

POWER PACKS POST

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Power  Packs
PROJECT



HALFWAY THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR ALREADY?

We are more than halfway through the 2021-2022 school year, time is flying by! Soon we'll be planning our Summer Program and thinking about Fall 2022. Thank you to all who have donated, volunteered, and spread the word about Power Packs Project.

WE ARE HIRING!

You might have seen on our social media that we are hiring! We have a few positions open right now: a full-time Lebanon Coordinator and a part-time Lancaster Warehouse Coordinator. If you're interested, visit the careers tab on our website:

www.powerpacksproject.org/careers



Still from Lucent Films Milk Matters! Promo

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our address is:

1915 Olde Homestead Lane
Suite 102
Lancaster, PA 17601

Thank you!



NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Inevitably when the calendar flips to January, people make resolutions. They resolve to exercise, to call their mom more, quit smoking, learn a new hobby, or any number of other things they hope to do in the new year.

At Power Packs, we don't hope to do something different, but instead we want to offer hope to the families we serve. I saw a study recently that noted 13% of families in Lancaster County worry about their money running out before they can buy food. Nearly the same number of families skip meals to help their dollars go farther.

Families have enough challenges to worry about these days: housing, daycare, transportation, and, of course, the ongoing pandemic. Food should not be on that list, but unfortunately it is for many. That is where you, and Power Packs, can make a difference for our neighbors facing hunger. We can help alleviate some of the impossible choices that must be made by families whose budgets are broken. We can offer hope. Hope of better days ahead!

We know the food we provide offers sustenance for their body, but it also feeds their soul. Removing that worry of putting food on the table is life-altering. The apples or soup we distribute truly makes a difference in the lives of families in our backyard.

Thank you for your support of Power Packs as we work together to change lives, one meal at a time.

Brad Peterson, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Peterson".

MEET LEE - VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Lee is one of our amazing volunteers in Lebanon!

When did you start volunteering with Power Packs?

I was the original Distribution site coordinator at what was then Washington Elementary. I remember Joan Espenshade and myself meeting with Annette Rosa-Pabon who is now the Program Director, but then was employed by the school to set up the logistics of the distribution there. I believe it was about 2008.

I served there for about 7 years until I moved to Naples, Florida. I moved back to Mount Gretna in 2018 just in time to be among the original volunteers for Lebanon and I now serve as the Distribution site coordinator at Elco School District.

Why did you decide to volunteer with PP?

My favorite bible story is from John 21 when Jesus reinstates Peter and instructs him to "Feed My Sheep." I took this instruction to heart for myself as a Christ Follower and have looked for organizations in the community that actively provide solutions for the issue of food insecurity. I also have a passion for helping children. Power Packs uniquely fits for me as a volunteer.

What is your favorite part about volunteering?

I really like getting to meet and interact with our clients. Of course, it is satisfying knowing that I am part of helping them, but getting to know them personally makes it even more so. I also enjoy the opportunity to make the site I am working my own, and being a site coordinator allows me that freedom.

Do you volunteer with other organizations?

I have taught Sunday School to middle elementary aged children for about 25 years. I currently serve at LCBC in that role. I also do noon time meal deliveries for Lebanon County Christian Ministries. In Naples, I worked with Blessings in a Backpack which is an organization similar in purpose to Power Packs, but I really appreciate the educational and nutrition emphasis that Power Packs employs that makes it so much more than just an organization providing food to folks in need.

MEET JEANNIE - NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jeannie is our new Admin & Volunteer Coordinator!

Tell us a little bit about yourself

Hi, I'm Jeannie and I am thrilled to have joined the amazing team at Power Packs Project. It is a privilege to work with the dedicated and cheerful volunteers and staff at an organization who helps local families in our community stay nourished, strong, and ready to learn!

What were you doing before you joined Power Packs?

Before joining Power Packs Project, I lived in the Washington, DC area and worked for notable nonprofits, such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and NatureServe. When I moved back home to Lancaster in 2013, I began working at a local elementary school as an Instructional Aide. I currently reside in Manheim Township with my family, including 2 teenage children.

What made you choose Power Packs for a career?

I knew about Power Packs Project from when I worked at a local school, and I learned firsthand the impact that Power Packs has on children and families in need. Every week, I witnessed the difference Power Packs made by assuring children are well-fed and ready to learn in school. And I love the fact Power Packs empowers families with the tools they need to provide delicious and nutritious meals today and tomorrow.

What excites you most about your new position?

Working with the remarkable volunteers - their dedication, drive, and motivation on why they volunteer every day, week after week.

So what kinds of things do you like to do in your spare time?

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, reading, and once the weather is nicer -- working in my garden and motorcycle rides to nowhere.

Welcome, Jeannie!

PENLANCO PURSE BINGO



Penlanco Federal Credit Union is hosting a designer purse bingo event on **Saturday, March 12th at 1 PM**. 100% of proceeds are going to Power Packs this year, so make sure to sign up for tickets (check our Facebook page to find the ticket link in the event). A big thank you to Penlanco FCU for thinking of us!

MENTOR VOLUNTEERS

On Tuesday, February 8th, we had an awesome visit and volunteering session from the group at Lancaster Chamber Discovering Paths Mentor Program! They learned more about Power Packs Project, our mission, and they helped us pack our boxes for our families this week. Thank you to an amazing local group for thinking of us!



Welcome to the new Board Members who joined us this calendar year!

Lori Roscoe
Brad Steele
Jennifer Zuidema
Beth Ebersole
Joy Meley

WELCOME TO OUR NEW
BOARD MEMBERS

Look for a feature spotlight from one of our new Board Members in next quarter's issue of the Power Packs Post!

EXTRA GIVE RECAP



Thank you to all who donated and spread the word for us for the 2021 Extra Give! We are proud to announce a total donation amount of \$96,908.56 from 608 donors and the Stretch Pool. We are so thankful for our amazing network of donors and volunteers who advocate for us! Thank you!

TARGET CIRCLE RECAP

We participated again in Target's new initiative to give back to nonprofits in local communities. Guests who shopped at Target were then able to "vote" for who should get the majority of stretch pool of funds, comprising of proceeds from every Target shopping trip. Our total payout: \$1,507.05. VERY exciting! We are pleased to announce that they've selected us again to participate. Keep an eye out for the official announcement and instructions, and get ready to shop at Target + support your favorite nonprofits!



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Thank you for reading! Find more pictures on our social media pages and look for our next edition in the next Quarter!