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Amen To Action: Nearly 1M Meals Donated to Food Bank Amid Pandemic
Annual meal packing event postponed due to COVID-19

PITTSBURGH, PA (Wednesday, November 25, 2020) – Since 2017, Reid Carpenter, Bishop Zubik and other community leaders have hosted an annual event the day after Thanksgiving which brought thousands of people together to literally pack millions of meals. This year, COVID-19 forced them to change their strategy, but not their end goal.

Amen to Action, a day-long initiative dedicated to giving back and moving away from commercialism, brought together people of all faiths at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to create a platform of spiritual capital. The volunteer event, open to everyone, normally includes groups of 15 people assigned to team tables to pack meals. More than one million meals were packed each of the last three years. This year’s in-person event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

This past summer, Carpenter, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation President Lee Kricher and Food Bank president and CEO Lisa Scales met virtually to discuss the inevitable, that the in-person event would need to be cancelled. Together, the trio crafted a letter which was sent to event supporters encouraging them to provide support financially to once again provide a million meals in support of the Food Bank.

“The Food Bank is grateful for the wonderful vision of Reid and Lee,” said Scales. “They were resilient and steadfast in their mission to help feed our neighbors in need, no matter how they had to do it.”

“After meeting in person to pack over one million meals for our neighbors the past three years, our generous donors helped to provide close to one million meals again in 2020 through our partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank,” said Kricher, president of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation.

Since August, \$170,000 has been raised, which will provide enough food for up to 850,000 meals.

“During this incredibly difficult year we rejoice that we were able to process almost one million meals to those in need,” said Carpenter, co-founder of Amen to Action. “We thank the many people who contributed the resources to make this possible. As importantly, it has united people of faith and good will in love and service and we thank them.”

Amen to Action and it’s parent organization, the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, are committed to finding a way to provide at least one million meals for our community in 2021 in partnership, once again, with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes nearly 40 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of agencies, partners and programs. The Food Bank was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America, the leading domestic hunger-relief charity in the U.S. For more information on hunger in our region or how to get involved, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org.