



Expanding life's possibilities.™

With many in Delaware County short on food, residents step up to help



Helping neighbors in need is the focus of a growing tradition that rallies residents during the holiday season.

The holiday food drive began in 2022, spearheaded by resident Mary Last at the request of Mission Enhancement, and it's been garnering increasing support each year. For the first event, resident volunteers collected 40 boxes and bins of food and toiletries, and that grew to 57 boxes and seven large bins last year!

A food drive is a natural fit for this community, where a number of residents help at local food banks regularly throughout the year. The holiday food drive generally starts in November, with collection bins placed around campus, and wraps up with a celebratory delivery of donations to Edgmont Township at its annual Christmas tree lighting—scheduled this year for December

13th. The township adds the donations to others collected from the area, then delivers them to an area food bank.

Lack of good access to nutrition affects quite a few people in Delaware County, Mary says, citing statistics that nearly one out of every 10 county residents was food insecure in 2022 — totaling more than 55,000 people. “They are our neighbors, and that could be us.”

Quite a few of those in need don’t qualify for SNAP benefits, Mary says, and in addition, basic supplies like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and more aren’t even covered under SNAP.

People find a variety of ways to chip in. Mary checks with the Media Food Bank to find out what items are needed. Volunteers then go to outlets like Costco to load up on supplies. If they aren’t able to go shopping themselves, they may donate money, with another resident picking up the items. The Residents Association also donates money for food to get things started each year. Some volunteers collect donations from the bins, and others help sort and package the items.

Focusing on the positive and helping those in the community can create joy, Mary says. “It is true: It’s better to give than to receive.”

