunscreen!

The Walk had another successful year with over 100 food cupboards and soup kitchens participating, in addition to other energetic teams. Despite fewer walkers than in 2002 (undoubtedly because of the weather), the total funds raised by individual walkers increased significantly and total funds raised exceeded our goal by \$15,000. Including corporate support, the Walk raised over \$165,000. Visit the Walk website to view more pictures [www.hungerwalk.org](http://www.hungerwalk.org)



Pat Parker of A.C. Moore Arts and Crafts congratulates this year's Walk t-shirt design winner, Frances Quap, a 10th grader at Philadelphia's Furness High School.



(Above)  
Vibrant and full of energy, North Philly Foot Stompers drill team lead walkers onto the 8 mile walk route.



(Left)  
Gospel sensation Tamika Patton opened the Walk with "A Children's Song". See page 9 for more about this inspirational song.

## A Big Thank You to This Year's Walk Sponsors!



### Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Land O'Lakes

Au Bon Pain

ASTM International

Comcast

Mid-Atlantic Dairy Assoc.

Pathmark Stores, Inc.

Philadelphia Dietetic Assoc.

Inkind Sponsors: U.S. Airways; Hatfield, Inc.; Odwalla; ARAMARK; Nextel Communications; Clear Channel Outdoor; World Gym Fitness Center; Bluezette; Night Kitchen Bakery; Sovereign Bank; Nutritional Development Services; Philabundance; SHARE; PRSA; Greater Philadelphia Food Bank; and Aid For Friends.



Philadelphia Eagle's mascot Swoop enjoyed Walk Day with enthusiastic students from St. Joseph's University.



Everyone at the Walk loved USDA's fun-loving Power Panther.

## Walk Celebration 2003

At the Walk Celebration in July we said good-bye to Laura Reale who has been our Walk Coordinator for the last four years. We will miss Laura, but thank her for all she helped the Walk to accomplish. One can only imagine all of the "behind the scenes" work needed for a successful Walk.



Rob Hess, Managing Director of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Shelter and Services, presents Annette Hall of Redeem Baptist with an award at the Post-Walk Celebration when all Walk beneficiary teams received their hard-earned Walk checks.

## Walk 2003 Team Awards

### Team That Raised The Most Money

- First Place: Resurrection Baptist
- Second Place: Ayuda Center
- Third Place: Freedom Development Corp.

### Largest Dollar Increase Over Walk 2001

- First Place: Children's Aid Society
- Second Place: Grace Chapel
- Third Place: Indomitable Spirit

### Most Money Raised By A New Team

- First Place: Ayuda Center
- Second Place: Frankford Group Ministries
- Third Place: Redeem Baptist

### Most Walkers

- First Place: Resurrection Baptist
- Second Place: Greater St. Barnabas-Bethsaida
- Third Place: Freedom Development Corp. Corporation

## Mark Your Calendars!

Next year's Walk date is **Saturday, April 3, 2004**. Walk materials will be available in early January, so be sure your walkers save the date.



## Volunteers Needed For Check Out Hunger

Check Out Hunger is the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank's largest annual fundraiser, which takes place from late September to January in area grocery stores. Help Check Out Hunger be a success!

Volunteers are needed to set up and monitor the Food Bank's placards at local grocery stores for the duration of the campaign. It only takes an extra 15



minutes while doing your weekly shopping, and the impact is huge! To

volunteer for Check Out Hunger, please email Jennifer Kelly, Check Out Hunger coordinator at

[jkelly@gpfb.org](mailto:jkelly@gpfb.org) or call 215-739-7394 x154.

## Philabundance's Share the Harvest in Full Bloom this Summer!

Each year, thousands of area residents plant an extra row or two in their home gardens to help provide fresh produce to those in need. Modeled after the victory gardens of times past, Share the Harvest is a wonderful way for gardeners to join Philabundance in the fight against hunger in our region.

It is easy to participate. Just drop off your extra produce at any one of 15 locations on Saturday mornings

from 10 am to noon through September 13. Philabundance volunteers will collect the food the same day and distribute it to community agencies serving the hungry.



Call Cassandra Carponter at Philabundance for drop-off locations at 215-339-0900 x 272.



## SHARE: If You Eat, You're In

SHARE (Self Help and Resource Exchange) is a program that empowers people to make a positive difference by linking individuals and community resources. Participants in the SHARE Program can receive food packages worth \$30-\$35 for only 2 hours of community service and \$15. The food packages contain meat, fresh fruits, vegetables, and staples. SHARE is open to everyone. There are no restrictions. SHARE works because of its high level of participation, and its devoted volunteers and host sites.

SHARE offers a wide variety of food packages to meet everyone's needs. Along with the regular packages, SHARE offers a wide variety of meat packages, a vegetarian package, and during the summer months, Farm Fresh packages. Farm Fresh Packages offer fresh, great-tasting fruits and vegetables from family farmers in Lancaster County, PA. SHARE also offers a wide variety of individual items from fish sticks to apple pies. SHARE accepts many forms of payment including check, credit card, and food stamps. For the Farm Fresh packages, SHARE also accepts Farmers Market Checks.

Participating in SHARE is simple. For those interested in participating, please call SHARE at (215) 223-2220 or 1-800-595-3663, or visit their website at [www.sharefoodprogram.org](http://www.sharefoodprogram.org). They will help you register at a host site near your neighborhood.

SHARE is currently looking to expand their outreach. If your organization is interested in becoming a host site, feel free to call them at the above phone numbers.



## Volunteer Feature: Professor Judith Porter

The Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers. This month the Coalition is highlighting the service of Dr. Judith Porter. A veteran to volunteerism, Dr. Porter has been an AIDS educator for *Congresso* in Philadelphia County Assistance Offices and day programs for the homeless since 1990.

Dr. Porter was trained as a Food Stamp Pre-Screener last February. Since then, she has pre-screened over 90 people for food stamps. Dr. Porter spends six hours each month in a public health center in South Philadelphia. A native to Philadelphia, Dr. Porter teaches Sociology of Poverty at Bryn Mawr College. She heard about the Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign through Abby Youngblood, a former student who is currently the Student Coordinator for the Campaign. Abby suggested that Professor Porter offer the Campaign to her students as one option for their required internship. "I never ask my students to do something I have not tried myself," Dr. Porter responded. "This work is important because it provides a first hand view of how policy operates, the complexity of the welfare system and an understanding of the problems clients encounter when applying for food stamps. This Campaign also offers a first hand opportunity to do something about it."

When asked what the most rewarding aspect of the Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign has been, Dr. Porter responded, "Empowering people to realize that they are eligible for food stamps and providing them with the information they need. Food Stamps are often stigmatized in the community and this Campaign indicates that food stamps are the right of every American citizen whose income falls below 130 percent of poverty." Professor Porter also participates in the Food Stamp Task Force, a group of advocates and city and state administrators committed to improving access to the Food Stamp Program. Not only has her work touched the lives of 90 households, but her experience as a food stamp pre-screener informs her teaching, her advocacy and her vote. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, call Katherine at the Coalition (215-430-0555).



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Future of Our Food and Farms Summit

**SAVE THE DATE · DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2003**

**-Wilmington Wyndham Hotel, Delaware -**

A Mid-Atlantic Regional Summit to Promote  
Agriculture, Learn about Trends in Food  
Distribution, and Find Ways to Reduce Hunger

Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Food &  
Farm Coalition

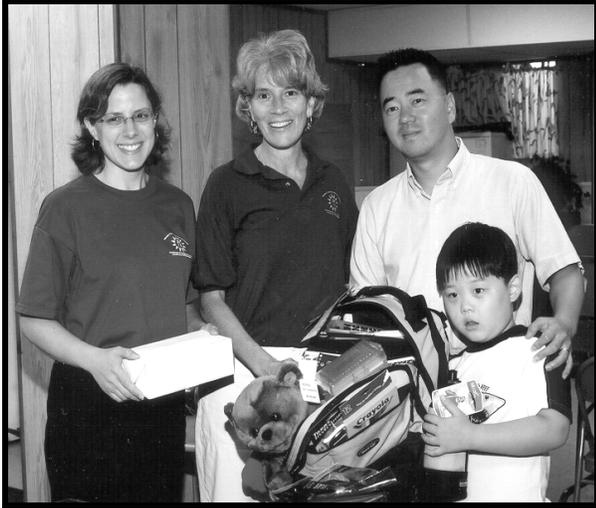
### Highlights Include:

- Opening Plenary Session featuring Governor RuthAnn Minner, Delaware & Carol Tucker Foreman, Director, Consumer Federation of America Food Policy Institute (Invited)
- NEW! Youth Voices in Agriculture Workshop: Working with Youth to Strengthen the Regional Food System
- NEW! Minority Farmer Training—sponsored by USDA CSREES
- Hunger Congress—Featuring Eric Bost, USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services; Ellen Teller, Director of Government Affairs, Food Research & Action Center; and Patricia Beebe, President & CEO, Food Bank of Delaware
- Nutrition Education Symposium—for nutrition educators

*For more information, visit [www.foodfarm.org](http://www.foodfarm.org) or contact The Food Trust at 215-568-0830 x10 or [contact@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:contact@thefoodtrust.org).*



## Millionth Summer Feeding Program Meal Served in 2003



Staff from Nutritional Development Services celebrate with camper Daniel Lee, this year's Millionth Summer Meal recipient. The celebration was held at Emmanuel Summer School in West Philadelphia.

*The Summer Food Program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and is sponsored locally by NDS, the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, and the Philadelphia Housing Authority.*

## Specter Promotes Child Nutrition

Child nutrition is on Senator Arlen Specter's mind these days, and we need to thank him for all he is trying to do. The Senator announced on July 29<sup>th</sup> that he would join Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin in sponsoring three bills to improve the effectiveness of three nutrition programs.

One of these (S. 1021) would provide up to \$5 million annually in start-up grants for Summer Food Service Programs. It would also make the reimbursement process for sponsors easier, and would enable schools attendance zones to qualify for open enrollment sites if 40 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced price lunches (currently it is 50 percent). That would make operation of a summer program available to more children with less paperwork.

Senator Specter has a history of taking a keen interest in the effective performance of federal food programs. In 1999, he co-sponsored the Hunger Relief Act, which later became the basis for positive change in the Food Stamp Program.

September will be a key month for child nutrition, as both the Senate Committee will finalize their work on the Summer Food, School Breakfast, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, School Lunch and WIC.

Please call and thank Senator Specter for paying attention to child nutrition and urge his continued support for improvements in these programs. His phone number is 215-864-6900.

## Enter the Annual Soup Kitchen Cook-off!

**When: October 11th at the 2003 World Food Day Celebration**

**Where: Community College of Philadelphia, Winnet Building**

**Who Can Enter: Soup kitchens, food cupboards and shelters.**

**Prizes awarded for the best dishes!**

*Call Hannah Chang at 215-430-0555 to enter.*



## Two Alternative Holiday Gift Ideas: Gifts that give twice

### Nourish Your Soul Cookbook

At this year's World Food Day Celebration on October 11, the Coalition will unveil one of its most recent projects. *Nourish Your Soul: A Community Cookbook* is a collection of over 200 recipes, along with histories, photographs, and personal stories, submitted by over fifty food cupboards and soup kitchens in the Philadelphia area. It is a tribute to the volunteers on the frontline who day by day help support families and individuals that just can't make ends meet.



The Cookbook is intended to be a valuable fundraising tool for the agencies that contributed both recipes and stories. These agencies can sell the book in their communities and workplaces, and use it as a personal showcase when approaching local businesses for support. Thanks to the financial support of Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, those agencies that contributed to the cookbook can purchase up to 25 books from the Coalition at the cost of \$1 per book. They can then sell these books for their market value of \$10 and earn a \$9 profit per book. After the first 25 copies, agencies can purchase the book for the wholesale cost, which will be less than \$5 per copy so that, at the very least, a 50% profit can be made. Agencies not showcased in the Cookbook will also have an opportunity to purchase the Cookbook at wholesale cost. The Coalition hopes to sell copies to the general public as well.

The Coalition will hold a fundraising and marketing workshop at the First Tuesday roundtable on October 7 (12:00 noon at Nutritional Development Services) to help agencies develop effective strategies to sell the Cookbooks. Cookbooks can be purchased at this time. Orders can also be placed at World Food Day. All ordered books can be picked up at the Coalition Against Hunger's office. These Cookbooks will make wonderful holiday gifts, and highly successful sales are anticipated. Call Hannah at the Coalition for more information (215-430-0555).

### The Children's Song<sup>®</sup>

**A GIFT FROM PHILADELPHIANS TO PHILADELPHIA TO HELP THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER.**

The Children's Song<sup>®</sup> with words that speak to society's responsibility to children is part of an ongoing awareness-raising and fundraising project organized by the self-funded partnership of *For Our Common Good*. *For Our Common Good* selected the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger as the beneficiary of their work because "the Coalition's education, outreach and advocacy work is in sync with our social justice beliefs."

*For Our Common Good* found the ideal vocalist in Tamika Patton. Tamika is well-known in the Philadelphia area; her soulful and powerful voice earned her *City Papers* #1 Gospel singer award in 2002. Tamika identifies with the mission of the Coalition and has agreed to be the Coalition's celebrity spokesperson. In-kind contribution of skill and talent, a generous grant from The Philadelphia Foundation and individual donations combined to pave the road for a successful project.

The CD is now available in a number of local stores and restaurants and can be ordered directly from the Coalition Against Hunger. For about \$5, little more than the price of a greeting card and packaged as a ready-to-be-mailed gift for a special occasion, a birthday or the holidays, it becomes a gift that gives twice. Tamika's powerful voice is reinforced by packaging that provides the facts:

*Hunger hides behind closed doors, behind proud faces, in hearts that are heavy, and in neighborhoods once secure in the belief that hard work was the path to the American Dream.*



Call the Coalition Against Hunger to order the CD. Local businesses interested in becoming a partner member of *Businesses Hungry for Justice* can order the tax-deductible CDs as holiday gifts for employees and clients. Call 215-430-0555 for more information.

**Don't Miss Out!**

# WORLD FOOD DAY 2003

Saturday, October 11th

Community College of Philadelphia

Call 215-430-0555  
for more information.

**Feedback**

The Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
2901 W. Hunting Park Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
Email: [tсен@hungercoalition.org](mailto:tсен@hungercoalition.org)  
Web: [www.hungercoalition.org](http://www.hungercoalition.org)

**Editor:** Tanya Thampi-Sen, GPCAH

**Contributors:**

Anne Ayella, Nutritional Development Services  
Hannah Chang, GPCAH  
Claire Ciccorelli, Greater Philadelphia Food Bank  
Diane Frances, Philabundance  
Katherine Rick-Miller, GPCAH  
Nathan Rust, Philadelphia SHARE Food Program  
Sue Mitchem, PA Hunger Action Center  
Karen Wilson, GPCAH  
Buddy Wise, Church of the Redeemer  
Sydelle Zove, GPCAH

**Feedback**

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
c/o SHARE Food, Inc.  
2901 West Hunting Park Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19129

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BALA CYNWYD, PA  
PERMIT NO. 649