



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

2018 Annual Report

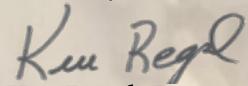


I want to personally thank you for partnering with Just Harvest as we work to achieve economic justice. Thanks to your commitment, we accomplished so much in 2018:

- Along with our partners we mobilized hundreds of people to prevent massive transit cuts in Allegheny County, protecting fresh food and job access in the Mon Valley.
- Our Free Tax Prep program put over \$6 million in tax refunds back into the pockets of the county's low-income working people and families. Since 2013, your support has made it possible for us to provide 35,000 completed tax returns, resulting in \$65 million in refunds to those who need it most.
- We helped protect the Food Stamp program from attacks at the federal and state level.
- Our Fresh Access program saw a 23% increase in food stamp sales at local farmers markets.
- We worked in collaboration with partners to help open a grocery store in Clairton—the first fresh food access in the community in ten years!

In 2018, we also continued Just Harvest's long-term commitment to informing and engaging low-income people as voters. Ending hunger requires being active on Election Day . . . and every day. With you by our side, we are improving lives and lifting up those in our community who are too often oppressed and ignored. Some of their stories are in this report. I hope you'll read them, take pride in what you helped accomplish, and join with us in a vision of what we can achieve together in the future.

Sincerely,



Ken Regal, Executive Director



Attendees at the June People's Budget rally in Harrisburg (above).

ADVANCING BETTER PUBLIC POLICY

PROTECTING THE FEDERAL SAFETY NET

NUTRITION AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE

In 2018, advocates and activists like you stopped the Trump administration and Republican House leaders from using the federal budget and the U.S. Farm Bill to toughen time limits for SNAP ("food stamps") and slash funding for – or eliminate – farmers market shopping incentives for low-income people, healthy food access initiatives, LIHEAP, and other key programs.

WIN!

ongoing battle



In October, Pres. Trump announced his plan to change the 100+ year-old "Public Charge rule" in order to bar low-income immigrants from getting a green card. We joined with local allies to speak out against his un-American act, mobilizing participation (above) in the required 60-day public comment period. More than 200,000 total comments were submitted nationwide, doubling our national allies' goal. The comments should hugely delay – and possibly block – the rule change.

DEFENDING CRITICAL STATE SERVICES

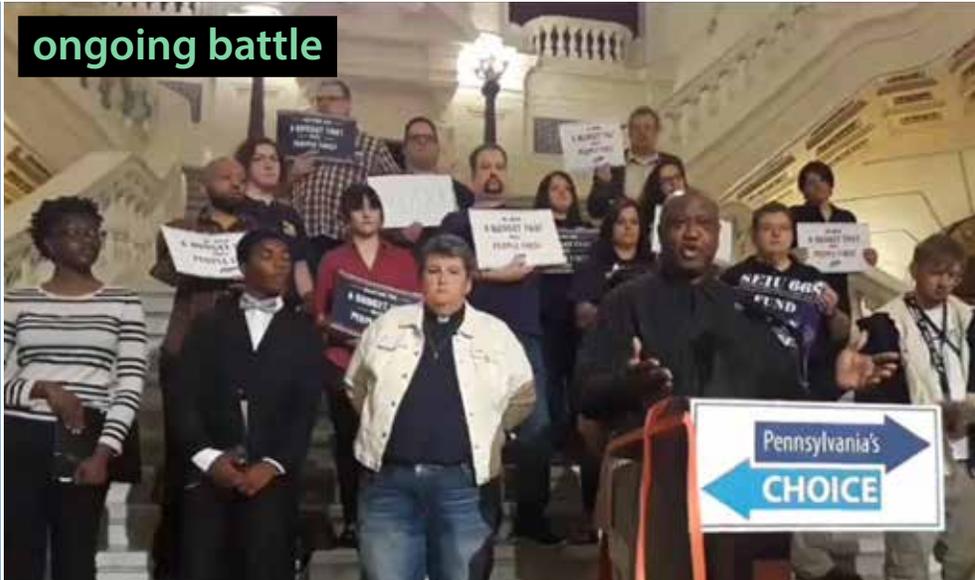
NUTRITION AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Just Harvest and its members helped block Republican state legislators' attempts to toughen SNAP work requirements through the 2018-19 Pennsylvania budget.

By October, Republican state legislators had passed a bill to create work requirements for people who rely on Medicaid (HB 2138). We helped keep the pressure on Gov. Wolf, who kept his word and vetoed the bill. He made clear that protecting Medicaid access is critical to protecting vulnerable Pennsylvanians' access to healthcare.

WIN!

ongoing battle



In June, Just Harvest and other Pennsylvania's Choice coalition partners spoke out in Harrisburg for a state budget that would put people first. (*Just Harvest Board member and Fresh Corners store owner Carl Lewis above at lectern.*) PA's upside-down tax system has long meant low- and middle-income families pay more than their fair share and left our state billions of dollars short in revenue. Every year, we strive to make sure the budget debate is about what government should invest in, not cut.

ADVANCING LOCAL EQUITY

PUBLIC TRANSIT

In early 2018, we won our joint campaign with public transit stakeholders, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, and Mon Valley Initiative to reform the Port Authority of Allegheny County's Bus Rapid Transit proposal. Our efforts persuaded PAAC to address how their BRT plan harmed low-income riders in Mon Valley food deserts as well as the employers who rely on them.

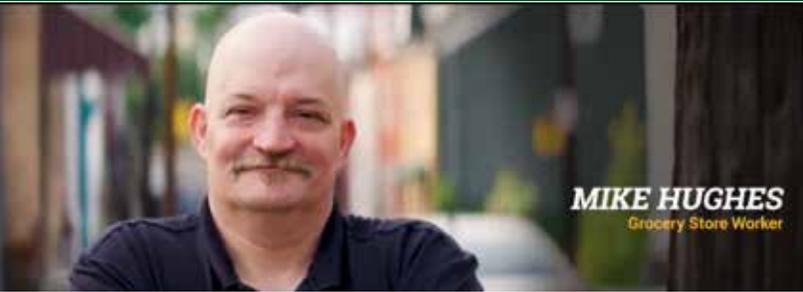
WIN!

ongoing battle



Affordable transportation is key to ending poverty and hunger. To support the 2,500 riders who signed the Make Our Fares Fair petition, we joined with our allies at multiple rallies (above) and PAAC Board meetings in 2018 to call on PAAC to pass three simple policies for fare equity and to grow ridership: 1) Free transfers, 2) No penalty for cash fares, and 3) Fare capping.

BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER



Disabled veteran Mike Hughes knows what it means to struggle. He has had one knee replaced already – a surgery which allowed him to keep working but did not take away the chronic pain that he has lived with for years. For many of those years he worked double shifts on a regular basis, working long days and graveyard shifts in order to feed his family. But the rising cost of living outstripped all that hard work. His employers weren't raising his wages to cover the rising cost of living: rent, food, transportation. Despite his family's strict budgeting, they lost their house, their car, and the ability to buy healthy food.

Mike first called Just Harvest to apply for SNAP when he was working double shifts for Giant Eagle while his union tried to negotiate a new contract for better wages. Like most of those who apply for food stamps, SNAP allowed him to move through a difficult period and back to self-sufficiency. Within a couple of months, he found a better job with better wages and no longer needed food stamps, although he continued to work many hours of overtime.

Mike knew that so many others like him deserved much better. They shouldn't have to worry about keeping a roof over their heads and food on the table just so CEOs could take wealth fit for royalty. He knew that those corporate "welfare queens" had received massive tax breaks and government subsidies even as basic safety nets such as SNAP and Medicaid were threatened with massive cuts.

Mike understood how hunger and economic insecurity are political. He wanted to help hold our government officials to account for choices that often actively promote such economic injustice. So he allowed the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to make a short video of his story (*photo above*) along with other Just Harvest members, to help educate the public and legislators about why protecting access to SNAP and Medicaid was so important. He joined other Just Harvest members in registering low-income people to vote in the 2018 midterm elections. He helped to teach those he registered about the issues that would be affected by their choices at the ballot box, like the minimum wage, paid family leave, tax fairness, and safety net access.

Mike remains determined to work with Just Harvest and other people who hunger for basic fairness. We thank him for his service.



Alandia Heard's phone stays busy. Her clients call and text her from early morning to late at night – not only to make requests as part of her personal care work, but to share photos, jokes, and to check on her wellbeing. "I love my clients," she says, "and they love me. I don't have much, but what I do have I appreciate because I earned it. I have not had an easy life.

"My dad was a contractor. Most times we ate pretty good. But some seasons when he couldn't find work, if all he could bring back was oatmeal, that's what we ate. My brother, sister, and I made a pact: 'Whatever hardships we go through, we will not let our children go hungry.'"

Years later, when Alandia and her kids came to Pittsburgh to live with her mom, she went to vocational school at night and worked at McDonald's during the day, but minimum wage wasn't enough to live on. "Do you know how hard it is to ask for help? In my life, I've gone hungry so my kids could eat."

Food stamps, subsidized child care, and cash assistance got her through the rough times. It was hard, and things did not go as planned. But she was able to raise six kids: a U.S. Marine, a U.S. Navy petty officer, an airman, and two certified nursing assistants. "And a knucklehead. Everybody has one, ok?" Today, Alandia's personal care clients also rely on the same assistance, like Medicaid and food stamps. Alandia is determined to speak out both for herself and her clients to address the causes of hardship.

"Just Harvest knows that things like how you get to work matter," she said. When the Port Authority planned to drastically cut bus service to the Mon Valley, Just Harvest made sure Alandia could testify at PAAC's Duquesne community meeting. "I went and I told the Port Authority that the cuts would hurt the people I care for. I explained that I put my patients in their lifts. I shower them, I feed them, I dress them. I CANNOT be late. If they cut off the early buses then they cut off my patients, too. Because Just Harvest helped bring so many people out to speak, the Port Authority listened and they did not cut those buses."

Alandia always circles back to the people that she loves: her family, her patients, her allies in the community. "If we don't stand up for the little person, nobody else will. When I see something ain't right, I say something. I do something. Enough's enough."

STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY NET

The story below is similar to dozens of others your support makes possible. Hundreds of people in Allegheny County lack the know-how, time, or confidence to navigate the welfare system to get the nutrition assistance they're eligible for and desperately need. Just Harvest's intervention and case advocacy gets their problems solved and benefits approved.

"I just moved back to Pittsburgh from Colorado and am starting over in many ways." As friendly and thoughtful as he is tall, Michael first called Just Harvest in April 2018, "just in case" he wound up needing help with his first application to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) for food stamps.

Talking to us, he was forthright. "Right now my job is going to Mercy Behavioral five days a week to deal with some issues. Having food stamps and medical assistance allows me to focus on what I need to do to get over this hump. Then I can get to a point where I'm building my skills and able to become self-sufficient again."

Unfortunately, obtaining the resources that Michael is eligible for became a saga full of confusion, unnecessary delays, and more avoidable errors than anyone in need of assistance should have to face.

"I'd understand if there were some kind of red flag on my file or if this was a fraud situation. But this just doesn't make sense. And heading into the winter months I'd be even worse off. If it wasn't for Just Harvest I don't know what I'd do."

Dontika Hall, one of Just Harvest's food stamp specialists, first took Michael's call about what documents he'd need for his food stamps application. He was already receiving medical assistance, but an application to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a separate process, even though DHS administers both federal programs. Like all SNAP applicants, Michael would have to provide proof of his income and of his housing, utilities, and medical expenses. The exact documents required for every applicant depends on their circumstance.

Michael mailed his documents to us right away, which we submitted. "During the next month, I never received any mail from DHS informing me if my application had been approved or denied. No SNAP card. No phone calls."

Dontika got on the phone with DHS to suss out the cause of the delay. She assured Michael he'd done everything he was supposed to; DHS had failed on their end. They simply never mailed him the explanation of benefits nor his Electronic Benefits Transfer card – a



Michael wrote beautiful notes to the three Just Harvest staff who helped him. This one reads in part, "Thank you so much for truly caring! It means everything! Please continue your mission serving the people of this community. It matters. You matter. I appreciate your efforts. A resolution manifested because you cared."

card like a credit or debit card – to access the benefits he was clearly approved to receive. Armed with that information, Michael called the DHS hotline. "I was able to get them to send everything."

So he was good – for three months. That's how long SNAP recipients who are identified as ABAWDS (able-bodied adults without dependents) are allowed to receive food stamps according to federal law. After that, they have to either 1) prove they are working at least 20 hours a week or are in a state-recognized job training or community service program; or 2) apply to be exempt from these work requirements due to homelessness or a certified medical disability. Otherwise, their food assistance is terminated.

Because the state considered him an ABAWD, come September, Michael's three months were up. "I received a letter notifying me to re-apply to fulfill the re-certification process," to prove he was still eligible....

Jumping through an endless series of bureaucratic hoops is part and parcel of the public assistance system. You can read the other twists and turns in Michael's story and see how it ends at www.justharvest.org/michaels-story.

BOOSTING HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

IMPROVING NUTRITION THROUGH FRESH ACCESS

Mark and Amanda (*right*) are a young couple that we talked to at the North Side Farmers Market in June. The conversation we had with them (*edited for brevity*) captures how important healthy food is to food stamps shoppers.

Amanda wants to go to school for nutrition. She is passionate about holistic eating and its relation to mental health. Mark works in IT and speaks to recovery groups. He mentions Fresh Access to his peers and talks about the benefits of eating healthy. We asked them to elaborate on how their passions relate to coming to the farmers markets.

Why do you like coming to the North Side Farmers Market?

Mark: In the summer there is no point in going to a grocery store when you can have fresh, organic foods. They have the best nutrients and it's the best thing for you. Going to the store you never know what pesticides they are spraying on stuff, or how long things have been laying out. If you could have fresh, straight from the farm that would be the best thing. I feel like nutrition is lacking especially with people living in poverty.

How did you get introduced to farmers markets and fresh produce?

Mark: I got introduced to the Fresh Access program when I was going to school at CCAC probably five or six years ago. I have been



Your support of Fresh Access and the Food Bucks fresh produce incentive program helped low-income households buy fresh, healthy food at 22 area farmers markets and farm stands while also supporting the neighborhoods that host these markets and regional farms. Total Fresh Access sales since the program began in 2013 surpassed \$1 million by the end of 2018!

coming back since.

Amanda: I was introduced through Mark just this year. I think it's really important to come to farmers markets because there are different vendors and at least you know where things are coming from. They tell you up front that there are no pesticides on it and that it's fresh. The stuff is just better for you—better nutrition and it helps your body.

What has using the Fresh Access program meant for you?

Mark: It has given me access to fresh, organic foods without the astronomical price tag attached to it. And I feel like helping small businesses is what Pittsburgh is about, and it's what our economy is made out of.

...AND FRESH CORNERS

Fresh Corners, our healthy corner stores initiative, expanded to a roster of ten in 2018, with new stores in McKeesport and Uptown. We're also proud to report that eight of those ten are owned by people of color, and one is a nonprofit! Our team was thrilled to join the efforts of **Economic Development South**, **Bridgeway Capital**, and **Fourth Economy Consulting** in helping the **City of Clairton** open its first grocery store in over a decade. Produce Marketplace is a non-profit healthy corner store that carries 45 varieties of produce (*left*).



With support from **Ohio Valley Hospital**, we successfully completed a pilot program, **Produce Rx**, which aimed to provide all patients of the **Sto-Rox Family Health Center** nutritionist with money to buy fresh produce to help them achieve their nutritional and health goals. We also worked with the **Food Trust** to expand Food Bucks – their fresh produce coupon for SNAP shoppers – to **Rocks Express** in McKees Rocks.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

From Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 (unaudited)

A CENTER FOR ACTION
ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

EDUCATION FUND

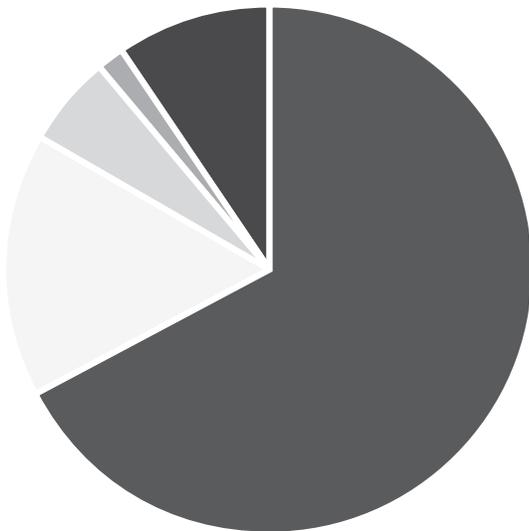
REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants	\$ 9,287	\$ 718,176
Fresh Access Transactions	\$ —	\$ 173,696
Dues & Contributions	\$ 27,733	\$ 34,762
Contracted Services	\$ —	\$ 16,700
Fundraising Events	\$ 68,257	\$ 30,976
Other	\$ 729	\$ 678
Total	\$106,006	\$974,988

EXPENSES

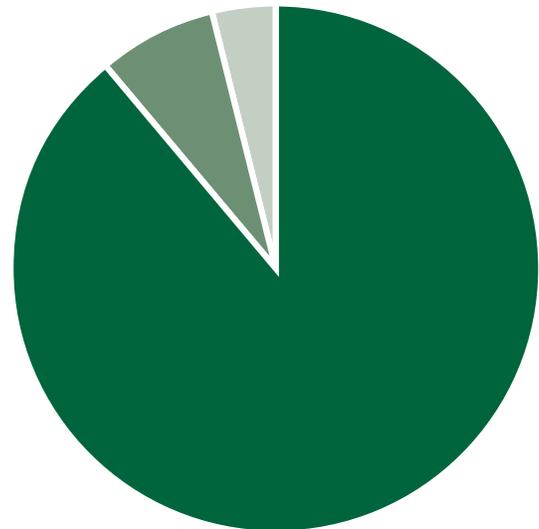
Program	\$ 63,610	\$ 872,617
Management and General	\$ 18,150	\$ 58,412
Fundraising	\$ 8,369	\$ 31,315
Total	\$ 90,129	\$962,344

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



- Grants
- Fresh Access Transactions
- Dues & Contributions
- Contracted Services
- Fundraising Events and Other

EXPENSES



- Program
- Management and General
- Fundraising

Copies of Just Harvest's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within PA (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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The Food Trust

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Student Philanthropy Project

Just Harvest Education Fund is a proud partner agency of the United Way of SW PA. The United Way's Impact Fund enables us to expand and strengthen our efforts to help low-income people access the public safety net benefits they need.

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* Special thanks for their service to Just Harvest ending in 2018.

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A special thank you to
 the Greater Pittsburgh
 Community Food Bank
 for their partnership on
 Empty Bowls, and to Anne
 Hawkins, David Tauberg,
 and theCAUSE for D-JAM.

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 our **312 members and
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\$58,000 in 2018. Your
 generosity, ranging from \$5
 to \$5,000, makes our work
 possible.

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 Chun Zhao
 Ciara Riddick
 Cierra Jenkins
 Colette Bezanis
 Corinne Beaugard
 Cynthia Jankowski
 Cynthia McAllister
 Cynthia Meegan
 Dalton Lock
 Danna Watson
 Darlene Atwater
 David Chancellor
 David Huber
 Dominic Carlini
 Dorcas Alexander
 Dorian Terry

Edward Tomlinson
 Elaina Mitchell
 Ellen Stewart
 Ellis Schmidlapp
 Emily Pontarelli
 Emily Schmidlapp
 Forrest Kesterson
 George Bezek
 Goldy Cheng
 Guangxi Ma
 Harprit Singh
 Heather Wylie
 Janet Salandro
 Jeff Nimerosky
 Jeffrey Jackson
 Jeffrey Parsons
 Jennifer Belden-England
 Jeremy Martinson
 Jessie Smucker
 JoAnna McQuaide
 John Lovett
 Julia Lee
 Karen Mahan
 Kelly Ruoff
 Kuei-O Lin
 Laura Alford
 Laxmi Khatiwada

Leila Knight
 Linxin Ye
 Lisa Schrott
 Lorraine Smith
 Louis Cherry
 Madeline Wahl
 Marissa Ferrighetto
 Mark Albright
 Marlaysia Dyer
 Marlena Coumos
 Mary Gallagher
 Mengya Zhou
 Michael Evans-El
 Michael Latini
 Miguel Feitosa
 Molly Carpenter
 Monica Bender
 Monika Herbst
 Nancy Briones
 Nicolas Lewine
 Norman Edelstein
 Om Koirala
 On Hui
 Oscar Carillo
 Peggie Smith
 Peter Hoysan
 Rachel Webb

Ralph Santoliquido
 Richard Fry
 Richard Matthews
 Richard Shaw
 Robert Alexander
 Ronni Weiss
 Sabrina Hinkle
 Shareef Ali
 Shirley Campbell
 Stephanie Bennett
 Stephanie Eberhardt
 Toni DellaVecchia
 Tyler Beall
 Tyler Mastay
 Vaughn Schmid
 Virginia Finnegan
 William Bron
 Xingyu Xia
 Yalei Han
 Yanlin Li
 Yi Pan
 Yiming Huan
 Yuan Tao
 Yufei Wang
 Yufei Zheng



Volunteers at our 2018 Taxathon, a 12-hour free tax filing assistance event conducted at our South Side side with the help of Repair the World Pittsburgh.

JUST HARVEST
Education Fund
16 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

ABOUT JUST HARVEST

Founded in 1986, Just Harvest works in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania to reduce **hunger** by addressing its root cause: economic injustice. We do this through a focus on public policy, safety net programs, and community food access.



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

16 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 431-8960
www.justharvest.org



Photos on front cover, clockwise from top left: *Fresh Access* client Kathy is able to purchase a tomato plant using food stamps and our SNAP card kiosk; Lily Kenyi in front of her corner store in Brentwood, which joined our *Fresh Corners* network in 2018; two participants in one of our poverty simulations with the **Junior League**; our grassroots organizer, Helen Gerhardt, speaks at a joint press conference in February with the **Keystone Research Center** regarding supermarket industry low wages; students from the **Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh** meet with executive director Ken Regal; our "Big Hunger" education event in April featuring food justice activist and author Andy Fisher, **State Innovation Exchange's** Nikkilia Lu, and **Urbankind Institute's** Dr. Jamil Bey; Just Harvest members in Harrisburg in June to lobby for a people's budget.