

THE SHARE

Quarterly Newsletter | Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope!



SUMMER 2025



On May 30, the greater Carlisle community gathered to celebrate Project SHARE's 40th anniversary. Pictured: children hula hooping during the block party at headquarters.

Featured Stories

From our Executive Director

After five years with Project SHARE, Emma Wong reflects on her journey from intern to executive director and the relationships that shaped her.

PAGE **4**
Summer Feeding
From our new Nutrition Coordinator, Rebekah Becker

PAGE **7**
SHARE Support
Alicia Cameron details new SHARE programming

PAGE **11**
Tai Jeror, Exec. Dir.
Welcome Tai Jeror, Project SHARE's new Executive Director

A Season of Service, A Legacy of Compassion

BY EMMA WONG

In her final message to Project SHARE, Emma Wong reflects on a journey defined by compassion, service and meaningful connections with her community.

There is a sticky note that has sat on my desk for the past five years that contains a quote by Frederick Buechner; it reads, “The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” This quote has been on my desk for the entirety of my time at Project SHARE because it perfectly encapsulates how I feel about my work here. My work has been this beautiful intersection of great personal joy and fulfillment all while doing work that I know meets a sig-

nificant need in our community. That alignment in one’s work is a gift. Earlier this week, I read the sticky note once more and then removed it from my desk, as I packed my belongings into a crate to take home with me. My time at Project SHARE has come to an end, as my husband and I prepare to move to Chicago for him to pursue Fellowship training in Surgical Oncology.

My journey with Project SHARE has been joy filled—first as an eager nutrition intern in 2016, cooking up samples for clients to try at Farmstand and leading cooking classes; then officially joining the team as Nutrition Coordinator in 2020, continuing the work of cooking classes, leading Summer Feeding 4 Kids and managing the SHARE Box program; and finally as Executive Director in 2023. While I have enjoyed the tasks themselves, the deepest joy has come from the relationships I have formed. I often think to myself—I see the best of humanity every day—kindness, compassion, energy

mobilized to make the world a better place. In this time, I have seen how our vision of *Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope* and our core values of Compassion, Community and Integrity are not just nice words on a page but are lived out daily by the team, board, volunteers and our community. In our good days and our challenging times, I have seen Project SHARE respond with grit and enduring hope.

Much has changed in the past five years—together we navigated the COVID emergency response, facilitated the transition to the Your Choice shopping model, re-opened the Farmstand for choice shopping after four years of Drive Thru distributions and initiated client stability and self-sufficiency programming, called SHARE Support Programming. I am proud to have been part of this team that continuously pushed to do the best we could for our clients and our community.

While my leaving is yet another change, I have faith in the inno-



Executive Director Emma Wong wheels a pallet jack through the Project SHARE warehouse, Spring 2024. Photo courtesy of Joel Witwer.

-vation and strength of the team, board, volunteers and community. I am also confident in passing the baton of responsibility to Tai Jeror, Project SHARE's newest Executive Director. (*Editor's Note: See Tai Jeror's introduction on page 10.*) During the leadership transition, Tai has shown herself to be passionate, warm, empathetic, knowledgeable and in alignment with our mission, vision and core values. I have enjoyed working with her during the leadership tradition, and I am excited for the community to get to know her and be inspired by her compassion and vision. I am filled with hope for Project SHARE's future.

Saying goodbye to Project SHARE is not easy—it is an incredible community doing incredible work. It has been an honor to lead this organization. With heartfelt thanks, thank you to this community for trusting me to steward the organization as Executive Director.

Emma Wong

“[...] The deepest joy has come from the relationships I have formed. I often think to myself—I see the best of humanity every day—kindness, compassion, energy mobilized to make the world a better place.”

Emma is a Registered Dietitian, with a Bachelor of Science degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and a dietetic internship from Penn State. She joined the Project SHARE team in 2020 as the Nutrition Coordinator and moved into the Executive Director role in 2023. Born and raised in Ireland, Emma moved to PA at age 10. Away from SHARE, Emma can be found hiking, reading or sharing a meal with friends and family.

Summer Meals Matter Too

As Project SHARE's new Nutrition Coordinator, Rebekah Becker kicks off this year's Summer Feeding 4 Kids with a strong start.

My fourth round of Summer Feeding at Project SHARE is off to a great start! Our first few weeks of the program have already been very eventful, with our newest menu item (the crispy chicken sandwich) receiving a lot of thumbs-up from kids and parents alike; our vegetarian options and milk alternatives being utilized by about 40 kids each week; our new-and-improved book station allowing families to park and pick out the books they would like to read this summer; and breakfast and lunch being provided to an average of about 440 kids each week so far!

While this year looks and feels a little different for me as I transition from my previous role as a three-time Summer Feeding Nutrition Intern during college to Project SHARE's Nutrition Coordinator as a brand-new graduate, the joy and fulfillment I derive from being part of a caring organization with creative and impactful health programming has stayed exactly the same! Just one month ago, I graduated with my Master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Marywood University after five years of classes, observation, research and a nine-month internship in the practice areas of community health, food service, geriatrics and clinical nutrition.

At various points throughout my education, I found myself studying the different parts of an

egg, taking food temperatures, researching autoimmune disorders far past my bedtime or making nutrition recommendations for a patient newly diagnosed with cancer. While my academic training has continually reinforced the vast scope of the field of nutrition and taught me how to be a well-rounded dietitian, I remain drawn to the practice area of community nutrition and the opportunities it provides for connection, problem-solving and health promotion.

Specifically, our Summer Feeding 4 Kids program is a creative solution to the seasonal meal gap often experienced by kids during the summer months, when the lack of school-provided meals means children are at an especially high risk of food insecurity. We strive to provide kids with easy-to-make meal kits, such as our Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, which contains pre-portioned cheese, ready-to-eat chicken, a tortilla and simple instructions for both stovetop and microwave cooking. Fresh fruits and vegetables are also offered every week, accompanied by nutrition tips

and facts on our menus, which are developed by our nutrition interns to encourage kids to have fun with their meals and to try new foods!

Being able to provide vegetarian substitutions to our client families who keep kosher or don't eat meat has also been a highlight of our program—especially since offering options for culturally appropriate foods can play an important role in respecting the food systems that make each culture unique, as well as promoting the dignity and satisfaction of our clients.

As we dive into the weeks of Summer Feeding 4 Kids ahead, I am excited to continue showing up with our caring and hardworking staff and volunteers to serve our clients through the Summer Feeding 4 Kids program and beyond! I look forward to the connections I hope to build with our clients, passing on my nutrition knowledge in meaningful and creative ways and learning from the incredible community we have the honor to serve!

Rebekah Becker grew up in Gardners, PA, and recently completed her Master of Science in Nutrition in Dietetics at Marywood University ('25). She is particularly passionate about creating a welcoming, healthy and supportive pantry environment. At home, Rebekah enjoys reading, crocheting, hiking and playing pickleball.



Nourishing Kids, Inspiring Readers

Volunteer Gail D’Urso reflects on how the transition from Lunch & Learn to Summer Feeding 4 Kids and Summer Reading has deepened its impact.

In 2013, the Lunch & Learn Program was developed by Elaine Livas and a group of community volunteers to curb summer hunger and reduce “summer slide” in learning. I was part of its original planning committee, a regular volunteer teacher and continue to be involved today.

The program began as a three-day-a-week initiative for seven to eight weeks at five Carlisle-area sites. Children received breakfasts, snacks and hot lunches on those days, plus Weekend Power Packs of non-perishable food on Fridays.

Lee Synder oversaw the program its first year, followed by Deb Brownawell for two years. Joe Kloza helped transition its educational component into the Summer Reading program, which he led until retiring in 2024. Nutrition Coordinators—Robyn Wampler (2014-2015), Micki Paxton (2015-2016), Weston Petroski (2016-2020), Emma Wong (2020-2023), Krystina Kolanda (2024) and Rebekah Becker (2025-present)—were essential to meal prep and logistics.

The Lunch & Learn committee created lesson plans and supply lists, while others volunteered as Site Supervisors, Teachers, Assistants and Helpers—some for the whole summer, others for shorter periods. Volunteers were trained in safe food handling and program operations, and each site was stocked with binders containing lesson plans, food handling protocols and other important information.

Bosler Library Executive Director Jeff Swope supported the program with books and site visits, while Youth Services Coordinator Melissa Killinger



Lunch & Learn Committee, summer 2016. Gail D’Urso, center, wears a white T-shirt and blue shorts.

procured grants to buy teacher-requested supplies. This meant teachers had what they needed, and children engaged with hands-on materials. The Carlisle Area School District later offered in-service credit to teachers who volunteered, boosting recruitment. Barnes & Noble provided new books for several years, and Joe Bedard of the Capital Region Literacy Council has donated hundreds—possibly thousands—of books since the program began. Each spring, volunteers sort these books by grade level for summer distribution.

In 2020, when COVID-19 emerged, Lunch & Learn had to adapt. Project SHARE transitioned the program to a drive-thru model, renamed Summer Feeding 4 Kids. Families could pick up a week’s worth of breakfasts and lunches each Friday. While the original model served 130 children with meals three days a week, the drive-thru format provided over 52,000 meals

covering all seven days. New sites at Plainfield Church of God and Amelia Givin Free Library expanded reach to Newville and Mt. Holly families.

The Summer Reading program evolved too, distributing books and reading challenges every other week. Today, it continues under Alicia Cameron, SHARE Support Program Coordinator, who leads efforts with volunteers to keep kids excited about books all summer long.

Despite the changes, the mission remains the same: feeding families and inspiring young readers.

Gail D’Urso has been a volunteer since 2005, helping with Summer Feeding programs, Kids in the Kitchen and distributions. The mother of three adult sons, she is a retired Family & Consumer Science teacher, both in the Carlisle Area and Wallingford-Swarthmore School Districts. She and her husband of 48 years, Marty D’Urso, live in West Pennsboro.





Maranatha-Carlisle President/CEO Michael Landis teaches financial literacy in SHARE's new Community Classes, launched May 2025.

Strengthening Stability Through Shared Knowledge

BY ALICIA CAMERON,
SHARE SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

SHARE introduces new holistic programming to promote valuable skill-building, provide access to community resources and create individualized coaching for clients and their families.

Over five sessions this spring, some 13 participants gathered at Project SHARE to explore financial literacy. Facilitated by Maranatha-Carlisle, participants discussed everything from how they learned about money from their families to practical tools for tracking expenses and understanding spending habits. The group learned alongside their peers in a place that's familiar, guided in their conversations by financial experts who support community members every day.

This series marked the launch of our "Community Classes," where we invite community partners to bring their expertise into

our warehouse on topics that can help those who walk through our doors make meaningful change in their lives, creating greater stability for themselves and their families. Our end goal, always, is to bolster food security in our community.

In last quarter's newsletter, Executive Director Emma Wong presented our "why" for creating programs to support long-term stability in our participant's lives. When our community feels tension and strain, the impacts reverberate across all aspects of their lives. We hear it. We feel it. And we respond. Rooted in our mission, vision and values, we are working to provide support that can nourish our community well and awaken hope—reinforcing that there is room for abundance for all.

Over the last few months, we've been laying the foundation for our Stability & Self-Sufficiency Programming. As Emma outlined previously, we're building a framework of Communicate, Connect and Coach. Here's how we're breaking that down:

Communicate:

In March, we launched *Neighbor News*, our monthly e-newsletter. Through it, we ensure that our clients are informed about what's happening at Project SHARE and in the greater Carlisle area. Each issue features an educational section highlighting resources for particular challenges—rental assistance or additional food, for instance—with printed handouts available at Project SHARE.

Connect:

Our goal is to ensure that our clients are connected to the resources that will help bolster their stability. Our new *Resourcing* program helps participants complete applications (which can often be confusing!) or navigate local resources to help as challenges arise. It's also where our *Community Classes* live. We aim to hold classes every month, alternating skill-building in areas such as financial literacy, employment and tenancy with health and wellness

classes that will provide holistic support for participants.

Coach:

We're implementing *Coaching* through the evidence-based **More than Food** methodology (*learn more at www.ittakesmorethanfood.org/*). This nine-month program offers intensive, client-driven support to individuals who are looking to make a big change in their lives. Participants identify their goals, develop actionable plans and take meaningful steps that create greater stability for themselves and their families.

A beautiful thing about Project SHARE is our ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of our clients. We're being flexible as we establish these programs, listening to our participants about what classes they'd find most helpful and exploring ways to make programs like *Resourcing* accessible to everyone. (Drop-in social worker hours may be coming soon to a pantry near you!)

Our conference room got a refresh in May—now hosting meetings, client interviews and our new Community Classes.



What humbles me most in this process is the support of our community. Volunteers are excited to make referrals to clients and provide childcare during classes. My colleagues brainstorm with me and help me prep for classes. One client even introduced me to a local organization that may offer first aid training! Community partners have shared financial literacy resources, excited and confident that we, at Project SHARE, may be able to put them to good use. The vivacity and commitment of this community—coming together to care for its own—can hearten all of us.

So how about you?

Are you knowledgeable in an area that could help provide stability to our neighbors in Cumberland County? Want to chill with some great kids while their parents gain invaluable life-changing skills?

Or maybe *you're* seeking change—ready to take control and find firmer ground beneath your feet?

Over the years, I've learned that people often carry great wells of resilience within them. Sometimes, they just need extra support and encouragement to unlock their potential.

Wherever you are on your path, we invite you to join us.

I'd love to hear from you.

Alicia is a native of western Pennsylvania with a BA from Messiah University. She obtained her MSW and MDiv from Boston University and lived in Massachusetts for 11 years before returning "home" in 2022. Her vocational passion is anti-poverty work, helping foster a more equitable world where everyone has what they need to live with dignity. Outside of work, she's an unabashed nerd and doting auntie who is frequently off chasing interesting birds.

In Memory of Ellen Kievit

The Project SHARE community remembers Ellen Kievit with deep gratitude and heavy hearts. A quiet yet unwavering presence throughout our formative years, Ellen's dedication to her community helped shape who we are today.

Ellen's journey with Project SHARE began in the 1990s, when she offered her time as a volunteer during our early days at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Whether driving forklift, packing food bags, gleaning or building relationships with clients, Ellen's dedication to her community shined. That same dedication only deepened as she eventually joined the Project SHARE team as an administrative assistant.

She remained a faithful supporter through SHARE's seasons of growth and change, including our transition from St. Paul's to the warehouse we operate in today. Ellen retired in the summer of 2009 after more than a decade of service, but her legacy continues to live on—in Project SHARE, the values she upheld and the community she supported.

"Ellen and James walked all around town. She was a quiet, unhurried presence for many years at Project SHARE. Listening and trusting God were her gifts," shared Elaine Livas, Project SHARE's



founder and former Executive Director. "I remember her sharing with me that she was awed by how big God was and how small we are. She lived and loved deeply.

"I remember us discussing the ramp up to the entrance at SHARE,

and how it was just long enough to welcome people—whether they were coming for food or donating it."

From Project SHARE's Summer 2009 newsletter congratulating Ellen on her retirement, the team described her as someone who "would always go out of her way to help someone in need. If someone needed a ride home, to a doctor's appointment, or to deliver food to a homebound individual, Ellen was the one doing the job. She impacted thousands of people's lives with her compassion, patience, and understanding during her many years of service."

To many, Ellen was more than a colleague or community member—she was a reminder of what it means to serve your community with compassion, humility and dignity. Through her church, her family and her support of the wider Carlisle community, Ellen lived these values every day.

We extend our deepest condolences to Ellen's family, friends and all those who were touched by her kindness.

Firms, Businesses, Foundations, Organizations

Who, as part of our community, donate funds or in-kind gifts received between Mar. 1 and Jun. 1.

Ahold USA
Beta Sigma Phi - Torchbearer Rho
Boiling Springs Lions Club
Bimbo Bakeries
Carlisle Area School District
Carlisle Area Sertoma Club
Carlisle Arts Learning Center
Carlisle Lodge No.260 F & AM
Cohick & Associates
County of Cumberland
Crittter Control of Carlisle, PA
Cumberland Co Medical Society
DAFgiving360 (Donor Advised Charitable Giving, Inc.)
DJ Joe George

The Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
Exquisite Chocolates of Carlisle
F&M Trust
Fidelity Charitable
The Foundation - TFEC
Global Industrial
Home Depot c/o Public Affairs Support Services
Hooke, Hooke and Eckman
KB Kidz Farm, LLC
Land O'Lakes Foundation
LeTort Trust
Lisa Obrien Interior Designs
M&T Charitable Foundation
The Marketplace at John Gross & Co.
Members 1st Federal Credit Union

MidPenn Bank
Moms Club Of Carlisle PA
Orthodox Christian Charities of Greater Harrisburg
Partnership For Better Health
Schmidt Baking Company
South Middleton School District
State Correctional Institution - Mahanoy
United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County
UPMC
Wawa
The Wholesome Loaf
Vanguard Charitable

SHARE Welcomes Tai Jeror

On behalf of the Project SHARE Board, Bree Frampton introduces Tai Jeror as the organization's new executive director.

As we move into the summer season, Project SHARE is entering a time of meaningful transition. We are excited to welcome Tai Jeror as our new Executive Director at Project SHARE and, at the same time, extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Emma Wong, who will soon embark on a new journey in Chicago, Illinois.

Tai brings over 15 years of experience in the human services and nonprofit sector, where she has built a career dedicated to community impact, compassion and servant leadership. Most recently, Tai served as the Family Services Administrator at The Salvation Army Harrisburg, where she led the Family Services department and supported program administration, including the Road to Success Program, Pathway of Hope, Holiday/Seasonal programs and more. Her background in program development, strategic planning and community support makes her a natural fit for Project

SHARE. Tai's passion for serving others and empowering communities aligns perfectly with our vision of *Nourishing our Community... Awakening Hope*, and we are thrilled to have her lead us into this next chapter. Please join us in warmly welcoming Tai to the Project SHARE team!

As we welcome Tai, we also take a moment to celebrate and honor the contributions of our outgoing Executive Director, Emma Wong. Emma first joined the Project SHARE team in 2020 as the Nutrition Coordinator, where she helped support the transition to the Your Choice shopping model, our Summer Feeding 4 Kids program and much more. Her leadership and vision earned her the role

of Executive Director in 2023, and over the past year and a half, Emma has guided the organization with dedication, compassion and grace through a period of growth and resilience. Emma's time at Project SHARE has been marked by her unwavering commitment to reducing food insecurity, her thoughtful approach to collaboration and love for the community around her. While we will miss her presence at Project SHARE, we are excited to see where her next journey takes her and are grateful for the lasting impact she leaves behind.

With appreciation for the past and great hope for the future, we look forward to continuing our mission under Tai's leadership.

Bree Frampton, Manager of Talent Acquisition at The GIANT Company, joined the Project SHARE board in 2023, where she also serves on the HR Committee and Governance Committee. Bree brings energy, empathy and a love for people to all she does. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, reading and spending time with her husband, Mark, and their dog, Teddy.



Congregation Connections

Thank you to our congregational financial supporters who contributed between Mar. 1 and Jun. 1.

Carlisle Church of God
Carlisle Quaker Meeting
Carlisle Reformed Presbyterian Church
Carlisle United Methodist Church
Churchtown Church of God
Congregation Beth Tikvah General Fund
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church of Christ
Green Spring First Church of God
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church
Mt. Rock United Methodist Church
Opossum Hill Union Church

Otterbein United Methodist Church
Presbyterian Women The First Presbyterian Church
Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church
St. John's Episcopal
St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
St. Patrick Parish and School Charitable
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Meeting House
Trinity Global Methodist Church

A Grateful Start

Project SHARE's incoming Executive Director Tai Jeror reflects on her first week at Project SHARE.

As I step into the role of Executive Director at Project SHARE, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude and admiration. The beginning of my journey here has been both humbling and energizing. Stepping into a role at an organization with such a strong legacy of compassion, service and community is an extraordinary honor—and after just one week, I already understand why Project SHARE has meant so much to so many for more than 40 years.

By way of introduction, my professional background is rooted in human services and non-profit leadership. Throughout my career, I've been committed to advancing equity, building collaborative teams and developing mission-driven programs that meet people where they are. I was drawn to Project SHARE because of its long-standing reputation as a community cornerstone—where compassion, generosity and community are not just values, but daily practices.

This first week has affirmed everything I hoped for and more. I've had the privilege of working alongside Emma, whose knowledge and graciousness have made this leadership transition not only seamless but incredibly meaningful. I'm so grateful to the board for their thoughtful planning and for giving me the opportunity to walk alongside Emma during this time. Her kindness and wisdom

are gifts I'll carry forward.

Already, I've had a front-row seat to the incredible work happening here every day. Project SHARE is a busy, high-energy environment where efficiency and compassion move hand in hand. The hustle and bustle are real—but purposeful. From distribution to support services, the level of care and coordination that happens daily is remarkable. It's clear that every task, every interaction is rooted in the goal of ensuring no neighbor goes without.

One of the most moving parts of my week has been witnessing the generosity of this community. From donated goods to kind words and long-standing commitments of service, the outpouring of support is incredible. I've met volunteers who have been showing up for decades—decades!—and their joy, dedication and warmth are contagious. I've enjoyed every moment I've spent working beside them. Their welcome has meant the world to me.

Equally inspiring is the team here at Project SHARE—they are truly extraordinary. Each person brings not only an abundance of expertise and thoughtful insight but also a shared sense of purpose. Their passion and dedication to our mission is evident in every detail of their work—from their efficiency and knowledge to the care they show each person we serve. Though I've only just begun, I am so proud of this team,



and I'm already their biggest fan. I feel truly honored to support this team, to stand alongside them and to champion their continued success as we partner in advancing Project SHARE's mission together.

This week has deepened my appreciation for the work ahead and the people who make it possible. The work being done at Project SHARE is both visible and profound. I am honored to serve with all of you—and I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together.

Tai grew up in upstate New York and moved to Pennsylvania nine years ago. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Human Services from SUNY Empire State College.

Driven by compassion and service, Tai joins the team with 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector and a lifelong commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

Outside of work, she enjoys sewing, gardening, wreath making, boxing and spending time with her family. Tai lives in Carlisle with her husband, two children and two rambunctious huskies.



Project SHARE of Carlisle
5 North Orange Street, Suite #4
Carlisle, PA 17013

www.projectsharepa.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARLISLE, PA
PERMIT #40

POSTAL RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

United Way of Carlisle
& Cumberland County



Gratefully on the campus of

Dickinson

SUMMER FEEDING 4 KIDS

June 5 to August 8

Carlisle, Mt. Holly & Plainfield

FREE BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES
FREE BOOKS & READING CHALLENGES

Register at projectsharepa.org



BOARD of DIRECTORS

James Markley.....CHAIR
Teresa Festivo.....VICE CHAIR
Erin Wilfong.....SECRETARY
Shawn Bernheisel.....TREASURER
Breanna Frampton
Brett Conway
Brian Gochenour

Jan Ewing
Jenn Halpin
Meagan McAvoy
Mikayla Snyder
NON VOTING MEMBERS:
Caitlin Godsey

TEAM

Tai Jeror.....EXEC DIR
Alicia Cameron
Amy Holland
Asani Mukusa
Darrell Beam
Deb Brownawell

Greg Leiphart
Kristin Malloy
Lisa Maddux
Natasha Thumma
Rebekah Becker
Sarah Walters