

ONE NEIGHBOR'S STORY

Together, Carol and her husband built a life full of love and memories over 61 years. But after George passed away last fall, Carol found herself adjusting to a new reality.

She sold their home of more than 50 years and moved in with their daughter. And as prices skyrocketed, Carol turned to the Food Bank for support.

Reflecting on the rising costs, she shared, "I don't know how people do it. The food bank helps out a lot."



She also expressed her appreciation for the essentials she receives, like sugar, eggs, milk, and flour. "I was shocked, it was like my care package," Carol said, explaining how much it meant to her to have access to these necessities.

For Carol, the food bank became a vital resource, especially during such a difficult time.

"The things that I didn't use, I gave to someone that needed them," she said, emphasizing the power of community and how even small acts can make a difference.

At 82, Carol is determined to continue enjoying life, always grateful for the support that the Food Bank has provided.

"The food banks — they're the greatest thing," she added, encouraging others in a similar situation to take advantage of this invaluable resource.

HOW TO HELP THIS GIVING SEASON

This Giving Season, the Food Bank of South Jersey has lots of opportunities for you to give back to our communities.

- **Holiday Food Drive** – November 23, 2024 – Help us provide holiday meals to our neighbors. Bring a turkey or non-perishable holiday food item to the Food Bank's HQ between 9 AM – 12 PM.
- **Giving Tuesday** – December 3, 2024 – A national day of giving that encourages people to donate generously to organizations like ours that support a brighter, more thriving future for all.
- **Students Change Hunger** – Now - January 27, 2025 – An opportunity for students across the state to rally together against food insecurity. Schools and youth organizations host food drives and fundraisers to help feed our New Jersey neighbors.
- **VFD – Anytime!** – Start a virtual food drive any time of the year. For every \$1 we receive in donations, we can provide two meals to our South Jersey neighbors. So rally your friends and family and make a big impact this holiday season! [foodbanksj.org/virtualfooddrive](https://www.foodbanksj.org/virtualfooddrive)

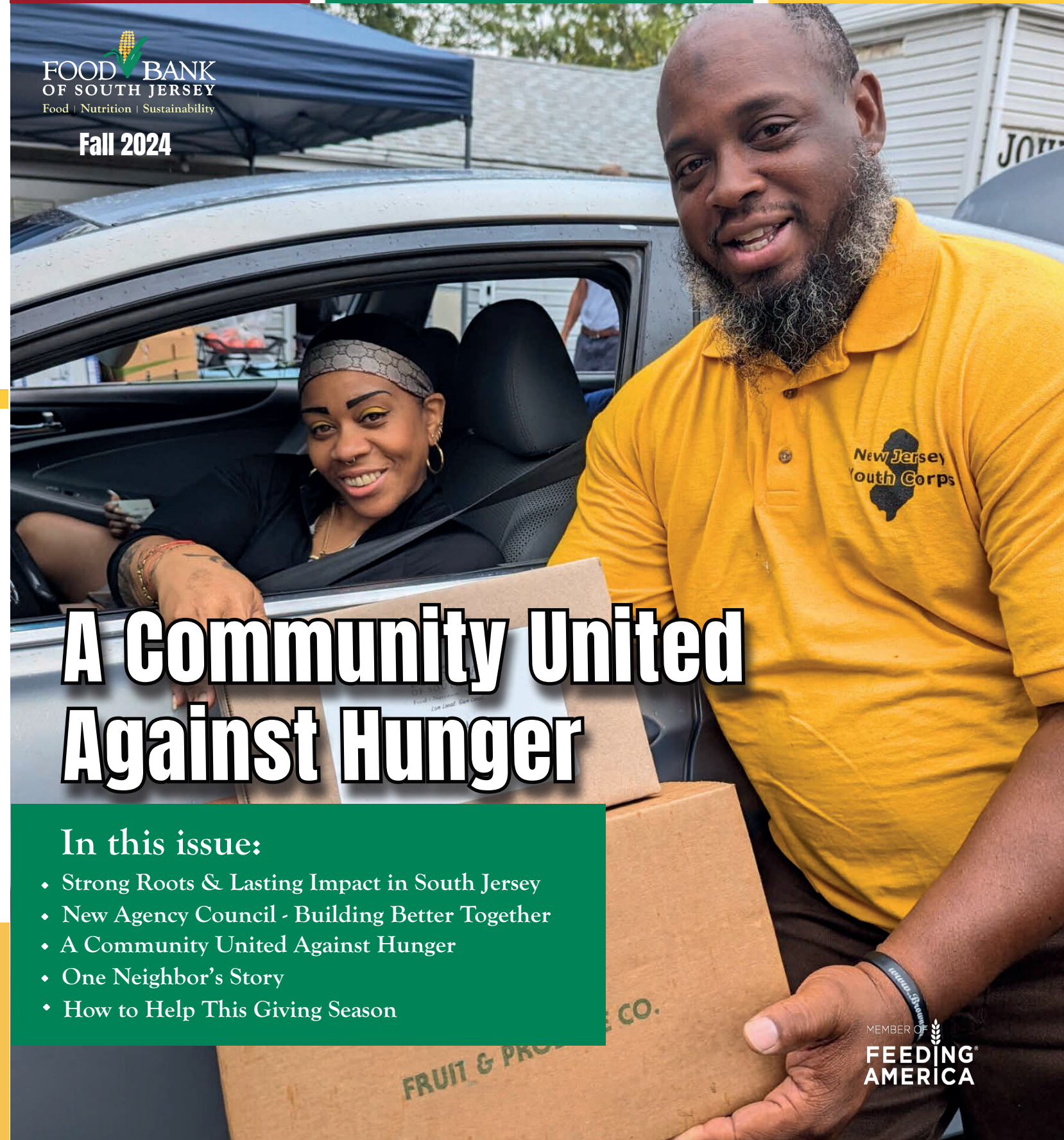


A Taste of Compassion

A Publication of the Food Bank of South Jersey

FOOD BANK
OF SOUTH JERSEY
Food | Nutrition | Sustainability

Fall 2024



A Community United Against Hunger

In this issue:

- Strong Roots & Lasting Impact in South Jersey
- New Agency Council - Building Better Together
- A Community United Against Hunger
- One Neighbor's Story
- How to Help This Giving Season



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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STRONG ROOTS & LASTING IMPACT IN SOUTH JERSEY

It's one of my favorite events of the year. Our annual Partners Appreciation Luncheon. It's an opportunity to celebrate, network, and come together as one collective South Jersey organization working every day on meeting the needs of our neighbors.



Fred Wasiak (left) & Pastor Sonita Johnson (right)

Our partners – the pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters located in so many neighborhoods throughout Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties – are true extensions of our mission. Organizations that are driven to offer an immediate solution to hunger by providing food assistance to people in need and helping our neighbors find sustainable ways to improve their lives.

I loved the theme of this year's event – South Jersey's Seeds of Growth. From serving our neighbors through the pandemic, to meeting the extraordinary needs we see today, each partner in our network has been a seed of growth.

These partners have helped us to be a better organization. They've helped us think differently. And they've demonstrated extraordinary compassion to help the increasing numbers of our neighbors facing the threat of hunger.

During a listening session at one of our agency partners recently, a local neighbor said, "I lost my job and never thought I would be in a situation to come to a pantry. I walked in so timid and scared to death, but they welcomed me with so much dignity and respect."

That's the essence of who our agency partners are: planted firmly in the communities they serve, with strong roots and committed sense of purpose. Working together with all our partners, we will continue to grow and ultimately change hunger in South Jersey.

Fred C. Wasiak

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



NEW AGENCY COUNCIL - BUILDING BETTER TOGETHER

Recently, FBSJ created an Agency Council, made up of leaders from some of the 300+ community organizations that partner with us. The aim of this representative group is to provide feedback to FBSJ and serve as a sounding board for new program and policy ideas.

"My experience with the Advisory Council has been enriching," said Cheri Slack, Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries. "Sharing insights and strategies with others in this community can really help enhance the effectiveness of all of our efforts."

Members of the Council are also mentoring agencies from the network, helping to resolve issues in order to reach their fullest potential.

"I have been able to both learn from others and contribute my experiences," continued Cheri. "The diversity of agencies represented on the council provide a wealth of perspectives, making it easier to tackle common challenges. Our shared commitment to ensure healthy nutrition for our neighbors is inspiring!"

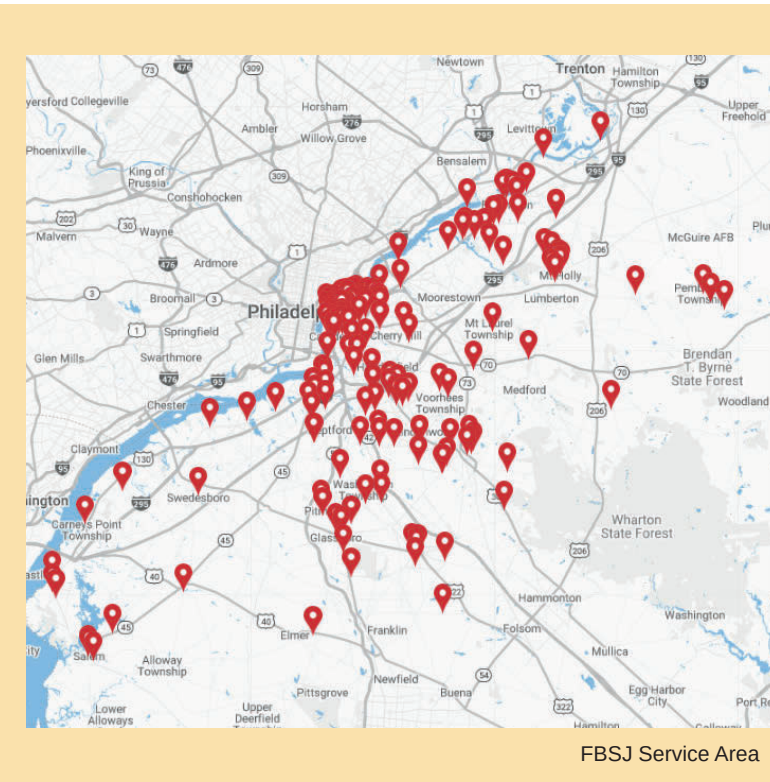


FBSJ Agency Council Meeting

A COMMUNITY UNITED AGAINST HUNGER

The Food Bank of South Jersey could not ask for a better group of partners within our four-county service area. Whether they serve 50 households a month or hundreds a week, these champions are dedicated to helping us find ways to create a more food-secure future.

We'd like to highlight a small sample of our 300 incredible partners that help us change hunger in South Jersey.



FBSJ Service Area

The First Baptist Church of Moorestown shows an unwavering commitment and resilience, remaining strong and supportive through all seasons. FBC provides an invaluable platform for the community, offering a weekly supermarket-style food pantry where community members can select the food items they really need.

Through its dedication to service, **Grace Episcopal Church** in Merchantville has a tremendous impact on its community. Beyond its far-reaching pantry services, Grace Episcopal is an active participant in Kids Thrive 365 programs, retail rescue programs, and weekly home deliveries, responding to emergency needs with compassion and efficiency.

Providing strong foundational support and establishing roots that allow its community to thrive, **St. John's Pentecostal Church** continues to do amazing work in Salem. St. John's has a plethora of resources for its neighbors, such as education, employment, self-care, and much more are available at its distribution.

With unwavering compassion and consistency, **Calvary Chapel Gloucester County** serves its community with remarkable efficiency. It has streamlined its operations and improved communications within the community. Efforts in fund-raising and marketing have not only sustained their programs but have also expanded its reach, enabling service to more people.

"They get food with no disparaging looks. These are our brothers and our sisters that come in, and they just happen to be in a place in their life where they need to rely on other people right now." - Jon Scheafer, Calvary Chapel Gloucester County



Grace Episcopal Church



Calvary Chapel Gloucester County



First Baptist Church of Moorestown