



24 Sustainability Success Stories in 2024
Story 9 of 24: The Social Pillar of Sustainability

UPMC Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon Campaign Tackles Food Insecurity

UPMC is committed to a three-pillar sustainability approach encompassing economic, social, and environmental initiatives. While economic and environmental sustainability are more often the focus, the social sustainability pillar is integral. The social equity pillar of sustainability focuses on justice, equity, and community well-being.

UPMC is working hard to promote diversity and inclusion among staff and the communities we serve. The Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon campaign, held every April, addresses the social pillar of sustainability by alleviating food insecurity.

Food Insecurity is a prevalent sustainability concern. The United Nations has 17 sustainable development goals, and one of those is [end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture](#). In the United States, over 44 million people experience food insecurity annually. People who experience food insecurity are more likely to experience chronic health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and mental health disorders.

The Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon campaign has been around for over 15 years. The program runs annually in April. During that time, employees can make monetary donations to partner food banks and animal shelters. In 2023, the campaign collected 1.31 million units, and 18 charitable organizations across the UPMC network benefited from the donations.

In 2024, the main campaign beneficiary partners were Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest PA, Central PA Food Bank, Western Maryland Food Bank, Animal Friends, The Anna Shelter, Lycoming County SPCA, The Humane Society of Harrisburg, and The Allegany County (MD) Animal Shelter. There is a wide network of charity partners across UPMC's service areas to ensure that employees' donations help tackle food insecurity in their local communities.

In addition to monetary donations, employees can volunteer by participating in a UPMC-organized project. In 2023, over 160 employees volunteered across three different venues in support of the Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon Campaign.

The 2024 Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon campaign has just wrapped up, and we look forward to seeing this year's unit total. We hope that everyone checks back every April to participate in the Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon campaign.