



Accepting donations from BU



Tuesday Crew at Distribution



Hard at work on our 7/30/22 Deep Cleaning Day



A Warm Welcome

Twenty-six years ago, the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard (BFC) was created using the tax-exempt status of St. Columba Catholic Church. Due to this organizational structure, the BFC had to keep its accounts and donor funds with the Harrisburg Diocese. Over time, both the BFC and St. Columba realized that it would be in the best interests of both parties for the BFC to become its own 501c3. This change expedites the availability of donation funds and allows us to operate independently.

This long process was supported by St. Columba pastors, Monsignor Lawrence and Father Mowery. In 2021, the BFC became an independent nonprofit entity. St. Columba continues to provide immense support to the food cupboard administratively and of course, physically. We now have a Board of Directors which meets regularly to ensure our continuity. Thanks to our new status, we have also been able to hire our first paid staff member, Lynn Smith.

How It's Going...

Our backpack program served approximately 265 families in the Bloomsburg Area School District and St. Columba School each week of the school year. As we finished 2022, we were providing food for around 325 families. This includes over 800 individuals, which shows a marked increase from the previous year. We continue to receive weekly donations from Giant, Weis, Walmart, Bloomin' Bagels, Panera, Olive Garden and KFC. The return of the Post Office Food Drive garnered 7,676 lbs of donated food! These large donations have been combined with personal donations and donations from BU to provide our clients with healthy food twice each week.

Update on current procedures

As many of you know, the pandemic necessitated a change in how we deliver food to our clients. Clients remain in their cars and place their order with one of our volunteers. As clients drive through the line, other volunteers pack their order and place the order in the client's trunk when they reach the end of the line. We plan to continue this method of food delivery as we consider a few new additions to make the process even smoother. We will soon be implementing a new computer system to improve our registration and reporting capabilities.

Raise the Region!

For the first time, we are participating in Raise the Region, an annual nonprofit fundraising event that will be happening March 8-9, 2023.

This event will offer many opportunities for your donations to be increased, so please check it out!

<https://www.raisetheregion.org/organizations/bloomsburg-food-cupboard>

Improving Service

We are always looking for ways to improve the service that the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard provides to our clients. If you have any questions, comments about what is working well, or suggestions as to how we can make our systems run more smoothly, please contact us at BFC@bloomsburgfoodcupboard.org. Again, nothing that we do would be possible without the cooperation of our dedicated volunteers. We are truly blessed by all that you offer the Food Cupboard and the Bloomsburg community.



More Deep Cleaning work

ServSafe Training

In order to provide the safest food for our clients, we would like to get as many of our volunteers ServSafe certified as we can. This training is available online at <https://www.servsafe.com/access/SS/Catalog/ProductDetail/SSECT6> and costs \$15. If you complete the training, please submit your certificate to anyone on the Board so that we have it on record.

Code of Conduct

As we have all navigated the pandemic, your Board has been hard at work. One of our projects has been to develop a written Code of Conduct for our volunteers, which you will see posted in the Food Cupboard as well as enclosed with this letter. The items included in this Code are all understood by our current volunteers, but with the many changes that have happened over the past two years, we want to be sure any new volunteers are on the same page.

New Email addresses:

General:

BFC@bloomsburgfoodcupboard.org
bloomsburgfoodcupboard@gmail.com
(please discontinue use of bfc@aol.com)

Specific Needs:

volunteer@bloomsburgfoodcupboard.org
secretary@bloomsburgfoodcupboard.org

Giving Options:

DonorBox: <https://donorbox.org/bloomsburg-food-cupboard-general-donations>

First Columbia ACH: Link to the form can be found on the bottom of the page at <https://bloomsburgfoodcupboard.org/donate>.

Cash and check donations are also always appreciated!

The Board of the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard wants to thank you for your overwhelming generosity with the time, talents and resources that you offer to the Food Cupboard all the time, but especially during the unique challenges we have faced in the past two years.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the
Bloomsburg Food Cupboard
Jeffrey Helsel, President

Allison Burrell,
Secretary/Treasurer
Martha Sheehe,
BFC Co-Coordinator
Lynn Smith, BFC
Co-Coordinator
Jay Steely
Amy Malin
Ginny Helsel

Contact Info

Please update your contact info
at so we can keep in touch!
<https://tinyurl.com/BFCupdate>



Ben finding some extra storage space