# **POWER PACKS POST** a semi-quarterly e-publishing | issue 10 | May 2023





# IT'S ALMOST SUMMER TIME!

School is almost out for the summer! Our regular school year program runs until May 24th. Our summer program runs from June 21st thru August 9th. You can find more information on our summer program, and enroll, right on our website: coming soon. Keep your eyes on our social media and webpage to see when enrollment opens!

Have you heard of our MAY MATCH campaign? Help us get to the finish line of the school year program and sail into summer by making a donation. All donations in the month of May, up to \$10,000, are being matched by a generous anonymous corporate donor!



Noticed that we missed a few editions of the Power Packs Post? Liz was out on maternity leave, but she's back! Welcome back to the Post!



### NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April is national Volunteer Month, a time to recognize and promote volunteerism. At Power Packs, we celebrated our amazing volunteers with a small lunch and the camaraderie among the volunteers who attended was a joy to behold.

Our work would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. Volunteers support us in many ways: sorting and packing food in our warehouse, delivering our packs to schools and other distribution sites, assisting with administrative tasks in our office, and helping plan and execute events. The support they provide plays a vital role in the fight against hunger.

In the month of March alone, Power Packs added 50 new volunteers and all volunteers donated more than 600 hours to our mission. In just that one month, that is a savings of more than \$14,800 in labor costs that Power Packs can reinvest into food distribution. But you can't measure the value of our volunteers solely by numbers. Many of our volunteers are like our second family. They are here weekly, sometimes multiple days each week. We get to know them and their families, and we see their compassion and desire to help others. They truly give from their hearts, and we are blessed to have them help us make a positive impact in a child's life.

If you would like to learn how you can volunteer with Power Packs, please visit powerpacksproject.org/volunteer.

Brad Peterson, Executive Director

## MEET KARINA MURCELO

Karina is PPP's Volunteer + Admin Coordinator. She is the smiling face when you walk through our doors! She started with Power Packs back in November of 2022.

**Tell us about yourself!** I was born and raised in Lancaster PA. I am a McCaskey High school and Millersville University Alumni. I have a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. My family are Caribbean diasporas from Puerto Rico. I am bilingual in English and Spanish. I am excited to continue meeting and helping everyone here!

What were you doing before joining PPP? I recently graduated from Millersville University and worked in the Admitting office in Lancaster General Hospital.

What made you choose PPP? PPP has helped many families in my community as well as my own. It was a no brainer to join such a wonderful organization.

What most excites you about this position with PPP? The opportunity to grow at the same time as helping many families in my community.

What kinds of things do you like to do in your spare time? I love traveling to new places, countries, and restaurants. Most Importantly, I like to spend time with friends, family, and cat.



#### MEET MATT LANE: NEW BOARD MEMBER

Matt joined the Power Packs Board in January 2023. Matt has worked for M&T Bank for 9 years and lived in Lancaster for 5 years. Matt grew up in Endicott, NY and moved to Utica, NY to join M&T Bank in 2014. Matt and his wife moved to Lancaster to be closer to family in 2018.

Matt joined M&T Bank in 2014 through the Management Development Program in the Upstate New York Market and has managed several branches between the Upstate New York and Pennsylvania Markets. Currently, Matt is the Retail Regional Sales Manager for the York East/Lancaster Region. In this role, Matt supports 15 branches and 87 bankers from York City to Honey Brook and Lebanon, and Lancaster County in between.

Matt and his wife are the proud parents of an 18 month old little girl that is their entire world. She is walking (more like running!) and learning so much every day, which is incredibly rewarding to watch. Matt and his wife also have one cat who is three years old. Matt enjoys watching sports, being outside, reading books, and being with his family.

#### UNITED WAY - PANEL ON FOOD INSECURITY

"We are transitioning from a pandemic crisis to a hunger crisis," - Brad Peterson

Our Executive Director, Brad, was recently featured on a panel about Food Insecurity.

"We're just trying to change families' meal patterns and make a difference in a child's life, one meal at a time"

Watch the panel on OneUnitedLancaster.com





#### TRUTH WITH CONTEXT



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Power Packs Project has recently expanded even further! Now we are in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Eastern York! We are also in the Catholic schools in Lancaster.

Exciting news for Power Packs and our community!

# APRIL WAS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH!



