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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Food Bank braces for dip in volunteer power**

*High heating bills push more families to food assistance*

**PITTSBURGH, PA (January 23, 2025)** As higher heating bills hit families, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) is seeing more people turn to it for food assistance, but is struggling to find enough helping hands to serve them. The dire need after the holidays is consistent every year, but has been especially severe as winter weather makes it difficult for volunteers to travel to the warehouse.

“We normally see a dip in the number of volunteers after the holidays, but this year we’re seeing more people come through our doors for food. We’re hopeful the community will step up to make sure we have the manpower to feed our neighbors,” said Manager of Corporate and Community Giving, Maria Montaro.

The greatest need for volunteers is in the Food Bank’s onsite pantry, The Market, during business hours Monday through Friday. The Food Bank is short about 75 of the close to 500 volunteers per week it needs to feed the community across all 11 counties it serves.

Volunteers are needed for three and a half to four-hour shifts which could include:

- Preparing food for distributions
- Stocking shelves in The Market
- Bagging items or weighing food at The Market
- Assisting families as a shopping buddy in The Market
- Helping families register/get food at distributions

Individual volunteers ages 18+ can sign up at [pittsburghfoodbank.org/volunteer](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org/volunteer). To schedule a group to volunteer, email the volunteer team at [volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org). Groups of 5 to 15 volunteers are most helpful to the organization.

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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 42 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 1,000 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](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org).