

SOUTH JERSEY STUDENTS STEP UP TO FIGHT HUNGER

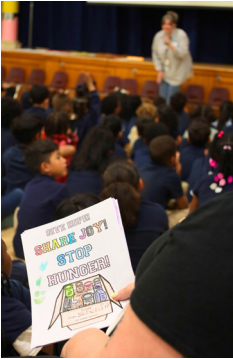
Each fall, students across New Jersey begin to take action in their communities through Students Change Hunger – a statewide food and fund drive that mobilizes schools to support their local food banks.

This year, students showed up in a big way. From collecting nonperishable food items to hosting food drives, students led the charge in supporting neighbors facing hunger.

Together, participating schools collected a total of 5,612 pounds of food for FBSJ and our 300 community partners.

- We're proud to recognize our top-contributing schools:
- Benjamin Banneker Preparatory Charter School
 - Delair Elementary School
 - George B. Fine Elementary School

“Our students may not know exactly who they’re helping, but they know they’re making a difference – and that’s what matters. It’s something you can’t quite touch, but you can feel. Being part of Students Change Hunger gives them that joy of knowing they’re helping their own community.”
— Rosalyn Lawrence, Principal, Delair Elementary School



As the Food Bank of South Jersey marks 40 years of nourishing communities, we’re especially inspired by this next generation of changemakers. Their compassion, creativity, and determination reflect the values that have guided our mission from the start and give us tremendous hope for the future.

Thank you to every student, teacher, and youth community group that took part. You’re helping ensure more South Jersey families have access to the food they need, one donation at a time.

A WINNING RECIPE: CHOP HUNGER RAISES CRITICAL SUPPORT

In May, FBSJ hosted Chop Hunger, where local corporate teams competed in a fast-paced, mystery-basket challenge in support of hunger relief.

Congratulations to Campbell’s, this year’s champions, who delivered a standout performance in the spirited competition. All 10 teams brought the heat to the kitchen and, amid the friendly rivalry, showed what it means to unite for a hunger-free future.

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event, including dessert sponsor, Puratos; beverage sponsor, Canada Dry; wine sponsor, Scrub Daddy; ingredients sponsors Wegmans and Eikhoff ShopRite; and our food sponsors, Norma’s, Haddon Culinary, Mama’s Meatballs, and Mama Marie’s Italian Deli.

Team Sponsors



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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A Taste of Compassion

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OPENING NEW DOORS AND BUILDING A NEW FUTURE – TOGETHER

In this issue:

- Unexpected Challenges and Feeding South Jersey For 40 Years
- Finding Her Place, Building a Future: Bedzaida Santana’s Impact on FBSJ
- Feed South Jersey – A Stronger Future Starts Here
- South Jersey Students Step Up to Fight Hunger
- A Winning Recipe: Chop Hunger Raises Critical Support

UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES AND FEEDING SOUTH JERSEY FOR 40 YEARS

Over 40 years, unexpected challenges are inevitable – and the Food Bank of South Jersey has weathered our share.

Government shutdowns. Natural disasters. Economic downturns. A global pandemic.

Coming off a record year in 2024 – 23.4 million pounds of food distributed, the equivalent of 19.5 million meals – we entered 2025 strong.

But then came the unexpected.

Earlier this year, we were notified that a key federal food distribution program was canceled, cutting more than 200,000 pounds of vital proteins, dairy, and produce.

We also learned that the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program – which provides neighbors with fresh produce from local farms – will end later this year. That means a loss of 284,000 pounds of food for FBSJ and carries serious implications for local farmers and their businesses, who have relied on this partnership to sustain and grow their operations.



Mobile distribution during the pandemic, and a rendering of our new space at 1300 John Tipton Blvd. Redering my differ from final construction.



These setbacks are significant. And with potential changes to SNAP on the horizon, more may lie ahead.

Our job is not only to serve but to advocate. To use our voice and elevate the voices of those we serve.

Like every challenge before, we'll face this one head-on. We'll find new solutions, fill the gaps, and remain here to Feed South Jersey – for the next 40 years and beyond.



Fred C. Wasiak

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

40 YEARS 40 STORIES

FINDING HER PLACE, BUILDING A FUTURE: BEDZAIDA SANTANA'S IMPACT ON FBSJ

In 1987, Bedzaida Santana joined the Food Bank of South Jersey as a VISTA volunteer – and quickly found her calling.

"It stole my heart," she says of those early days, working alongside passionate partners in a make-shift office. "The people I met were so amazing, and what they were doing was extraordinary."

By 1996, Bedzaida became Executive Director, leading the Food Bank through one of its most transformative chapters. At the time, the original warehouse in Camden faced security issues, including repeated break-ins.

Bedzaida knew the Food Bank couldn't grow – or even survive – without a new home.

With no experience running a capital campaign, she rallied community partners to raise nearly \$3 million. The result: a move to the current Pennsauken facility, purpose-built for expansion.

"Everything we dreamed about has taken place," she says. "That was the dream: to have space to expand, to increase what we were doing, not decrease."



The Food Bank's original space in Camden, NJ

Though she stepped away in 2004, Bedzaida's legacy lives on. From growing the agency network to planting the seeds of children's feeding initiatives, her leadership helped shape the Food Bank's future.

Now, as we mark our 40th anniversary, FBSJ will unveil its new Center for Health, Wellness & Nutrition, expanding direct food access and nutrition education just across the street from the facility she helped bring to life.

Bedzaida's legacy is woven into the walls, work, and heart of the Food Bank – and its future.

FEED SOUTH JERSEY – A STRONGER FUTURE STARTS HERE

For 40 years, the Food Bank of South Jersey has been a vital source of nourishment, support, and connection for our region. As we honor this legacy, we're also looking ahead with a bold, three-part initiative designed to ensure that every person in South Jersey can access the food and resources they need to thrive now and for the next 40 years.

Our **Feed South Jersey** campaign is more than an anniversary milestone, it's a blueprint for the future.

Rooted in community, driven by innovation, and focused on long-term impact, this campaign stands on three strong pillars:

BUILDING A SPACE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

At the heart of the campaign is a transformative plan: to create a centralized Center for Health, Wellness & Nutrition. This new space will be more than just a building – it will be a hub for direct service, hands-on learning, and deeper community engagement.

With dedicated areas for nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, volunteer activities, and more, this center will bring together partners, neighbors, and families in a shared commitment to well-being. By investing in this space, we're strengthening our roots and expanding our reach.



Rendering of proposed kitchen. May be different from final construction.

EXPANDING HUNGER-RELIEF INITIATIVES

The need in South Jersey continues to evolve – and we're evolving with it. This pillar of the campaign supports the growth of our direct service programs, mobile distributions, and school-based partnerships.

From increasing access to culturally relevant foods to reaching more older adults and children with tailored services, our goal is simple: make it easier for every neighbor to get the nutritious food they need. With your help, we're expanding capacity, improving infrastructure, and closing critical gaps in service.



Rendering of proposed training center. May be different from final construction.

THE SOUTH JERSEY HUNGER RELIEF FUND

Long-term impact requires long-term stability. The South Jersey Hunger Relief Fund is our commitment to the future – an endowment-style fund that ensures the Food Bank can continue to serve with strength and resilience for generations to come. This fund will support operational viability, provide flexibility to respond to emerging needs, and safeguard our mission against economic uncertainty. This investment helps guarantee that South Jersey's food security remains a priority today, tomorrow, and always.

