# **POWER PACKS POST** a semi-quarterly e-publishing | issue 11 | August 2023





# TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

It's that time of year again! Back to School! Our school year distribution starts on **Wednesday, September 20th.** We will open enrollment the week of August 28th, and all families must re-enroll, regardless if they participated in our summer program or not.

Would you like to help us start this school year off successfully? We are all facing challenging times, prices at the grocery store are skyrocketing, and we need help to meet our mission.

### www.powerpacksproject.org/donate

Interested in volunteering? Power Packs Project's lifeblood is our dedicated, amazing volunteers!



### www.powerpacksproject.org/volunteerwithus

ER. EDUCA

PACKS



#### Our address is:

1915 Olde Homestead Lane Suite 102 Lancaster, PA 17601

Thank you



### NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last summer, Power Packs began offering our warehouse sites as a pick-up option for families enrolled in our program. We did this to provide an alternative location that may be more convenient due to location or our hours of operation. Also, by opening our doors to families, they can take advantage of "extras" we have available that won't go into the weekly. Items such as small donations of produce from local growers and 64-ounce juice containers that are too heavy to put into a pack are just two examples of what is available.

The feedback from our families has been tremendous, and more families are coming to take advantage of this, as both our Lancaster and Lebanon warehouses have more than 100 families picking up each week.

In Lancaster alone, more than a ton of food is going out our front door every month! We are excited to be able to provide even more food to them and see the smiles on their faces.

One other benefit is our ability to interact with families face-to-face. I was in the lobby recently when a woman came in to pick up and struck up a conversation with her. She told me they have a three-generation household; a daughter lost her job and moved back home with her daughter and the grandparents are also raising two other grandchildren. Due to having more people in their home, and their rent going up \$75 a month, her husband took a new job to make \$1.50 an hour more. Unfortunately, that extra income meant their SNAP benefits were cut \$170 a month.

She told me their daughters received Power Packs when they were in school and it was a blessing then, as it is now. And she thanked me profusely for helping them.

These are the people you are assisting when you support Power Packs. Families, who for a variety of reasons, are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table. Together, we are providing the most basic of needs for them and providing much-needed nutrition.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission. We couldn't do it without you!

**Brad Peterson, Executive Director** 

## SUMMER PROGRAM - RECAP

We had a very busy, very successful 9 week summer program that ran from June until late August.

Summer is often the time that local foodinsecure children will go hungry. No more access to free school breakfasts and lunches means that nutritional, important food might be hard to come by.



We work hard to bridge the gap between school year food access by creating a summer program of Power Packs, as well as offering our in-office Pantry Pickup. That gives our Power Packs families opportunities to stock up on staples and extra items as much as possible. We even get items from local businesses, like Panera, so our families have delicious bread and pastry items as special treats! We love the community we're in.





#### 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!

### FUNDRAISERS

Thank you to community partners, who choose Power Packs Project to team up with for donations. One amazingly successful fundraiser this summer was a local biking group - West End Riders who held a month-long fundraiser in July, Dimes for Miles. People could pledge donations for how many miles these dedicated bikers completed in the month of July. What an awesome mission!



ANNUAL REPORT

Did you see our new Annual Report, located right on our homepage? There you can find lots of awesome information, statistics about our previous fiscal year, and the impact that Power Packs Project has had on our community!



