

Farm Bill - 2013

The FARM BILL has the power to support or diminish U.S. food security and farm policies. The U.S. Senate recently passed a FARM BILL which had last been approved by the full Congress in 2008. Congress failed to pass the FARM BILL when it was due for renewal in 2012. Food advocates agree that the FARM BILL should alleviate hunger and malnutrition, support vibrant family farms and healthy communities, as well as protect God's creation (*Ecumenical Advocacy Days*, www.AdvocacyDays.org).

The present 2013 Senate-approved version of the FARM BILL meets some of those criteria, but fails desperately in the category of alleviating hunger among families because it proposes to cut \$4.1 billion from SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. In today's economic reality more families are food insecure, food is more expensive, and the unemployment rate continues to be high, actually increasing the need for SNAP benefits. If you, or someone you know, have ever been hungry due to no food or minimal access to nutritious food, would you begrudge those hungry persons access to SNAP? That is what is happening today as the new FARM BILL is being considered. The U.S. House of Representatives wants to cut SNAP benefits by \$20 billion.

The FARM BILL, in the Senate's version would continue to support large agribusiness farms but neglects the small rural family farms and the unique niche diversity farms that need the most assistance. When it comes to international food aid, the U.S. prefers to send excess U.S. food across thousands of miles over weeks and months of transport as it succumbs to weather damage and people starve waiting for its arrival, instead of supporting the local rural development in low-income countries that would in fact increase global food security by feeding individuals locally and in their time of need. How will the U.S. House handle these concerns? (*"Senate Passes Farm Bill; House Vote Is Less Sure," Ron Nixon, NYTimes.com*)

Since the recession began at the end of 2007, SNAP enrollment increased almost 70 percent closely highlighting the failing economic cycle. SNAP eligibility is based on an imaginary poverty line. In 2012 that line was defined as a single person earning under \$11,170 annually or less than \$23,050 for a family of four. Eligibility criteria do allow for basic expenses such as housing and child care. Based on those figures, the average SNAP allowance was \$133.85 monthly, or less than \$1.50 per person per meal. What sort of a nutritious, balanced meal might one purchase for that amount? (*Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, iatp.org*; *"United States Farm Bill: What's at Stake?"*)

The Farm Bill is at high risk as creators of the federal budget look to cut funds from human services. Despite the wealth of resources in the U.S. 48.8 million Americans are at risk of hunger; one in six adults and one in five children. The majority of those who receive assistance are children, the elderly, or people living with a disability. Recipients include individuals with low-wage, full-time jobs, and military families. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SNAP is important as an economic driver in local communities. Every dollar of SNAP benefits distributed results in \$1.84 in gains for local economies. Let us urge our Congresspersons to support robust funding enhancement for SNAP. Federal nutrition programs do help create long-term self-sufficiency and reduce poverty.

(*Ecumenical Advocacy Days, "Talking Point for the 2013 EAD 'Ask' on the Farm Bill."* www.AdvocacyDays.org)



SuperCupboard is a program for mothers raising small children. It incorporates providing emergency food relief with a curriculum of classes in nutritional health and wellness designed to help mothers build self-esteem and self-reliance.

Sessions Offer

- ♥ Ideas for purchasing and preparing low-cost but healthy foods
- ♥ Personal growth and self-nurturing opportunities
- ♥ Budgeting food dollars
- ♥ The company of other women
- ♥ Supportive nutritious lunch together
- ♥ A take home package of food weekly
- ♥ Certificate of completion after attending all 6 sessions

The **SuperCupboard** Program consists of a series of 6 sessions on Thursdays, July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2013. Sessions begin promptly at 9:30 AM and end at 2:00 PM at Bernardine Center



Register by telephone Monday to Friday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sister Sandra Lyons
610-497-3225



Bernardine Center
2625 West Ninth Street,
Chester, PA 19013
www.bernardinecenter.org

Stamp



2625 West Ninth Street,
Chester, PA 19013
P: 610.497.3225
F: 610.497.3659
director@bernardinecenter.org
www.bernardinecenter.org

SUMMER 2013

THE **Bernardine** Center
A NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNARDINE CENTER

TIMES
A Ministry of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

We
Thank You,
Our
Families
Thank You



Ashante (second from R) and colleagues from Widener University's Nursing Program provide food they collected as part of their service project.



Frank Monaghan of The Retired Teachers' Association delivers food and toiletries.



Michelle (L) from The School in Rose Valley delivers delicious-looking strawberries, as well as 731 pounds of other fresh produce. Marylou gladly accepts these gifts for food distribution to families.



Bob Dallago, Celeste Logue, and Annemarie Dallago deliver diapers, formula, baby clothes and personal supplies collected by "7 Center" at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital to Sr. Sandra (second from left).



Joann Simone and Kelvin Hanton donate food from J. Lewis Crozer Library in its "Food instead of Fines" Program.

Mission Statement

The Bernardine Center provides a helping hand to low-income Chester area residents by distributing emergency or supplemental food and supplies.

The Bernardine Center also offers educational, spiritual and advocacy programs to help clients build better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

All the ministries of the Bernardine Center are rooted in Franciscan hospitality and the social teachings of our Catholic Christian tradition.

Bernardine Center's "Hundredfold" In-kind and Monetary Gifts February 23 to June 21, 2013

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| America's Charities
Richard Ailes
Anthony & Kathleen Alosi
Annunciation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary Parish
Anonymous
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Gil & Joan Bardsley
Karla Y. Beaver
Gino Benedetti
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Gail Blackburn
Eugene F. & Christine
Bradley
Linn Bramble
Robert & Jane Brennan
James R. & Margaret Bruno
Ed & Arlene Burke
Joseph & Eileen Butler
Josephine Campbell
Ola Cannon
Marlene Caporico
Ann Carberry
William & Patricia Cassels
Central Baptist Church
Michalene Chabon
William & Sharon Chalker, Jr.
Chester Post Office
Chester Senior Center
David Chominski
Helen Chominski
Church of Saint Kevin
Robert S. & Donna Clancy
Concordville Needle Guild of
America (NGA)
Congregation Ohev Shalom
Francis I. Corey, Jr.
Lillian Cosenza
Deborah Cotter
County Savings Bank
Joseph Crowley
Peggy Cully
Mary Cummings
Bill & Theresa Cupples
Curves (Havertown)
Henry & Alice Dawson
Michael & Betty Del Vacchio
Delaware County Juvenile
Probation
David DelGrande
Margaret M Desmond
Devereux
Helen Donaldson
Pete Drury
Anna M. Ducharme
Michael & Kim Durante
Alan Edelstein
EPA National Service Center
Faith Community Church
(Brookhaven)
Oksanna Fallon | Mary Farley
Frank & Mary Fee
Thomas J. Feyas
Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital
(Nursing Staff of 7 Center)
Patricia A. Fletcher, LCSW
John & Mary Flynn
Fresh Baked Theatre Co.
Fresh Plus Food Market
Robert & Kimberly Futty
Catherine Galvin
Jane P. Gaudet
GE Foundation
Lucy Giancristoforo
Giant Food Stores
(WestChester)
Carol Giesler
V. Elaine Greene-Upton
Madeline Gudelunas
Edward & Marianne Gunther
Robert & Maura Gustafson
Hatboro Needlework Guild of
America (NGA)
Ron & Cheryl Hodgins
Kimberly A. Howlett
Lorraine Iacone
J. Lewis Crozer Library
GloriaJean Jackson
Just Pizza
George & Peggy Kau
Andrew Kiszka
Jack & Connie Kopko
Lisa M. Kulp-Koons
Ramon & Marylou Laboy
Regina D. Langevin
Josh Laster
Gayle Leader
Mary C. LeFever
Michael & Maureen LeFevre
Rita Lerza
Vincent F. & Felicia Lindsley
Bernard & Judith Loell
Richard & Joan Loring
Marjorie R. Lucci
Jude Maclellan
Dot Marella
Maris Grove Catholic Council
Maris Grove Resident
Outreach Club
Chuck Marshall
Martindale's Natural Market
Amelia Martinelli
James McCabe
Charles & Avery McClain
Charles & Natalina
McLaughlin
MaryEllen McTeague
Rev. Engelbert Michel
Minaret Court 154 (Daughters
of Isis)
Bob Mitchell | Bill & Terry Moller
Angela Mulranen
Rose Murphy
Richard T. Murray & Mary K.
O'Gorman
Robert & Rosemarie Naef
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W.
Nenno
Newcomers & Neighbors
Josephine Novak
Richard O'Flynn
Bill & Maureen Olphert
On A Roll Restaurant
Carolyn Ondo
Our Lady of Angels Convent
Our Lady of Charity Parish
Sarah A. Owsiany
Courtney Page
Lambert T. Payne
Polish-American Heritage
Association
Norbert J. & Carmella
Poloncarz
Sandra M. Powell
Pat Pringle
ProPack, Inc..
Geraldine Randall
Joseph & Johanna Rebarchak
Renzi's Catering
Retired Teacher Association
Rosalie Rivera
Rocky Run YMCA
Joseph & Loretta Romo
Rose Tree School
Jody Ryan
Stanley Rzasa
Sacred Heart Parish
(Havertown)
Sacred Heart PREP (Clifton
Heights)
Candy Schreiber
Bernard & Judith Loell
Adam & Janis Sendek
Marilyn Shiels
Jude Maclellan
Marilyn Sileo-Novak
Sister Betty Kane & Friends
Sister Danielle Marie
Kubelsky
Sister Domina Oszmianska
Sister Francis Canice
Reinhardt
Sister Maria J. Riedel
Sister Marilisa Helena da
Silva
Sister Marinetta Harenza
Sister Mary Dolorey Osowski
Sister Ruth Ann Rogozinski
Sister Shaun Patrice Malone
Sister Veronica Plewinski
John J. & Loretta Smith | Allison Snyder
Sons of Ben
St. Anastasia (SVDP)
St. Cornelius KOC Council
#12391
St. Dorothy Parish
St. Francis DeSales Parish
St. Francis of Assisi Academy
St. James Alumni
St. John Chrysostom Parish
St. John Chrysostom PREP
St. John Vianney Convent
St. Joseph Guild (St. Joseph
Parish)
St. Madeline Boy Scouts
St. Madeline Parish
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
Parish
St. Mary Magdalene
Community
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Frances Rhoda Stier
Lillian Stuart-Whistler
Susan Sutsko
Michael Szelak
TEFAP - Government
Program
The Fresh Market
The Ken Margolis Family
Giving Fund
The Leo & Peggy Pierce
Family Foundation
The Glenmede Trust
Company, N.A.
The Marian Community, Inc.
Doris E Tirado, M.D.
United Way of Greater Phila
& SNJ
United Way Tocqueville
Society
Dave & Maria Valentin
Villanova University
Vanguard Charitable
Endowment
Mr. & Mrs. John Villari
Geraldine Waddell
WAWA Inc.
Wells Fargo Campaign
West Council Verizon
Telecom Pioneers
Scott & Chris Wheatle
WIC (Chester)
Widener University Nursing
Students
Windsor Christian Academy
Clara Zukowski |
|---|---|---|---|

Bernardine Center Activities



Mike, Volunteer, Marylou, Food Pantry Manager, and Mark, Goodwill Trainee unload cases of unopened food and supplies and begin the job of separating and shelving 1,412 pounds of items from end-of-the-year donations from Villanova students.



Participants in a spring 2013 Anger Management Class display their completion certificates.

Bernardine Center staff provides a "helping hand up" for individuals so they, in turn, can engage their families and community in the service of sharing personal gifts and talents.



Participants in a winter 2013 series of Anger Management Classes receive their certificates of completion. Now their real world choices begin!



On Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, Sr. Sandra (L) with Sr. Kate and Sr. Marie Lucy (R) visit with Jimmy Gray, Staff Assistant to Representative Patrick Meehan advocating to increase SNAP benefits for hungry families in the FARM BILL legislation.



Gerri Eisenstein, Sally Christy and Arlene Prince deliver 624 pounds of food to Marylou and Sr. Carolyn (R) from the Resident Outreach Club of Maris Grove.

West Side Brunch

provides fresh home-grown produce ripe from Bernardine Center's garden, thanks to the diligence of Chuck our Master Gardener.



Marilyn Shiels volunteers weekly at Bernardine Center to prepare a West Side Brunch meal.



I don't know what the secret is; it appears that Sr. Carolyn and Marilyn are conspiring for a special meal for West Side Brunch!



What a great yield of beans readying for families!



Chuck McLaughlin, our Master Gardener, is dedicated to pursuing a plentiful harvest from our garden.



Sr. Carolyn welcomes four generations - Pamela, her daughter Angela with baby in belly, and granddaughter Cierra - to a healthy meal.



This banner hangs in our Center as a reminder that we are dependent on others for the food we distribute to those in need.

Bernardine Center serves all those in need regardless of age, disability, national origin, race, or sex.



Tim enjoyed his nutritious meal and is ready to meet the world.