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## 4<sup>TH</sup> Fest organizers planning community food drive

*'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' involves entire county in helping those in need*

**State College, PA, June 22, 2020** – Organizers of the Central PA 4<sup>th</sup> Fest are looking to do something just as spectacular for the community as its annual fireworks display by holding a countywide food drive during the month of July to assist Centre County residents in need.

“As our community continues to recover from the economic impact of COVID-19, the 4<sup>th</sup> Fest Committee had a strong desire to do something to engage our community in supporting our community,” said 4<sup>th</sup> Fest Executive Director Frank Savino. “4<sup>th</sup> Fest might look a little different this year, but we truly feel the best way to celebrate the birth of our nation and honor the spirit of the festival is for neighbors to help their neighbors.”

Beginning Monday, June 22, 4<sup>th</sup> Fest organizers are asking businesses and individuals to sign up as food collection points. Savino said the idea for individuals is that they will serve as collection coordinators in their respective business, organizations, clubs or neighborhoods. Collection point sign-up will be available on the 4<sup>th</sup> Fest website – [www.centralpa4thfest.org](http://www.centralpa4thfest.org). Once signed up, a member of the team will reach out with the details.

Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at collection points beginning Wednesday, July 1 through Thursday, July 9. The location of collection points will be published on the 4<sup>th</sup> Fest website. The organizers are asking the public to bring food in any excess boxes they have on hand. This will allow for easier packing of the trucks.

Collection point coordinators or volunteers will be asked to drop off food at a designated warehouse from 9 a.m. to noon July 10 and 11. Individuals or groups that aren't able to drop off at a collection point may bring their donations to the warehouse on July 10 and 11 as well.

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All food donated will be distributed to YMCA Anti-Hunger Program serving Centre County residents.

“Volunteers have always been the heart and soul of 4<sup>th</sup> Fest, so we welcome the help from anyone or any group that is interested in supporting the food drive,” Savino said. “Everyone can be a ‘Hunger Hero’ this year by participating.”

Fritz Smith, President and CEO of The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, applauded 4<sup>th</sup> Fest organizers for their innovation and commitment to the community in a year when the annual Fourth of July celebration will not be held as usual.

“4<sup>th</sup> Fest is a time-honored family tradition in Happy Valley,” he said. “Frank and the committee found a way for the show to go on in a great way, and are starting what hopefully will become a new tradition even when the festival returns next year. This kind of dedication is what makes our community such a special place.”

More information about the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” food drive is available on the 4<sup>th</sup> Fest website, [www.centralpa4thfest.org](http://www.centralpa4thfest.org).

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