Our Community Impact 2021: Leprino Foods Company Waverly

To support the communities where we live and work, the Leprino Foods Company’s Waverly employees and the Leprino Foods Company Foundation (LFCF) annually partner with local nonprofit and other organizations to provide philanthropic donations and volunteer support. Since 2015, the LFCF has contributed over $3M to the communities where we operate.

Our Waverly employees volunteer their time to help improve livelihoods, foster empowerment, and build resilient communities. Volunteering is employee-driven, and activities support four focus areas of Nutrition, Education, Fitness, and Local Needs. In Waverly, we are proud to be involved with local and regional organizations that celebrate the many diverse cultures, communities and lifestyles that comprise our community like youth, families, veterans, elderly and homeless.

Starting production in the late 1980s, the Waverly plant has the distinction of being our longest operating facility. With approximately 230 employees, the plant is a significant employer and community partner in the Susquehanna Valley region. During 2021, Waverly plant employees and the Leprino Foods Foundation provided support to 22 organizations with monetary donations and grants of over $28,000.

With an overarching purpose as an organization to sustainably feed and nourish families around the world, we feel particularly strong about our commitment to nutrition and reducing food insecurity in our community. In 2021, the Waverly plant, through its employee-driven Community Impact Team (CIT), provided an LFCF grant and donations totaling $13,000 to Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP). Serving children through various hunger-relief programs, CHOP has a weekly commitment of serving 5,000 food-insecure children through its backpack program and 11,000 students in-school. The monies allowed CHOP to prepare 15,000 bags of easy-to-prepare nutritious foods and fresh produce for school children to take home over the weekend and helped sponsor the “Feed the Bus” campaign, in memory of a local high school student. The plant also contributes to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, a division of Catholic Charities that serves the Elmira area; Encounter Church, to help pay for a month’s worth of groceries for a local family in need through the “Month of Meals” program; and the Tioga County Open Door Mission, for food and financial assistance to families in need. Donations of cheese are another important component of our nutrition focus area. We donate mozzarella cheese to Catholic Charities and Community Services in Nichols, NY, helping some 200 community members who utilize the food pantry. Annually, the Waverly plant donates 2,340 lbs., or 90 pounds of cheese every other week, to the food pantry at the Catholic Charities Tioga Outreach Center. In 2021, the total value of the cheese and monetary support for these organizations was more than $3,354.

Education is an area of passion for Waverly employees. The Waverly Community Impact Team (CIT) created, and then expanded, a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors to encourage higher education in areas that are related to Leprino Foods’ operations, such as engineering. In 2021, The Waverly plant was proud to award two scholarships of $1,000 to students at Waverly High School and Sayre Area High School. The total support for scholarships was $2,000.

The Waverly plant also supports local youth and community athletic programs, such as the Athens Boys Soccer Club, Waverly Athletic Booster Club and Athens Little League. Additional donations included: Sayre Area School District for an all-night safe space graduation party for about 70 high school seniors; Penn York Opportunities, for job training and employment opportunities to local individuals with disabilities; Christian Motorcyclists Association, for the “Run for the Son” fundraiser to help the provide bicycles and other related resources to local families; Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District, for their “Sundaes at the Farm” event held on a local farm to promote dairy education; Children’s House Child Advocacy Center, for a golf tournament fundraiser to help their mission of reducing trauma to children who have experienced abuse; Sayre Redskin Club, for a community event to give local residents an opportunity to recycle electronic waste; Town of Chemung Volunteer Fire Department, for their annual golf tournament; and Waverly Memorial VFW Post 8104 for the purchase of flags and markers to place on veterans’ graves in a local cemetery. The plant also sponsored the Alparon Community Park’s “Agrosploration Station” at the Troy Fair. The event reaches 40,000 attendees with messages about the positive impacts of agriculture and farming. Finally, to help build a more sustainable community, the Waverly team donated their time and provided lunch to volunteers of Friends of the Valley Playland to rehabilitate an area park in need of upgrades. Support of these projects in 2021 was over $10,400.

We are proud of the partnerships we’ve built and the organizations we have been able to support in our community. We look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on our community and the people in it.
**PROMOTING EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Our scholarship program for graduating high school seniors encourages higher education in areas related to Leprino Foods' operations. We provide scholarships of $1,000 to students at Waverly High School and Sayre Area High School.

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**FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY**

We helped Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP) secure a Foundation grant for its Pop Up Pantry program. The $12,000 donation was enough for CHOP to prepare 15,000 bags of easy-to-prepare nutritious foods and fresh produce for schoolchildren to take home over the weekend.

We were a sponsor of CHOP’s “Feed the Bus” campaign in memory of a local high school student.

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**$28,000+ FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

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**21 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE WAVERLY PLANT & THE LEPRINO FOODS COMPANY FOUNDATION**

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**2,340+ LBS. OF CHEESE**

Donated to Catholic Charities and Community Services in Nichols and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier in Elmira