

2018 PMA Mid-Year Conference

Heart of the Community Project

While many of us may not realize it, hunger is a major concern throughout our commonwealth and our country. According to research performed by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2014, more than 1.76 million Pennsylvanians experienced food insecurity and were at risk of hunger. That was nearly 1 out of every 8 residents. Feeding Pennsylvania provides support to eight member food banks across the commonwealth, distributing more than 138 million pounds of food to these agencies annually, which is then distributed by the food banks to more than 2,600 local agencies. These efforts get nutritious food in the hand of 2 million individuals annually.

One of the items most requested from food banks, and one that is sometimes in short supply, is milk. To satisfy this need, a partnership was formed among Feeding Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, American Dairy Association North East, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, agriculture partners, and business leaders to provide fresh milk to Pennsylvania families in need through Feeding Pennsylvania's network of food banks. As a result, the "Fill a Glass with Hope" initiative was born.

Fill a Glass with Hope was launched at the 2016 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Since its inception, donations to Fill a Glass with Hope have enabled member food banks to provide more than 3 million serving of milk to their clients.

Thanks to Fill a Glass with Hope, the eight member food banks can purchase milk from dairies at a reduced price. On average, each dollar contributed to Fill a Glass with Hope translates to eight servings, or one half-gallon, of nutrient-rich fresh milk.

We have invited Jane Clements-Smith, Executive Director of Feeding Pennsylvania, and David Smith, President of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, to attend our Friday afternoon session at the Mid-Year Conference for a check presentation. As a result, we would like to have all donations in hand prior to that session so we can provide an accurate grand total. Please make checks out as follows:

- Make checks payable to Feeding Pennsylvania (Feeding Pennsylvania is a 501(c)3 organization, so small games of chance proceeds can be used)
- In the memo portion, earmark the check "Fill a Glass with Hope" so that the funds will be used for this program
- Mail checks to:
 - Pennsylvania Moose Association
 - Shawn Baile, Secretary
 - 401 Riviera Street
 - Mount Wolf, PA 17347
- Please mail checks no later than March 14 to assure that they are received in plenty of time to be credited toward our overall donation. All checks will be turned over to Feeding Pennsylvania following the session.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of our Mid-Year Conference Heart of the Community project.

Fraternally,
Shawn

Shawn Baile
Secretary
Pennsylvania Moose Association
pennamoose@outlook.com