During calendar year 2018, the CEO Weinberg Regional Food Bank’s network distributed 11.1 million pounds of food across the four county service area. Over 13,000 different people received food each week!

The Weinberg Food Bank is committed to constant growth and developing innovative solutions to hunger. To carry out its mission, the CEO Weinberg Food Bank focused on three major strategies in 2018:

- The Food Bank sorts, repackages, refrigerates and redistributes wholesome, but unmarketable, food that would otherwise be thrown away. Additionally, the Food Bank purchases foods at wholesale prices for distribution to needy residents. The Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living, offers the capacity to store and distribute highly nutritious, perishable foods, including fresh produce. In the last quarter alone, the Weinberg Food Bank via operations in the McGowan Center for Healthy Living distributed over 3.8 million pounds of food, including 709,450 pounds of fresh produce. In 2018, produce distribution increased 45% over 2017!

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative (MARC) is the most recent innovation in acquisition of donated food. The MARC is located in the port of Philadelphia and its purpose is to acquire donated produce as it enters the port. Shipping costs and value added processing fees average only $0.18 per pound for fresh produce, delivered to the Food Bank. This cooperative is a collaboration of more than 20 food banks from the mid-Atlantic region and is led by Feeding Pennsylvania. Each month the Weinberg Food Bank receives 80,000 pounds or more of additional fresh produce to give to hungry families across our region. Participation with the MARC was a critical component in the impressive growth of fresh produce distribution in 2018.

- The Food Bank distributes over eleven million pounds of food annually through a network of more than 350 partner programs, including food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, schools, childcare centers, elder care facilities, libraries and even municipalities and parks. Direct service is provided through the network of partners via a variety of programs including: Mobile Pantries, the Children’s Produce Markets, the Senior Food Box program (CSFP), holiday food distributions, Food 4 Kids programs including summer, afterschool and weekend programs for kids. During 2018, this network of members and partners provided groceries to 236,156 families and nearly 1.4 million prepared meals.

- CEO provides nutrition education and supports an array of nutrition programs, including Be Smart. Eat Right. for school students; Healthy Start for pre-school and childcare centers, families and children; Just Say Yes to Fruits and Veggies and Cooking Matters for adults and seniors. During the past year, 20,205 unique individuals participated in nutrition education programming. About 9,200 participants were adults and the remaining were children.

**Goal: End Hunger by 2025 in Northeast Pennsylvania**