

April 1, 2026

714 West Main Street, P.O. Box 424, Parkesburg, PA. 19365 Phone: 610-857-4000

NEWSLETTER

Highlights

- Letter from the Director
- Note from the President
- Thank You Note
- How We Have Grown
- Stewardship Spotlight
- Thank You to Our Supporters
- How You Can Help
- Mission Statement
- Food distribution Amounts
- Story of Hope
- More ways to Help
- Donation Coupon
- Volunteer Spotlight

From the Desk of...

Over the past year, since joining the O AFC, I have gained a profound appreciation for the honor of serving our community by providing food assistance to those in need. Despite the initial challenges of the first year, I have consistently been motivated by the opportunity to contribute to our community's well-being.

At O AFC, we are dedicated to our mission and collaborate with our partners to enhance the quality of food services provided to our clients. With the unwavering support of the Chester County Food Bank (CCFB), we were fortunate to secure a grant that facilitated the upgrade of our refrigeration capacity. This upgrade includes the installation of two outdoor walk-in units, which not only improves our ability to store food but also significantly reduces our electric usage by eliminating the need for seven single units.

Furthermore, we are actively working on improving access to the facility and enhancing the overall shopping experience for our clients. These improvements are expected to be implemented throughout the year.

Cherie Myers, Director

Board Members

President: Bob Larson
Vice President: Charlie Hart
Treasurer: Mark Stauffer
Secretary: Alison Whiteman
Cherie Myers, Director
Andrew Morlando JR.
Anna Cardwell
Judd Dunn
Linda Ellerbe
Robbyn Kehoe

Advisory Board

Larry
Welsch

Note from the President...


Having opened our doors more than 13 years ago, the **Octorara Area Food Cupboard (O AFC)** has made significant strides in alleviating hunger in the Octorara area and its surrounding communities. The overwhelming and critical support from our community has been instrumental in this progress. Each year we witness numerous food drives, donations, and fundraising events, all supported by local churches, businesses, and selfless volunteers who make the O AFC's operations possible.

At the O AFC, along with our partner organizations — **The Chester County Food Bank, our local Community of Churches, and The Parkesburg Point** — we provide nutritious food and essential supplies to support families in need throughout our community.

However, the need remains great, and the O AFC requires continued support to fulfill its mission. As we embark on a new year, we kindly ask you to consider supporting our efforts. Please take a moment to reflect on your circumstances and see if there may be a small amount you can contribute. Whether it is a few dollars or a few cans of food, every contribution—no matter how small—makes a meaningful difference. Our donation today will help ensure that no family in our community has to face hunger alone.

On behalf of the **Board of Directors of the Octorara Area Food Cupboard**, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Bob Larson, O AFC Board President



"The Octorara Area Food Cupboard is a non-profit organization providing supplemental food support for those living in the Octorara area"

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Non-perishable donations of the following are needed:

Canned Potatoes
Red Beets
Pasta Source
Canned Tomatoes
Boxed Potatoes
Condiments



MISSION STATEMENT

Based on the belief that no one should suffer from hunger, the Octorara Area Food Cupboard exists to provide supplement food assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families in need. We deliver this service in conjunction with government food programs, through community donations and a network of committed volunteers in a manner that places high value on respect and dignity

How We Have Grown

**December 2012 -
Opening Month —
Served:**

141 Seniors
244 Adults
226 Children
611 People
228 Families

**Mar. 31st 2026
Served:**

304 Seniors
732 Adults
504 Children
1540 People
483 Families

Stewardship Snapshot

At the OAFCC, we take pride in ensuring that all resources are directly aligned with client needs.

Programs: 96%
Administration: 2%
Fundraising: 1%

Food Distribution Statistics for June 2025-Mar 2026:

Total LBS of Food In – 250,559
Total LBS of Food Out – 243,714

Thank You Note.....

Dear Contributors,
We hope this message finds you well. We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has generously contributed to our food cupboard. Your kindness and support have made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals and families in our community.
Your donations have not only provided essential nourishment but have also brought hope and comfort to those in need. It is through your selfless acts of giving that we are able to continue our mission of helping others and making our community a better place.
Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a beacon of kindness and generosity. Together, we are making a positive impact and showing that we care.

More Ways to Help

Consider Volunteering: We need Walkers to assist clients in product selection from our shelves, bagging produce, sorting and dating items, stocking shelves, loading client cars, and working in the backroom handling incoming and outgoing product.

Reusable Grocery Bags: We are always welcoming and in need of “earth-friendly” reusable shopping bags, such as the ones sold for \$1 in most grocery stores. Our clients receive two each. This has significantly reduced the amount of paper and plastic bags we have to collect. It’s beneficial for the environment and much easier for our clients to carry their groceries, especially since many of them walk.

Sponsor Drives: Hold a drive for food donations or specialized drives; i.e., Diaper Drive, Toiletry Drive

Volunteer Spotlight

Name: Charlotte
Role: Front Desk Admin

Our Food Cupboard is blessed with many dedicated volunteers, and this quarter we are pleased to recognize one who serves faithfully at the front desk. In this important role, she is often the first person our clients meet when they arrive.

She greets each person with kindness and respect while carefully signing clients in and making sure all necessary paperwork is complete and accurate. Her attention to detail helps keep our operations organized and ensures that families can receive assistance as efficiently as possible.

Beyond the administrative work, her warm presence helps create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone who walks through our doors. Her reliability, compassion, and commitment to serving others make a meaningful difference in our ministry.

We are grateful for her dedication and the many hours she generously gives to support our mission. Thank you for being such an important part of our team.

Program & Pantry Updates

OAFc is currently undergoing facility modifications and upgrades. Recently, we upgraded our refrigeration capacity by installing two outside walk-in units. This upgrade freed up floor space, allowing us to add additional storage for non-perishable items. Additionally, eliminating seven standalone refrigeration units is expected to significantly reduce our electric usage. We also added a patio area in front of our facility, and we plan to add roof covering this year.

We have more changes planned to enhance the shopping experience in the coming months.

A Story of Hope

A Reminder of Why We Serve

Recently, one of our clients shared these words with us:

“They fed me when I was hungry, and the staff is very friendly.”

Statements like this remind us that food assistance is about more than groceries—it’s about compassion, dignity, and community.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Chester County Food Bank

Weis Markets

Clark’s Meats

Walmart

Acme Markets

Hershey Meat Market

Community Churches

Individual Donors

Dear Supporters,

We trust this message reaches you in good health. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have generously contributed to our food cupboard. Your support has had a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout our community.

The donations you provide offer essential nourishment as well as encouragement and reassurance to those facing hardship. It is the collective commitment and generosity of our supporters that enables us to continue advancing our mission and improving our community.

We thank you for your continued dedication and for exemplifying compassion and generosity. Together, we are making a substantial difference and upholding a spirit of care within our community.

Board of Directors

Thank You & Stay Connected

Thank you for standing with OAFc to fight hunger in the Octorara Area. Every can of food, hour volunteered, and dollar donated makes a real difference. Stay connected by visiting www.octfood.com, following us on Facebook, or emailing oafc424@gmail.com. Have a story or idea to share? We’d love to hear from you! Together, we’re building a stronger, healthier community.

OCTORARA AREA FOOD CUPBOARD

***HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL:** Would you like to honor someone meaningful in your life? Remember a special occasion—like a birthday, an anniversary, a holiday (Christmas), or bereavement. If so, you can make a donation to OAF, and we will send a certificate saying that a donation has been made in their name, from you. Just fill out the form below and mail to OAF, P.O. Box 424, Parkesburg, PA 19365.*

Your information:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

How would you like the card to be signed _____

Recipient's Information

Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

Circle one: In Memory of In Honor of

Thank you for your tax deductible donation!

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 Other \$ _____

Please cut this coupon and send your donation to:

*OAF, P.O. Box 424, Parkesburg, PA,
19365 We are a non-profit 501(c)(3)
organization*

You can also donate on our website at:

www.octfood.com

Scan this code to donate online

