



2025

# YEAR IN REVIEW

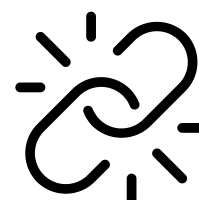
**CEO**

Commission on Economic Opportunity

*People Helping People.*

  
**THE WEINBERG**  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL **FOOD BANK**

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# FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Because of you, hope is alive and growing across Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are profoundly grateful for your generous support of the CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank and for the compassion you share with our community.

In 2025, thousands of volunteers stood shoulder to shoulder with us, helping distribute nearly 15 million pounds of food to families throughout our region. Every box packed, every meal shared, and every act of service carried a powerful message: no one is alone. Their dedication, combined with your generosity, brings nourishment not only to tables, but also to hearts.

Our donors are the foundation of this hope. Your kindness ensures that families facing difficult seasons can access nutritious meals and brighter days ahead. Your support is more than a gift—it is a promise of care, dignity, and possibility for our neighbors in need.

Above all, we are grateful to be part of a community that believes in what we can achieve together. Your compassion and shared purpose continue to strengthen our region and inspire lasting change.

As we step into 2026, we invite you to remain engaged and hopeful alongside us. With your continued support of time and resources, we can reach more families, deepen our impact, and build an even stronger future together.

With Gratitude,

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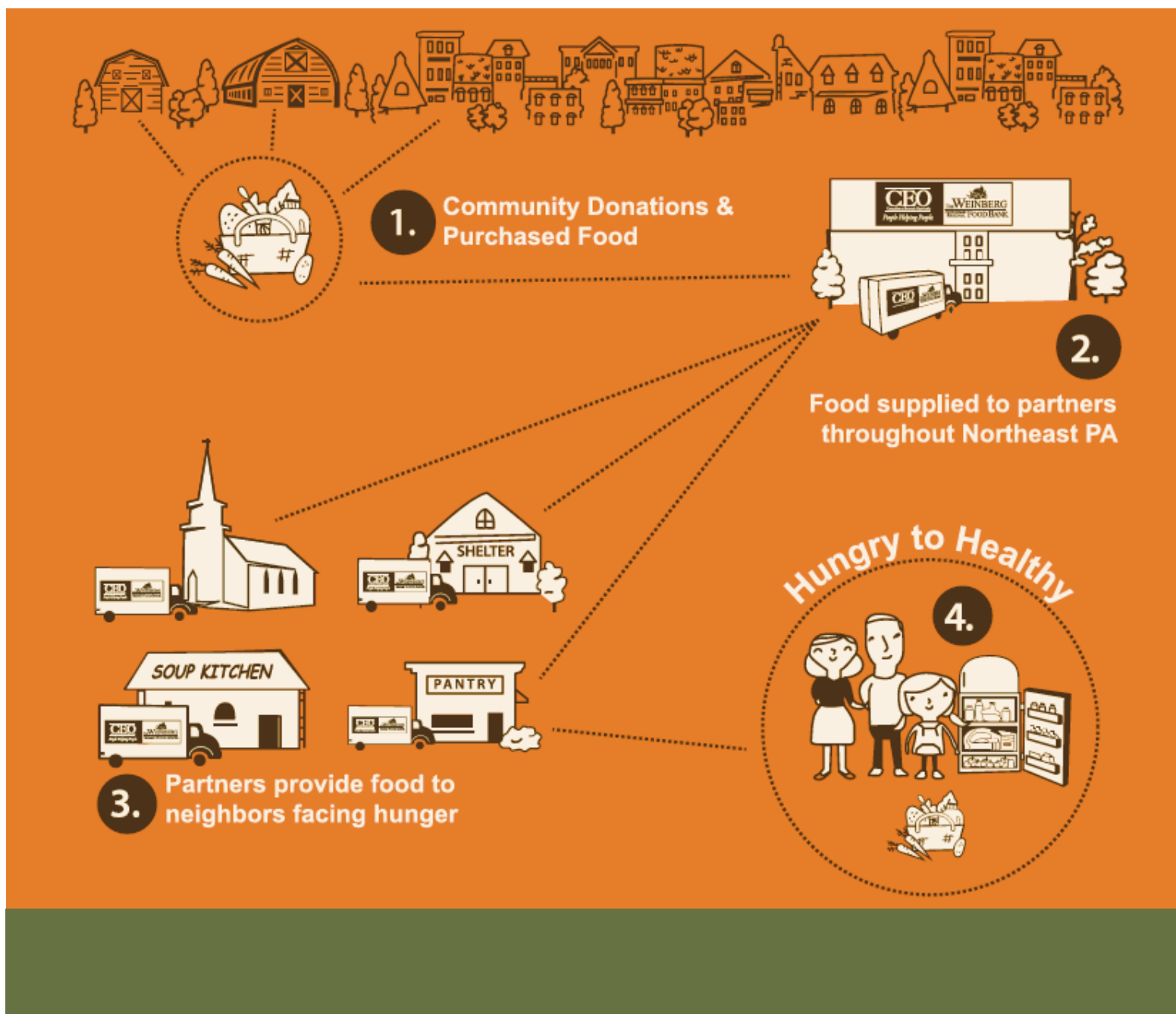



**Jennifer Warabak**  
*Executive Director*



**Mary Ellen Spellman**  
*Food Bank Director*

# OUR FOOD BANK DEPENDS ON YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



## **Our food banking model is grounded in efficiency and equity.**

By sourcing a wide variety of food items and providing it to our vast network of partners we are able to offer equitable access to food throughout the entire region. We leverage food donations and commodity foods with wholesale purchased foods, along with the infrastructure of our 65,000 square foot facility and a fleet of trucks to meet the needs of our community.

# HOW WE WORK

The Weinberg Regional Food Bank, a program of the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), serves four counties in Northeast Pennsylvania—Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Wyoming. Our mission is simple and urgent: to ensure that all our neighbors, especially children and older adults, have consistent access to nourishing food that supports their health, dignity, and well-being.

The Food Bank collects food from the entire food system - from growers to retailers. We coordinate and support a network of partners to move the food from warehouse to table - quickly and efficiently. The network relies heavily on volunteers, small non-profit organizations and faith-based community services. The Weinberg Food Bank is committed to constant growth and developing innovative solutions to hunger.



## Collect Food

Food is sourced locally, regionally and nationally. Foods may be donated, government commodities, or purchased at wholesale prices. We prioritize healthy food and fresh produce in particular.



## Warehouse & Deliver

Food is received at our distribution center near Pittston. Free delivery is offered to all of our partner agencies. Some receive just-in-time deliveries on the day of food give-aways and others get deliveries to re-stock their on-site inventory.



## Work with Partners

The Food Bank has more than 300 partners including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and meal programs hosted by community and faith-based organizations, schools, childcare and youth programs, senior programs and housing, libraries, and local municipalities. We provide training and technical assistance to all of our partners.



## Food to Families - Offering Hope

Our partners provide food in the form of either groceries or prepared meals to families and individuals. Some partners offer convenient drive-through food pick up and in others, families can shop and select the food items they prefer.



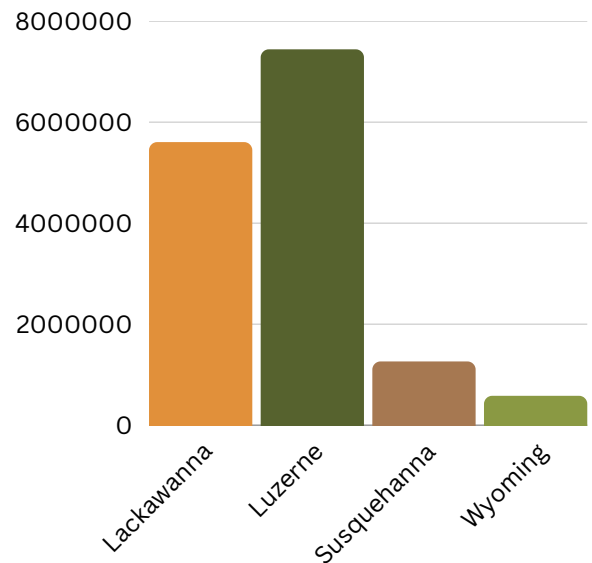
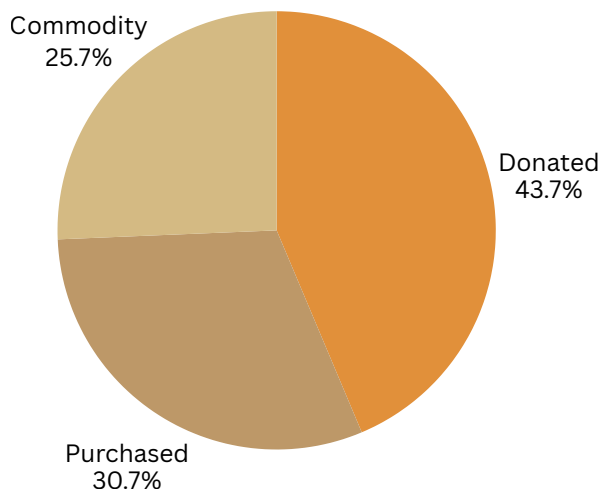
2025

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2025, hope in the form of nourishing food, reached nearly 20,000 neighbors every week—adding up to more than one million people helped by our network of partners over the year.

## SOURCES OF FOOD:

Sources of food fall into one of three categories - donated food from all levels of the food system, government commodity food, and wholesale purchased food. In 2025 we purchased more and received less federal commodity food than in prior years.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY

**14.8 million**

### Pounds of food

14,888,456 pounds of food was provided to our network of partners in 2025. Our partners in turn, provided groceries or meals to their neighbors who struggle to put food on the table.

**1 million**

### People served

Over the past 12 months, take home groceries were provided for 1,012,618 people as a result of 378,311 food pantry visits this year.

**885,191**

### Prepared meals

Our partners also provided prepared meals in 2025.

Meal partners include soup kitchens, childcare and youth programs, after school snacks and free community meals.



2025 Year in Review

# MORE THAN FOOD

# Hope Too!

## Training & Technical Assistance

Learning, collaboration, and dignity are at the heart of our work. Through annual conferences, meetings, and ongoing training, we work alongside our partners to strengthen best practices in food safety, food rescue, respect and dignity, and proven best practices.

In 2025, 100% of our partners completed training and participated in conferences—an inspiring reflection of our shared commitment to excellence.

We are also growing smarter together, with 10% of partners now using our shared Service Insights platform. Since July 1, 10,586 pantry visits have been recorded, helping us better serve families and expand hope across our region.

## Volunteerism

Hope shows up in countless ways—and in 2025, it showed up through 255,301 hours of service.

Our network of partners reported 239,454 volunteer hours, with an additional 15,847 hours given directly at the Food Bank.

Every hour helps nourish our neighbors and strengthen our community.

## Nutrition Education

Nutrition education is a vital part of the hope we share. Beyond providing food, we empower individuals and families with the knowledge and confidence to prepare nourishing meals and make the most of what they receive.

In 2025, we reached 9,855 individuals with nutrition education—including 7,466 children—helping lay the foundation for healthier futures and brighter days ahead.



# REAL IMPACT. REAL *Hope.*

A 74-year-old woman, homebound and facing utility bills that had nearly tripled, asked a neighbor to visit a local pantry on her behalf. Through your support, she received two bags of nourishing food—fresh produce, protein, cereal, and milk. Her gratitude was overwhelming. In a time of mounting stress, your kindness brought comfort, relief, and reassurance.

For another neighbor, an unexpected workplace injury turned life upside down. While waiting for her benefits to begin, she found herself seeking help for the first time. Through two local partners, she received emergency food when she needed it most. She shared how deeply thankful she was—and how she looks forward to giving back once she is back on her feet. Hope has a way of coming full circle.

Your support also helps families build stronger futures. Ruth, a grandmother living on a small pension, recently gained custody of her two school-aged grandchildren. With new responsibilities and limited resources, she turned to the food pantry just two months ago. Through nutrition education provided by CEO, she learned how to stretch the food she receives into healthy, nourishing meals for her family. She is now applying for SNAP to further support her grandchildren—steps forward made possible because someone believed in her.

During the government shutdown, hope arrived just in time for a single mother working for the Social Security Administration. After missing her second paycheck, she was dipping into savings to cover bills, gas, and her son's college tuition. Unsure where to turn, she called the Food Bank with questions—and found understanding, guidance, and relief. Not only was she connected to local pantries, but she also learned that the Food Bank was already working to establish an on-site pantry for SSA employees. Knowing that help was on the way made an overwhelming situation feel manageable again.

**These stories are different, but they share one truth: your generosity makes hope tangible. You provide more than food—you offer dignity, stability, and the confidence to move forward. Thank you for standing with our neighbors when it matters most.**



# No One Goes Hungry, When Hands and Hearts Work Together.



2025 Year in Review

## HOW YOU CAN OFFER HOPE

Hope is made possible through collaboration. The Food Bank's impact is powered by dedicated partners and a caring community, coming together through volunteerism, financial generosity, and the donation of nourishing food.



### Volunteer

5,250 volunteers gave 15,847 volunteer hours in 2025! Find out how to get involved by visiting:  
[www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/volunteers](http://www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/volunteers)



### Donate

Without our donors - large and small, public and private, we could not provide food to so many. Donate today:  
[www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/donate](http://www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/donate)



### Food Rescue

Is there a food business near you? Do you know an owner or operator of a local food business? Help us connect with local food donors. For more information visit:  
[www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/fooddonor](http://www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/fooddonor)

# OUR TEAM

Mary Ellen Spellman, Food Bank Director  
Matthew Krupa, Director of Operations  
Amanda Brueckler, Agency Distribution Manager  
Debra Taylor, Corporate and Community Relations  
Kim Grzesek, Food Bank Partnership Manager  
Dan Yaglowski, Warehouse Manager  
Tony Teberio, Receiving Manager  
Jenn Morgan and Lisa Ihnat, Senior Food Box Program

*Drivers & Warehouse Workers:*

Kyle Barthold, Brian Carroll, Lou Dominick, Timothy Golightly,  
Dale McCloe, Mark O'Malley, Ryan O'Malley, Jeff Vose, Rich Yanchus

*Nutrition Educators:*

Ingrid Balsamo, Mary Kay D'Elia, Chandra Galliford,  
Kathy Lockman, Mary Parrs, Margaret Raniero, Rachel Rovinski,  
Rolly Smith

Rod Blaine, Director of Administration & Finance  
Gretchen Hunt, Director of Resource Development  
Michele Newberry, Development Officer

