

# HSH *in the News* UPDATE



***“We bring the hunting public together to serve the community.”***

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## **Pennsylvania's HSH Program Successfully Feeding the Hungry for 20 years**

Since 1991 Hunters Sharing the Harvest venison donation program, has coordinated the processing and distribution of donated wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to hungry people throughout Pennsylvania. An average-sized deer will provide enough highly-nutritious, low cholesterol meat for 200 meals. This sportsmen-inspired community outreach program effectively channels this wholesome venison product via an integrated network of approved deer processors and food banks down to the local charitable provider organizations in our urban and rural communities. The HSH program has evolved as a respected partner with deer management practices throughout the Commonwealth.

Developed on a unique concept developed by Pennsylvania hunting interests, the program's yearly deer season accomplishments are based on the cooperation of our dedicated volunteer county coordinators, board of directors, PA legislators, state and local agencies, in concert with our colleagues from the supportive outdoor news media. All these components work together with a common mission to maximize the best-utilization of a valuable wildlife resource to help others in need of food assistance.

The HSH program is a registered 501c3 non-profit charity with funding and support primarily derived from a mix of private and public sources. Individual financial donations also come from generous hunters and non-hunters who uphold a strong belief in supporting the outreach effectiveness of their own brand of social service. Coincidentally, HSH has developed into a nationally-recognized model now being replicated by many other states. From its inception, HSH was founded as the signature mechanism for Pennsylvania hunters to demonstrate their own personal and compassionate decision for helping those individuals and families in need by providing extra or unwanted venison from the field. Many wildlife management units in Pennsylvania offer multiple deer tags, longer seasons and special hunting opportunities that result in extra deer being donated by sportsmen and sportswomen.

HSH remains the most effective social-service program conduit for hunters and wildlife managers to directly make a difference often from actions that take place in the fields and forests. We bring the hunting public together to serve the community. More than 1.3 million Pennsylvanians are classified as living beneath the lowest-income poverty level and with the recent economic downturn the need and requests for additional assistance has escalated greatly within the last few years. In an average hunting season, the HSH program's goal is to channel approximately 100,000 pounds of processed venison through the state's 21 regional food banks. They in turn re-distribute to more than 4,000 local provider charities such as food pantries, missions, homeless shelters, the Salvation Army facilities and churches, as well as to individual families.

***Pennsylvania's Own Voluntary Venison Donation and Distribution Program***      ***www.sharedeer.org***

Hunters Sharing the Harvest are a 501c3 organization and your contribution is tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Hunters Sharing the Harvest may be obtained from the PA. Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. (PTCD9/2011)