Team Up Against Hunger food drive in Bucks County and Montgomery County

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Philadelphia Chapter of the NFL Alumni Association, Bucks County Behavioral Health/Developmental Programs, and Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, is coordinating a Team Up Against Hunger food drive from November 1 through December 16 with a goal of 5,000 pounds of donations collected. The beneficiaries for the food drive are the Bucks County Opportunity Council for all donations collected in Bucks County and the MontCo Anti-Hunger Network for all donations collected in Montgomery County.

On December 10, this collaborative effort of organizations will host two special events to offer a Saturday drop off opportunity for food and non-food donations that can be found on the webpage for the food drive. During these events on December 10 only, the general public and kids in particular have an opportunity to receive basic football and cheerleading skills training from former NFL players and cheerleaders. In addition, drive-thru drop offs of donations are encouraged, and will include volunteers assisting with box/donation collections from vehicles. The locations and times for each special event are:

- December 10, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Norristown Regional Health Center, 1401 Dekalb Street, Norristown
- December 10, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., H.E.L.P. Center at Bucks County Opportunity Council, 194 Commerce Circle, Bristol

Donation suggestions for food and non-food items along with the 13 drop off locations across both counties are on the webpage for the food drive, to include several police departments, local hospitals, health centers, and county/township administrative buildings that have graciously agreed to participate in this community effort to help local residents needing a helping hand. If you are interested in becoming a drop off location for future food drive opportunities, please send an email to MBHofPA@magellanhealth.com.

"BCOC is proud to partner with organizations like Magellan, NFL Alumni and Bucks County Government to fight hunger. Right now, in Bucks County we help feed our community through over 75 food pantries and direct distributions. In our County alone, over 50,200 individuals are facing food insecurity, with 17,000 of them being children. This effort and support are so necessary to make sure families are getting enough to eat every day," says Elizabeth Zbinden, food program manager for Bucks County Opportunity Council.

Amanda Musselman, executive director for the MontCo Anti-Hunger Network, commented, "Our emergency food network is at a pivotal moment as the need for food assistance continues to rise.

We are not able to support our alliance of over sixty hunger relief organizations in Montgomery County without community support from partnerships like this. We all play an important role in being hunger relief champions that can eliminate hunger from our community."

Lee Woodall, former NFL player and president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NFL Alumni Association, commented, "Food is needed to nourish the body and needed for our children and our communities to survive in the time when no one should go without a meal, but people do. NFL Alumni try hard to make a difference in caring for kids and caring for our communities. We pledge to 'Team Up Against Hunger' and make an impact that gives hope, joy, nourishment, and change."

Jim Leonard, CEO of Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, commented, "We are so appreciative for this collaborative effort, and we look forward to impactful results across Bucks County and Montgomery County. It's also important to realize that efforts such as this food drive help to bring attention and donations during the winter months, but on a year-round basis there continues to be need for our neighbors. We encourage everyone to keep aware of organizations such as the Bucks County Opportunity Council and the MontCo Anti-Hunger Network and assist as you are able to."

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