

VALERIE BROWN TRAORÉ

Chief Executive Officer

As the CEO of Food Bank of South Jersey, Inc, Val has overall responsibility for the strategic, programmatic, financial, and management operations of the \$11M nonprofit organization based in New Jersey. She leads the communication of the vision and program objectives to internal and external constituencies and works collaboratively with the Board of Trustees in formulating policies, developing strategies, raising funds, and achieving performance. Since her arrival in 2006, Val has tripled the organization's fundraising base, tripled its offering of programs and other services, raised its efficiency rating to the highest level of 4 stars (Charity Navigator) and has uniquely positioned the organization for its next stage of growth.

Val's background in the nonprofit sector is extensive. She has more than 20 years nonprofit leadership experience working at hunger-relief organizations in Baltimore, Chicago and New York. One of them was for Feeding America: The Nation's Food Bank Network based in Chicago, IL. In her role there, Val traveled extensively throughout the country advising food banks and food rescue organizations in areas of strategic development, organizational management, board development, financial management and facilities management. She holds a B.S. in Management from Coppin State University.

Val's work in the anti-hunger movement has been profiled in leading print, television and radio broadcast such as Black Enterprise, Philadelphia Business Journal, Courier Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, ABC and NBC TV to name a few. She's received several awards for her work that includes Minority Business Leader of the Year 2011, Heroine of the Year 2011, Brava Woman of the Year 2012, 2012 South Jersey Super Women: 40 Women Making a Difference, 2012 Camden County Woman of the Month.

She is a board member of Coppin State University Foundation, member of Rotary International and a volunteer for several causes that include adult literacy, women self-sufficiency and empowerment, youth mentoring, social enterprising and anti-hunger. She is happily married to Brehima Traore, has a teenage son Dean, and an adorable Cavapoo pup named Tonka.