

A Taste of Compassion

A Publication of the Food Bank of South Jersey


FOOD BANK
OF SOUTH JERSEY
Food | Nutrition | Sustainability
Spring 2024



Fueling Our Mission

In this issue:

- Volunteer Appreciation Never Ends
- Senior Satisfaction
- Understanding the Impact:
Where does your donation go?
- Students Continue to
Change Hunger in NJ
- Food Bank Hunger Games 2024

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NEVER ENDS

Whether I'm walking through our building, visiting a pantry partner, or checking out one of our mobile distributions, I am constantly encountering our steadfast volunteers. They are everywhere.

A lot of organizations talk about the value of their volunteers, but in our world of food banking, volunteers are even more of a critical resource to our operations and our ability to reach South Jersey neighbors.

We've got volunteers who show up every day in our building. Volunteers like Dave Levay who retired and said he "found a home" volunteering at the Food Bank. Dave, who put in the most hours of any single volunteer last year, comes to FBSJ with a regular group of volunteers that are in our building every week. This is the group that helped prop up our operations throughout COVID, when we were forced to have a limited number of people in our warehouse.

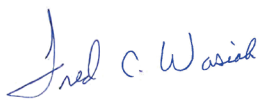
There's also a group of volunteers on the road we call Drew's Crew. This dedicated group shows up at our mobile distributions led by our driver Drew Johnson. They demonstrate their unwavering commitment to our mission and, of course, to Drew.




"I am very lucky that I am able to come out here and help these people that need it," said Melanie, a charter member of Drew's Crew. "We've become a little family."

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the volunteer service of our Board of Trustees. An outstanding group of South Jersey leaders, dedicated to driving our strategic purpose and pushing our organization to always be its best.

So yes, April was Volunteer Appreciation month. But for us at FBSJ, it's volunteer appreciation 24/7.



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



SENIOR SATISFACTION

Better quality + increased variety = Increased satisfaction.

It's a formula that works. And it's also the results of a recent survey of South Jersey seniors who are participating in the Food Bank of South Jersey's SNRS (Senior Nutrition Resource Supplement) program.

Seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations that the food bank serves. Many seniors must make the difficult choice of whether to pay for food or medical needs, or spend limited resources on utilities or meals.

"Making sure we meet the needs of seniors is critical to FBSJ," said Chris Luebbe, Senior Manager, Programs and Services. "We wanted to design a program that would improve access to healthy, nutritious food."



Launched one year ago, the new SNRS program's objective was to improve seniors' access to nutritious food and to find ways to meet their specific nutritional needs. A year later, the program received positive reviews across the board.

According to the recent survey, 77 percent of seniors in the program reported easier access and 62 percent are more satisfied with the SNRS program.

The program currently feeds 1,000 seniors every month at 21 locations throughout Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties. FBSJ is currently exploring ways it could expand the programs and better serve our seniors.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT:
WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION GO?

We are deeply thankful for and humbled by the unwavering support we receive. It is this support that empowers us to fulfill our mission and fuels our commitment to honor the voices of those we serve and collaborate with across Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties.



In our last newsletter, we shared impact numbers from 2023 and delved into the stories behind those figures – stories of our neighbors who have been positively affected by our services and the programs that have touched the lives of children, seniors, and individuals in our community.

But how do we get there? How do we achieve those numbers? It all stems from the compassion of our supporters. Their generosity fuels our mission and supports:

- **Food Programs:** Through a network of over 300 community organizations, we provide essential services, support children's initiatives, and enhance senior programs.
- **Nutrition Education:** We empower individuals to improve their health outcomes through nutrition education and healthy living habits.



And it all start with **you**. Together, we are creating a stronger community. Thank you for fueling our mission and for being a crucial part of this journey!

It all starts with you... Fueling our mission



STUDENTS CONTINUE TO CHANGE HUNGER IN NJ

Congratulations to all of the schools that participated in this year's Students Change Hunger:

- Baldwin Early Childhood Education Center
- Ben Franklin Elementary School
- Cherry Hill Alternative
- Cinnaminson Township Schools
- Lenape HS National Honor Society
- Morgan Village Middle School
- RCSJ ABG National Honor Society - Gamma Phi Chapter
- Rowan University Champ Program: Camden Academy Charter High School, Camden Big Picture Learning Academy, Camden High School, Dr. Charles Brimm Medical Arts School, and Eastside High School



Students Change Hunger is a friendly competition where schools and youth organizations throughout New Jersey compete to collect as much food and funds as possible for their local food bank. In South Jersey, our participants collected nearly 4,000 pounds of food for our neighbors! To learn more about the statewide challenge, please visit studentschangehunger.org.

FOOD BANK HUNGER GAMES 2024

Our 2024 Food Bank Hunger Games was a sizzling success! We couldn't have done it without the energy of our host Vittoria Woodill and the generous support of event sponsors Campbell's, United, and Inspira Health, along with our apron sponsor The Restaurant Store and ingredients sponsors Wegmans & Chopt Creative Salad Co.



A very special chef hats off goes to **Topgolf - Mt. Laurel** for being crowned 2024 FBSJ Hunger Games Champions! But a round of applause to all of our talented teams: Capehart Scatchard, Deerfield Associates/Fox Meadows, Holman Enterprises, Parts Life, Inc. and Virtua Health for bringing their A-game to the kitchen.

We'd also like to extend our gratitude to our Taste of South Jersey supporters Norma's, IndeBlue, The Farm and Fisherman, and Haddon Culinary, as well as our dessert sponsor Puratos and drinks sponsor Canada Dry. And thanks to our judges, Chef Gerald Drummond, Executive Chef, Campbell's Foodservice; Chef Jason Hall, Culinary Director, Cathedral Kitchen; Anita Wemple, President/CEO, The Community Planning and Advocacy Council; and Chef Emili Medley.



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.



©Copyright May 2024