

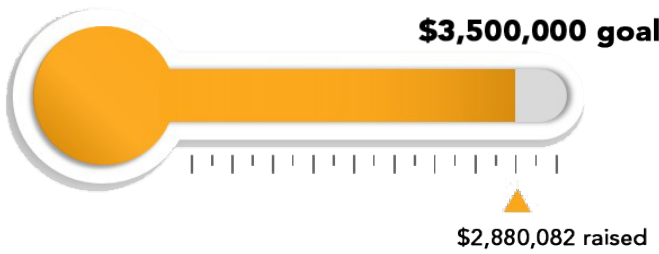
FEED SOUTH JERSEY: JOIN THE MOVEMENT

At our anniversary event, we reflected on where we've been, as well as laid the groundwork for where we're going. That is why we launched the **Feed South Jersey** campaign, a bold, \$3.5 million initiative will help the Food Bank meet the rising need and build a more food-secure future.

While we honor the past, we know the challenges ahead are real. Economic pressures are mounting. Support systems are shifting. And more neighbors are turning to the Food Bank, many for the first time. Feed South Jersey is how we respond: with improved distributions; expanded nutrition education; and sustainable, wraparound support for our neighbors. It's how we carry the mission forward – together.

Your support powers this work, ensuring families, seniors, and children across our region have access to nourishing food now and for the next 40 years.

Make a gift and help Feed South Jersey » foodbanksj.org/feedsouthjersey



CALLING ALL COOKS! BE FEATURED IN OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

We're collecting recipes from across South Jersey for a special 40th anniversary community cookbook. Whether it's a dish that's been passed down for generations or a weeknight go-to that feeds your family with love, we want to hear from you!

This cookbook will celebrate not just food, but the stories and people behind it. Share your recipe – and maybe a photo or memory to go along with it.

Submit your favorite recipe for consideration by scanning the QR code or email stories@foodbanksj.org.



Please scan here to submit your recipe



OUR MISSION: The Food Bank of South Jersey exists to provide an immediate solution to the urgent problem of hunger by providing food to people in need, teaching them to eat nutritiously, and helping them to find sustainable ways to improve their lives.



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Special Edition
A Taste of Compassion
A Publication of the Food Bank of South Jersey



ROOTED IN SERVICE.
GROWING WITH PURPOSE.

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY, COMPASSION, AND COMMITMENT

June 24 was more than just another day on the calendar. It marked the official 40th anniversary of the Food Bank of South Jersey — a milestone that invited both reflection and renewed commitment to the communities we serve.

At our anniversary commemoration, I had the privilege of introducing Ellen Ward, our founder and first executive director. Her unwavering belief in community, equity, and compassion continues to guide and inspire us. Ellen's leadership turned a simple idea into a movement that has touched countless lives.

What began in 1985 as a small initiative has grown into a regional force for good, and our mission remains the same: get food to neighbors in need.

From the beginning, though, we knew fighting hunger required more than meals. It calls for a holistic approach where empowerment meets dignity — a vision brought to life through our new Center for Health, Wellness, and Nutrition, where food and education come together to create lasting impact.



As we mark 40 years – 14,600 days – of service, I'm filled with immense gratitude. To the early believers, tireless volunteers, steadfast donors, and partners who have helped expand our reach, **thank you.**

The fight against hunger is far from over. But with decades of experience behind us and a community of supporters beside us, we're ready. Together, we'll continue working to ensure every neighbor has access to nourishment and dignity they deserve.



Fred C. Wasiak

Fred C. Wasiak
President & CEO
Food Bank of
South Jersey

A MILESTONE MOMENT: JUNE 24

On June 24, the Food Bank of South Jersey marked its official 40th anniversary by gathering longtime supporters and new friends to reflect on our journey – and look ahead.

A highlight of the event was the unveiling of our new Center for Health, Wellness, and Nutrition. From the beginning, we've recognized the link between hunger and health. This new space will help our community learn, grow, and thrive.

We also shared a transformational announcement: a \$1.5 million gift from The Campbell's Foundation to support the Center and our mission. As one of our earliest partners, Campbell's continues to show its deep commitment to nourishing South Jersey.

We heard powerful reflections, shared community stories, and celebrated a shared mission. Thank you to all who joined us; we're excited to build the next chapter together.



FBSJ founding executive director Ellen Ward at the 40th anniversary event



(L-R) FBSJ Board of Trustees Chair Suzanne Ghee; FBSJ President & CEO Fred Wasiak; Commissioner Virginia Betteridge; FBSJ Founder Ellen Ward; Pennsauken Deputy Mayor Jessica Rafeh; The Campbell's Foundation President Kate Barrett; and Assemblyman William Spearman



Guests learning more about the Center for Health, Wellness & Nutrition

THE VISION THAT STARTED IT ALL: A REFLECTION FROM FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELLEN WARD

In the early 1980s, hunger in South Jersey was a quiet crisis, felt deeply by many but rarely addressed in a coordinated way. Ellen Ward, though, saw that need clearly and took action.

With determination, a used forklift, an old box truck, and a 33,000-square-foot warehouse in Camden, Ellen launched what would become the Food Bank of South Jersey. Alongside a small staff and a devoted corps of volunteers, she began building a system to get food to neighbors in need.

But from the beginning, she imagined something bigger. "Even then, we were thinking beyond the box," she recalls, "about health, about wellness, about how to help people make the most of the food they had."

On June 24, 2025, 40 years later, Ellen stood before a packed room at our anniversary event and saw that early vision come full circle.

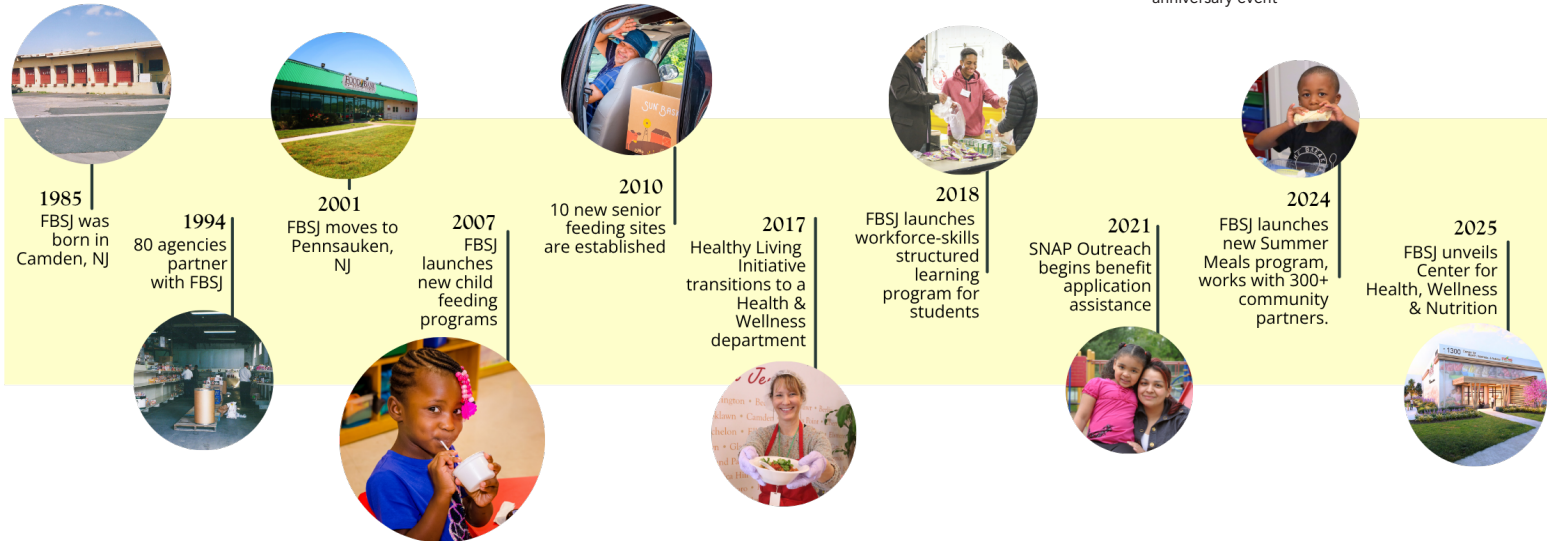
"To see this Center for Health, Wellness, and Nutrition become a reality – it's incredible. It's a powerful reflection of how far the Food Bank has come, and how deeply it understands that solving hunger is about more than providing food. It's about nourishing people, empowering communities, and creating lasting change."

As Ellen said that day: We may be 40 years in, but in many ways, we're just getting started. We'll find new solutions, fill the gaps, and remain here to Feed South Jersey – for the next 40 years and beyond.



Former NJ Gov. Thomas Kean and Ellen Ward at FBSJ opening in 1985

Ellen Ward addressing crowd at FBSJ 40th anniversary event



FOUR DECADES OF IMPACT

The Food Bank of South Jersey's story began in 1985 with hand-packed boxes and donated shelf-stable goods in Camden. Today, it has grown into a regional hub for hunger relief, wellness, and community empowerment.

We've gone from serving a few dozen partners to a network of hundreds. We've launched initiatives like Hope Mobile, Retail Rescue, and Summer Meals. We've created programs that reach children, seniors, and families in every corner of South Jersey – and we've done it together, with volunteers, donors, and partners by our side.

Over the past four decades, one thing has remained constant: the belief that food is a basic human right. And with 1 in 9 adults and 1 in 7 children in our region still facing food insecurity, the work continues.

Thank you for standing alongside us and helping to make an impact year after year.