



# INDEPENDENCE CHAPTER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE EVENT

## SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ALLENTOWN, PA

### *Experiences of Independence Chapter Members at Second Harvest*

*By: Deborah Faulkinberry,  
Gross McGinley, LLP*

Not only was my community challenge a humbling experience, it opened my eyes in a very profound way.

The Lehigh Valley ALA's community challenge was to volunteer at Second Harvest. Donna Reimer from King Spry graciously arranged the challenge. We were joined by fellow ALA member Kathy Miller from Zator Law Offices.

I just needed to show up. Surely I could squeeze this into my very busy schedule. I had a meeting at 8:15, but I could be there by 10:00 and volunteer until 2. Perfect.

It was a rainy day, my meeting ran late and I was hustling to get to



*IC Members D. Faulkinberry, K. Miller and D. Reimer*

Second Harvest (on the outskirts of Allentown) and grumbled as I hit yet another red light. For sure I will be late now.

I arrived a little after 10 and quickly found my place at the conveyor belt, loading two cans of green beans in each box as it rolled passed me. There were probably 75 people quickly performing their assigned tasks. The boxes were loaded onto pallets and taken away by forklifts. I was struck by the massive amount of food that we packaged into boxes. And we were only one shift! I started to get a small un-

derstanding of how great the need is.

We were an exceptional group of workers and finished our "allotment" for the day, an hour ahead of schedule. Great! This will put me a little ahead of schedule. As I started to leave, I was approached

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by an elderly lady. I'll call her Rose. She was accompanied by her special-needs son, who was in his forties. She asked if I was going into Allentown. She stated that she and her son had taken the bus to Second Harvest. Since we finished an hour ahead of schedule, they were going to have to wait for the bus for an hour, in the rain. I told her that I would be happy to give them a ride.

On our way to Allentown, we chatted. Rose and her son take the bus to Second Harvest weekly and volunteer their services. She stated that she felt badly that she wasn't able to volunteer twice a week, but the bus fare was too expensive. I dropped Rose and her son off at a very modest, impeccably neat, row home.

On my way back to the office I reflected. I believe that I will resolve to be on time for the community challenge next year. I won't "squeeze" volunteering in. Heck, I believe that I will volunteer a few times before the community challenge next year.

Volunteering is good for the soul.

*By: Kathleen Miller, Zator Law Offices, LLC*

The experience was both exhausting and wonderful. Donna and I worked very hard and packed nearly a ton of pasta in about two or three hours. It was amazing to think that so much work could be done in so little time. I was also amazed to see all the people working together towards a common goal. Most of us didn't know the others who were there, but somehow we all just pulled together, worked hard and ended up with a record production in record time - all for the good of people we never met.

It was a terrific morning!



*Packing Food at Second Harvest.*



*Volunteers from Lehigh County Area.*

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