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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Bank awards 1889 Foundation grant to help kids in Cambria County get access to healthy, local food

Johnstown, PA (March 16, 2022) Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) is excited to partner with the 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health and 1889 Foundation to create a new Local Food Systems Coordinator position for Cambria County. The new position, funded by a \$45,000 grant from the Food Bank and a \$55,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation, will work with local farmers, producers, distributors, food security agents and consumers, to get healthy, local foods into the hands of children and families in the area. The position is now open to applications. View posting here: <https://www.1889jeffersoncenter.org/2022/03/16/were-hiring-1889-jefferson-center-is-searching-for-a-food-coordinator/>

“We are delighted to be partnering with the 1889 Foundation and multiple community partners in Cambria County to work together to improve access to healthy food. Having enough healthy food is especially important for children’s development, and we’re excited to see how this grant will strengthen community connections and build on the good efforts of neighbors in Cambria County to care for each other,” said Food Bank Director of Child Nutrition Programs Karen Dreyer.

According to Feeding America’s 2019 research, the child food insecurity rate for Cambria County sits at 20%.

“This new position, made possible by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Foodbank and the Aetna Foundation, will work with partners to carry out cross-sector food projects across Cambria County in order to support the growth of a strong, vibrant regional food environment for the next generation,” said 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health Project Manager Leanna Bird.

In 2020, 40 community members and leaders in Cambria County participated in a USDA-led workshop called Local Food, Local Places (LFLP) and worked together to develop an action plan for improving food access and food systems in Johnstown. The four main goals of the action plan include: 1)Improve coordination between community partners to advance food systems initiatives; 2)Increase access to local foods that promote improved health outcomes; 3)Introduce place-making best practices to enhance Johnstown as a destination for living, working, and visiting, and; 4)Helping to connect food entrepreneurs to resources to establish and grow their businesses in Johnstown.

To facilitate the implementation of these goals, the primary action item identified by the coalition was creating the new Local Food Systems Coordinator Position.

This position is now open to applications.

To apply visit: <https://www.1889jeffersoncenter.org/2022/03/16/were-hiring-1889-jefferson-center-is-searching-for-a-food-coordinator/>

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food for more than 45 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 850 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.

About 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health

The 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health was founded as a collaborative research and resource center focused on population health and disease prevention to benefit the citizens living in Cambria and Somerset Counties. The Center's work focuses on identifying key contributing factors to poor health in the region and developing proactive and responsive strategies to address them. The Center is the first of its kind established in a small rural community rather than a large metropolitan area. It is envisioned that the work of the Center will provide a national model of how population health interventions can work in rural communities.

About 1889 Foundation

1889 Foundation's mission is to support innovative programs and initiatives that improve and transform the overall health and wellness of our region. Through collaborations and partnerships, with a focus on population health, the Foundation is dedicated to making meaningful change in the areas that are negatively impacting the health and well-being of our local communities. For more about the 1889 Foundation, visit www.1889foundation.org.