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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 3, 2018**

## **FAYETTE CHAMBER, FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES SATURDAY**

**Uniontown, PA** – With autumn under way, the members of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce continue to support the Fayette County Food Bank’s mission to aid area families.

Each fall and spring, volunteer chamber members host the Fayette Chamber Cares food drives to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the food bank. Monetary donations are used to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas in the fall and hams for Easter in the spring.

The 2018 Fall Food Drive will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Uniontown Walmart’s grocery entrance. Walmart and the Herald Standard are supporting partners for this event.

Operated by the Fayette County Community Action Agency, the Fayette County Food Bank is the primary hub for the collection and distribution of food, supplying 49 food pantries countywide.

The 2017 Fall Food Drive netted 300 turkeys and over 1,000 pounds of non-perishables.

Following the 2018 Spring Food Drive, the chamber purchased and delivered 200 hams to the food bank for distribution. Approximately 500 pounds of non-perishables and about \$500 in cash was also collected.

Not including 2018, the biannual drive has garnered over 25,000 pounds of food and 30,000 pounds of hams and turkeys.

“The Fayette Chamber is made of businesses who understand that there are people in need in the county,” said chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall. “Many years ago, in response to critical need for food at the Fayette County Food Bank, one of our members stood up and took the lead in bringing our businesses together to feed our neighbors in need.”

Food drive chairman and chamber board member Chris Kennedy founded the initiative more than a decade ago.



Chamber members, along with Fayette Young Professionals Network volunteers, often turn the food drives into community events, featuring concession stands.

The food bank distributes about 1.8 million tons of food to more than 10,000 county residents annually.

Community Action team planner Keeley Forrestel said the chamber's efforts have a big impact on families who don't have regular access to food and often go without, especially on holidays. In addition to combating hunger and increasing access to healthy foods, donations also help families come together to celebrate traditions, which, in turn, help maintain family connections and communication.

The Fayette County Community Food Bank is located at 108 North Beeson Ave. in Uniontown. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.fccaa.org](http://www.fccaa.org) or call Forrestel at 724-437-6050, ext. 4306.

The Fayette Chamber of Commerce is located at 65 West Main St. in Uniontown. For more information on upcoming food drives, call 724-437-4571 or email [info@fayettechamber.com](mailto:info@fayettechamber.com).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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*This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.*