

POTTSTOWN CLUSTER OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Cluster
CHRONICLES

from the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

Cluster Chronicles is the newsletter of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

JUNE 2026

PottstownCluster
OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Nourishing Lives. Strengthening Families.



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Announcing Patricia Shepherd as Executive Director,
Signaling New Era of Growth and Community Impact **Page 1**

Toast to Table Security 2026
A Evening of Community, Connection, and Impact **Page 2**

Pottstown Cluster to Provide Free Summer LunchBoxes
for Local Children **Page 3**

Growing Together: Our New Community Garden **Page 4**

2026 Spring Challege **Page 5**

Become a Hunger Hero: Help Keep Our Shelves Stocked **Page 6**

Be Part of the Mission **Page 7**

INSIDE

PottstownCluster
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The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities Announced Patricia Shepherd as Executive Director, Signaling New Era of Growth and Community Impact



In April, the Board of Directors of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities announced the appointment of Patricia Shepherd, former Food Service Director, as Executive Director. This marks a step forward as the organization expands its reach, strengthens partnerships, and deepens its impact across the greater Pottstown community and Montgomery County. Shepherd has served as Interim Executive Director since November 2025.

“Patricia brings not only operational expertise but a clear vision for how we can grow our partnerships and broaden our impact,” said Board President Carla Clanagan.

Shepherd’s appointment follows her tenure as a key contributor to the organization’s food service operations and as a member of the management team. During this time, she helped lead food service and operational initiatives amongst increasing demand for services. Her leadership has already contributed to improved efficiency, expanded outreach, and stronger collaboration with local partners.

“I am honored to step into this role at such an important time for the organization and the community we serve,” said Shepherd. “Every day, we see both the challenges and the possibilities in our community. The Pottstown Cluster is uniquely positioned to bring people together to create lasting solutions. My focus is on strengthening those connections, growing our programs, and ensuring we continue to meet evolving community needs with compassion and innovation.” To learn more, explore partnership opportunities, or to support the mission, visit pottstowncluster.org or contact Patricia Shepherd at pshepherd@pottstowncluster.org.

POTTSTOWN CLUSTER OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Toast to Table Security 2026: A Night of Community, Connection, and Impact

On April 16, 2026, friends, supporters, and community members gathered at Terra Pacem Winery for our Toast to Table Security event. More than just a wonderful evening of food and fellowship, Toast to Table Security was an opportunity to come together in support of an important cause: ensuring our neighbors have access to nourishing food. Funds raised support our services, community meals, food delivery programs, and food redistribution throughout Greater Pottstown and Montgomery County



Continuing our March theme, "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," we were proud to recognize four outstanding women whose leadership and commitment strengthen our community: Deb Brauner, Mary Ann Glocker, Cindy Cebular, and Judith Watts. Their dedication and service inspires our work every day.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported this year's event. Your generosity helps make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families facing food insecurity.



Pottstown Cluster to Provide Free Summer LunchBoxes for Local Children

Summer should be a time for fun and growth, not hunger.

As a community partner of Philabundance, the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities will help address summer hunger in the Greater Pottstown area by providing free, nutritious LunchBoxes to children who depend on school meals during the school year.

When school is out for the summer, many children lose access to a reliable source of breakfast and lunch. To help fill that gap, the Philabundance LunchBox program offers ready-to-eat breakfast and lunch meals at no cost for children and teens under age 18.



LunchBoxes will be available from June 16 through August 20, 2026, at the Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center, 57 North Franklin Street, Pottstown, during regular pantry hours: Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Wednesday: 2:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m., and Thursday: 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

LunchBoxes will contain a variety of nutritious foods, including wraps, milk, fresh produce, and other kid-friendly meal items. Some meals are fresh, while others are shelf-stable and may include items such as chicken, fruit cups, hummus, and more.

Growing Together: Our New Community Garden

Check out the new garden! Beautiful, healthy, and nourishing things are growing at The Pottstown Cluster.

Thanks to a partnership with Trellis for Tomorrow, new garden beds have been installed on The Pottstown Cluster's grounds at 61 N. Franklin Street, next to the Outreach Center Food Pantry. Staff, volunteers, and the Trellis for Tomorrow team worked together to build and plant the garden, creating a space that will provide fresh food, learning opportunities, and community connection.



We are grateful to everyone who rolled up their sleeves to help bring this project to life. The fruits and vegetables grown in the garden will go back to our pantry, helping us offer fresh, healthy produce to the families we serve.



Beyond providing food, the garden will also serve as an educational resource for the community. Clients and volunteers will have opportunities to get involved, learn gardening skills, and enjoy the many benefits of working outdoors and connecting with nature.

To help care for the garden throughout the summer, we have partnered with Pottstown High School students through a skills-training program. Additionally, the Pottstown Cluster has partnered with Pottsgrove High School students to assist with garden maintenance while earning volunteer hours required for graduation.

Interested in helping the garden grow? Please contact us at volunteer@pottstowncluster.org

2026 Spring Challenge

June is the last month of our Spring Challenge!

Every dollar raised is providing nutritious food, community meals, and grocery deliveries for families across the greater Pottstown area. Support is already making a meaningful difference in the lives of neighbors facing food insecurity. But with June 30 quickly approaching, there is still important work to do!

During the summer, many children lose access to the school meals they depend on throughout the year. At the same time, families are facing higher food costs and the challenge of providing additional meals at home. For many households, the summer months bring increased financial strain and difficult choices.

This is why reaching our goal by **June 30** is so important. Your gift today will give families access to healthy food during one of the most challenging times of the year. Donations have a large impact. A gift of \$100 can be stretched to provide \$1,700 worth of food. That is enough for about 500 meals for neighbors in need. Together, we can make sure children and families in our community have the nourishment, dignity, and hope they need. Please help us finish strong and reach our Spring Challenge goal by **June 30**.



2026 Spring Challenge:
Every Dollar Builds Our Impact!
One Community. One Goal. Thousands of Meals.

\$40,000 goal
Donate and updates:
pottstowncluster.org/2026springchallenge

Summer Is Coming. Hunger Doesn't Take a Break.

IMPACT:
A gift of just \$100 today can provide up to 500 meals for families in need. Every dollar provides food, relief, and hope.

Donate and updates here:
pottstowncluster.org/2026springchallenge

Become a Hunger Hero: Help Keep Our Shelves Stocked

Food Security

- Food Pantries
- Food Delivery Service
- Food Redistribution
- Summer Student Lunches
- Community Meals
- Holiday Meals

WHEN A COMMUNITY IS FED AND NOURISHED IT WILL flourish and thrive!



Did you know we serve over 450 families every month? Food insecurity is more than an empty plate. It's the difference between uncertainty and stability, stress and security, simply surviving and thriving. Right here in our Pottstown community, you have the power to change that by becoming a Hunger Hero today! Help keep our shelves stocked. Check out our most-needed items and make an immediate impact for local Pottstown area families.

Most Needed Items

DONATE FOOD OR HOST A DRIVE

Food Products

- o Canned Oranges in Juice
- o Canned Pineapples in Juice
- o Shelf Stable Fruit Juice
- o Jelly
- o Pancake Syrup
- o Cereal
- o Instant Potatoes
- o Broth
- o Canned Ham

- o Canned Chicken
- o Cooking Oil
- o Spam
- o Pasta Sauce
- o Ready to Eat Meals (i.e. - Hormel)
- o Salt
- o Pepper
- o Spices

Hygiene Items

- o Shampoo
- o Razor Blades
- o Shaving Cream
- o Toothpaste

Call 610-970-5995 to schedule. Accepted Mon-Thu, 9am-3pm at 57 N. Franklin St., Pottstown, PA. Please use the back door.

Donate

A DONATED DOLLAR DOES MORE!

pottstowncluster.org/donate



Every \$1 donated TODAY can buy \$17 of food and can help the Pottstown Cluster provide 5 meals to families facing hunger in our community.

Pottstown Cluster OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES  pottstowncluster.org

Food Donation Drop-Off
 Location:
 57 N. Franklin Street,
 Pottstown
 Hours: Monday–Thursday
 9 AM–3 PM

Learn more or donate goods:

pottstowncluster.org/donategoods

Prefer to give financially? Donate online here:

pottstowncluster.org/donate

POTTSTOWN CLUSTER OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Join the Mission

You can help ensure no one in our community faces hunger alone.

Current ways to get involved:

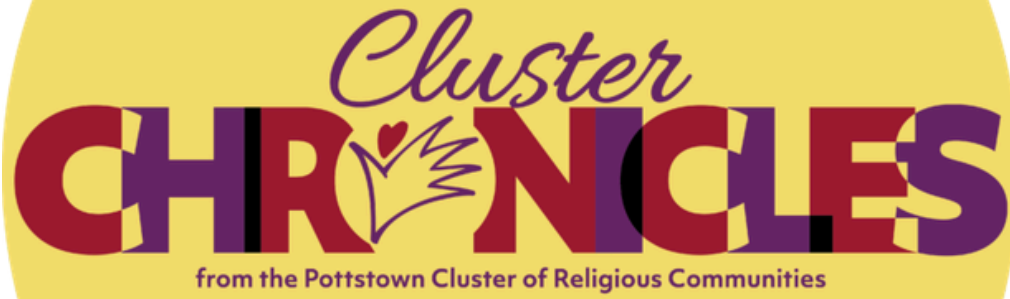
- [Donate food: pottstowncluster.org/donategoods](http://pottstowncluster.org/donategoods)
- [Donate to our Spring Challenge here:pottstowncluster.org/2026springchallenge](http://pottstowncluster.org/2026springchallenge)
- [Volunteer: pottstowncluster.org/volunteer](http://pottstowncluster.org/volunteer)
- [Become a Business Partner for Community Impact here: pottstowncluster.org/businessgiving](http://pottstowncluster.org/businessgiving)



Choice is POWERFUL
pottstowncluster.org



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