

POWER PACKS POST

a semi-quarterly e-publishing | issue 2 | January 2021



Representing Power Packs with our masks!

ISSUE WITH USPS MAIL

You might have seen on our social media that we've had an issue with our USPS mail forwarding. Nothing sent to our previous 2219 Dutch Gold Drive address is being forwarded to us, **so please make sure you note our new address!**



Thank you to Junior League of Lancaster!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! We are excited for the new blessings and challenges that 2021 will bring. Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, and amazing advocates. We are in year 16 of operation because of you!



Please note our new address!

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our new address is:

1915 Olde Homestead Lane
Suite 102
Lancaster, PA 17601

Thank you!



NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We Couldn't Do It Without You! The holiday season is often a time of personal reflection. At Power Packs Project, that especially rings true. During the holidays we are reminded daily of the many blessings for which we are thankful. We are truly blessed with the enormous support we receive from individuals and organizations in the area. A pre-holiday visit to Power Packs would reinforce how fortunate we are and bring a smile to your face. You may have witnessed someone dropping off stuffing in our lobby for our holiday meal distribution, smiling as the stuffing was placed in our collection box.

You most definitely would have seen our dedicated volunteers packing boxes of non-perishables and bags of carrots, potatoes, and oranges for our distribution. Our volunteers are the engine that makes our operation go and are cheerfully eager to come in and do anything to help. Even with limited numbers for safety precautions, more than 20 volunteers donated 92 hours in the month of December! We had protein drives by Manheim Township's Cross-Country team and Moravian Manor, each providing much-needed nutrition for families in our area. And, of course, we had scores of individuals, churches, and companies make financial donations.

The generosity of our neighbors amazes me, but I imagine it shouldn't. It is what we do here in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. It is giving back, paying it forward if you will. We come together and help those in need, especially in a year as challenging as 2020. It is part of the fabric of our community and why this place we call home is so special. Each person with whom we come in contact, whether they are a volunteer, someone picking up food for distribution, or a donor, bestows a blessing upon us and enriches our lives. As we start a new year, we will carry these many blessings with us. Thank you to everyone who blesses us - we couldn't do it without you!

Brad Peterson, Executive Director

RECAP FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE



Hello Friends of Power Packs Project! Thank you for your support of Power Packs and our mission to empower families with education and ingredients to create nutritious weekend meals, so their children return to school fed and ready to learn. My name is Steve Goble and I'm excited to share a little bit about myself and a HUGE bright spot from our year...all thanks to supporters like you! I joined the Power Packs Board in April 2019 with a deep personal connection to the mission of the organization - I used to be a kid who received free lunch all through my school years and remember what it was like to feel hungry sometimes.

AND MEET STEVE GOBLE

As a Board Member and local small business owner, I'm excited to share this personal perspective and use it as a way to strengthen Power Packs Project and to improve the lives of those who we aim to serve. And we can only serve those students in need due to the warmth and generosity of supporters like you, as evidenced by the success of this year's Extraordinary Give. While the numbers don't tell the whole story, I want to share with you two:

80,341 and 690. **The number \$80,341** is the money individuals like you supported us with through your generosity and donations in our efforts to address the food insecurity in our community. **The number 690** is the number of individual donors from the community who share the same goals we do and showed their support. Both of these numbers are a HUGE bright spot in an otherwise chaotic year...and they're a direct result of the love and support from you! With that in mind, here's to starting 2021 with a positive mindset and a forward focus as we continue to serve those in our community - we couldn't do it without you!



Cheers,

Steve



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ALISSA LARKIN

Q: When did you start volunteering with PPP?

A: I started with Power Packs through St. James Church in 2012 as a packer at Hamilton Elementary.

Q: Why did you choose PPP?

A: My family and I had moved back to Lancaster in 2011 (left in 2001) and I was looking for ways to get meaningfully connected back to the community and several friends were already packers and loved the organization.

Q: What is your favorite part of volunteering with PPP?

A: Honestly, how can you do something that you know will make a difference in the lives of others, especially children, and not feel great about it? In addition, every other person I have met working there has been so dedicated and such a team player.

Q: What is a favorite memory of volunteering with us?

A: I began working in the original warehouse (Walnut St) in 2016 and I think I am one of the few people who actually misses that sprawling, dated, creaky-floored building. I worked with the same little crew most Thursdays (distribution day) and we got so much exercise moving dozens of pallets and hauling so many boxes of food around that I never had to work out that day of the week!

Q: What is one interesting fact about you?

A: I have fraternal twin daughters in college and a fraternal twin sister myself. My sister actually introduced me to my husband - while they were dating! (They did not last long, but are great as in-laws.)

Q: Do you volunteer with other organizations?

A: In addition to working part-time (with Lancaster Maternal Fetal Medicine), I have also served on the Board of Lancaster Early Education Center since 2015. Pre-Covid, I tutored in local elementary schools and helped at an early morning program.

FOOD DRIVE: MORAVIAN MANOR

Thank you to Moravian Manor for holding an amazing food drive for us! We received a van load of nutritious food for our families and more than \$2,250 in monetary donations!

To the right is our Power Packs Project van being loaded up with all the collected food items, which are also in the picture below. We are blown away by the generosity of Moravian Manor!



DO YOU WANT TO HOLD A FOOD DRIVE FOR US?

Lately, we have had a lot of corporations reach out to us, wanting to help in some way. We are still strictly following COVID 19 safety protocols, which limit our volunteer capacities. Another way to help out is to host a Food Drive. For both the Thanksgiving and Christmas time holiday food boxes, we held food drives to collect specific items that we needed that were very expensive to source otherwise. We had an overwhelming response, especially from the Junior League of Lancaster (see image on first page)! It was a great way for corporations or community

groups to help Power Packs and give back to their community in a COVID 19 safe manner. We are excited to continue this, so if your group is looking to hold a food drive, email Liz@powerpacksproject.org to find out if there are any specific items we are looking to source for future boxes! We hope to host bigger volunteer groups once we are through with this virus!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NEW Board Members joined this year as we said goodbye to Craig Rodenberger and Mark Tipton, whose terms were up. Welcome to Angela Sanders and Jevon Hawkins!



ANGELA SANDERS

Angela is a partner at BCGL and focuses her practice in the areas of Employment, Employment Litigation, and Civil Litigation. She provides a wide variety of employment counseling, as well as representing employers in litigation matters in both state and federal courts. She is a welcome addition to Power Packs' Board of Directors! Welcome, Angela!

JEVON HAWKINS

Jevon Hawkins is a Regional Director at WellSpan Health. Jevon ensures the safety of patients and staff members daily. Procurement, contracting, value analysis, and informatics are core competencies for this Healthcare Logistics professional. Preparing for regulatory inspections, long-term stewardship projects, and continuous improvement are added to Jevon's daily tasks which center around ensuring the right product, is in the right place, at the right time. Welcome, Jevon!



Thank you for reading! Look for our next edition in the next Quarter!