

# SUSQUEHANNA SUNRISE

Lock Haven, Pa., Saturday-Sunday, December 3-4, 2016 C1



## Pumpkin gleaning saves nearly three tons of pumpkins and squash

LINDEN — More than 6 billion pounds of fruits and vegetables go unharvested or unsold annually in the U.S., while individuals and families face growing problems obtaining healthy foods.

For the second year, STEP AmeriCorps service members

and community volunteers tackled this problem by gathering nearly 6,000 pounds of pumpkins and squash from Carpenter's Pumpkin Farm in Linden for distribution by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

"I am excited that the gleaning at Carpenter's Farm yielded

5,920 pounds of pumpkins and spaghetti squash," said Eric Omdorff, Central PA Food Bank regional director. "It was another great turnout of volunteers, for the second year in a row. This is a great example of community members coming together in a collaborative way

to fight hunger." The gleaned pumpkins and squash will be distributed whole in Fresh Express boxes from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank - Northern Tier Location. The Fresh Express program delivers perishable fresh foods directly to those in need. The

pumpkins will come with a variety of nourishing recipes. This service project and several other programs are a result of the partnership between STEP and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, a direct response to the 2015 Community Needs Assessment (available at stepcorp.org), which indicates that food insecurity and food access are growing concerns for the populations of Lycoming and Clinton counties.

STEP, Inc. is one of 1,100 Community Action Agencies nationwide, and a member of the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania. Founded in 1966 and formally known as the Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc., the agency is celebrating 50 years of partnerships and service to the community throughout 2016.

The mission of STEP, Inc. is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success. This mission is accomplished through five Pathways to Success: early learning, housing options, workforce development, community collaboration, and independent living.

STEP AmeriCorps is a part of STEP's Community Collaboration Pathway to Success.



PHOTOS PROVIDED Above: various STEP AmeriCorps service members, Lycoming County Master Gardeners, Edie Carpenter (owner of Carpenter's Farm, on far right), Central PA Food Bank staff. At far left: Carla Mincemoyer. Immediately at left: Jessica Adams