

YOUNG LEADERS, BIG IMPACT: STUDENTS CHANGE HUNGER 2025

Students across South Jersey made a powerful impact through this year's Students Change Hunger initiative. Timothy Christian Academy led the way with **1,759 pounds collected**, followed by Northern Burlington County Regional Middle School (**1,423 pounds**) and Octavius V. Catto Family School (**1,200 pounds**). Collectively, these schools contributed 72% of all food donations made by Students Change Hunger participants.

We thank all participating schools for their compassion and engagement during a challenging year. Special recognition to Fleetwood School for hosting the most engagement activities, and to Delair and Fine schools in the Pennsauken School District for supporting families during the government shutdown and SNAP benefits delay.

Their efforts are a powerful reminder that students are helping lead the fight against hunger in South Jersey.



MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Want to make a real difference for families across South Jersey? There are plenty of easy ways to jump in.

A simple **onetime gift** goes a long way, but you can also become a **monthly donor** to provide steady support we can count on.

Many people don't realize their employer might **match** their donation, doubling the impact without spending an extra dollar.

Or, if you prefer giving through a **donor advised fund** or **donating appreciated securities**, those options are also available and can sometimes stretch your generosity further.

Feeling social? You can start a **Virtual Food Drive** fundraiser and rally your friends and family around a cause that matters.

For longterm impact, **planned giving** and **bequests** help ensure future generations have access to meals and hope.

And yes, even **cryptocurrency** donations are welcome.

No matter how you choose to give, every contribution helps provide meals to neighbors who need them most.

For more information on ways to give, visit foodbanksj.org/donatemoney.



A Taste of Compassion

A Publication of the Food Bank of South Jersey



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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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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FROM SOUTH JERSEY, FOR SOUTH JERSEY: A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NEW PRESIDENT & CEO, JANE ASSELTA

Dear friends,

I'm honored to introduce myself as the new President and CEO of the Food Bank of South Jersey.

I was born and raised here – I grew up in Vineland, just a few miles from my family's produce farm. Throughout my career, including roles with the USDA Rural Development office and the Southern New Jersey Development Council, I've remained deeply committed to the South Jersey community. I've taken a servant-leadership approach that centers equity for our neighbors and strengthens organizations making a meaningful impact.

For 40 years, the Food Bank of South Jersey has been that organization, playing a vital role in ensuring neighbors across our region have access to nourishing food. That impact is rooted in strong partnerships and a shared commitment to showing up for South Jersey. I am so grateful to be joining such a dedicated community.

As I step into this role, my priority is to listen, learn, and work alongside our agency partners, funders, volunteers, and collaborators. Together, we will continue strengthening access to nutritious food, supporting community health, and responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our region.

I look forward to connecting with you in the months ahead. Thank you for working alongside us and for being such essential part of this mission.



Jane Asselta

Jane M. Asselta
President & CEO
Food Bank of
South Jersey

Getting to Know Our New President & CEO

- Born and raised in Vineland, NJ
- Former New Jersey State Director for USDA Rural Development
- 10+ years with the Southern New Jersey Development Council
- 20+ years working in economic development, public service, and nonprofit leadership
- Longtime champion for South Jersey communities
- Graduate of Douglass College, Rutgers University



YEAR-IN-REVIEW: WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MADE POSSIBLE

2025 asked a lot of our organization and our community.

Like many nonprofits, the Food Bank of South Jersey navigated change, uncertainty, and moments that required us to adapt quickly and thoughtfully. What carried us forward was the same thing that has sustained this work for 40 years: our partners, our supporters, and a shared commitment to South Jersey.

Because of your support, neighbors across our region had access to food and resources when they needed them most.

- **20,692,235** meals distributed
- Approximately **189,000** neighbors served each month
- **7,016,935** pounds of fresh produce provided
- **15,757** Health & Wellness program participants across **617** classes and workshops
- **3,971** volunteers engaged, contributing **11,913** hours

These are more than numbers. They represent families supported, seniors served, and communities strengthened through consistent access to nourishing food.

For 40 years, being of South Jersey has meant more than geography. It means listening to our neighbors, responding to local needs, and growing alongside the communities we serve. And even as the region changes, that commitment remains the same.

Together, we continue to respond to the need, strengthen programs, and lay the groundwork for what comes next. As we move into the year ahead, our focus remains clear: listening, learning, and building on the progress we've made, with the community at the center of everything we do.

By the Numbers: FBSJ 2025 IMPACT

24,755,177
lbs. of food
distributed



equivalent to
20,692,235
meals
distributed



189,000
neighbors
served monthly



15,757
H&W
program
participants

3,971
volunteers
contributing to
11,913 hours

across
617
classes &
workshops

40 YEARS FORWARD: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE 'OF SOUTH JERSEY'

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Food Bank of South Jersey, we asked our employees, volunteers, and community partners to tell us:

What does it mean to you to be 'of South Jersey'?

"It means being in a community where people care about each other. It means having a food bank that serves the South Jersey community with compassion and dignity." – **Lavinia A, FBSJ employee**

"I take pride in being 'of South Jersey. Being an educator of the youth here is the best thing I've done with my life." – **Antonio C, community partner**

"It's about being part of a community. Volunteering is not just about giving your time and effort; it's about weaving the fabric of our communities with threads of compassion and dedication." – **Donna F, volunteer**

"I live in SJ, raise my family in SJ and I work in SJ. The work I do helps my neighbors." – **Tricia Y, FBSJ employee**



NEW CLASSES AT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH, WELLNESS & NUTRITION

The Center for Health, Wellness, and Nutrition (CHWN) continues to grow as a space for learning, connection, and support. This year, we're introducing new classes designed to meet neighbors where they are. These programs will offer practical tools that support health, confidence, and everyday well-being.

From nutrition education with hands-on learning experiences to financial health and workforce training, these classes reflect our commitment to addressing hunger while also supporting long-term wellness and sustainability.

For upcoming opportunities, visit our website at foodbanksj.org/joinaprogram.

