

CFBNJ In Baton Rouge

In the face of Hurricane Sandy almost four years ago, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey responded to the need across the state. Baton Rouge faced a similar disaster in August with a flood that damaged homes, displaced families and destroyed a local food bank. As part of the Feeding America® network of food banks, CFBNJ first responders joined the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank's team to rebuild the food bank so they can help rebuild their community.



Bruce Springsteen At MetLife

We were at MetLife Stadium for three of Bruce Springsteen's August concerts, fundraising for New Jersey's hungry hearts. The FoodBank and Springsteen have been fighting hunger together for more than 30 years. Springsteen's performances broke records in terms of length and the FoodBank broke records in terms of funds collected during his concerts. Springsteen fans and MetLife Foundation helped us raise enough funds to provide 514,700 meals for food insecure people across New Jersey!



Hunger Action Month™ Recap



The FoodBank had a busy Hunger Action Month™! We had a kick off with leaders from the community and our partner agencies, we went to Trenton to advocate with fellow New Jersey food banks, and we encouraged our neighbors to get involved in the fight against hunger. Take a look at some snapshots throughout the month of action.



What These Kids Are Thankful For

With Thanksgiving coming up, we asked our young volunteers what they're most thankful for, and this is what they told us...

"I'm thankful for all the things I have, like food," 9-year-old T.J. said. "It makes me feel joyful and happy to be helping people who don't have as much as I do."

And T.J. isn't the only one grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hungry New Jersey children.

"It's great to have the chance to help people in need," Dylan, 8, told us. His sister, Jessie, agreed. "I'm happy there are people who help give food," she said.

While nearly 340,000 children in New Jersey don't know if they will have dinner tonight, thousands of others do their part to fill the need with healthy food.

Kids volunteer at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, packing bags of pasta and sorting food for hungry families across the state. They work with their classmates to collect food and funds as part of the Students Change Hunger program.

Ten-year-old Anika told us what it means to help kids like her who don't have the food they need to grow and focus in school.

"It's nice to volunteer because there are people who don't have food," she said, "and it's nice to give them what they need."

Lily, 8, also enjoys volunteering. "It makes me feel good because I'm helping families who don't have food," she explained.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey works to feed hungry families every day and is thankful for the families who join the effort to end hunger.



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CFBNJ Gear Now Available

Have you started shopping for holiday gifts? Go to cfbnj.org to visit our online store with FoodBank apparel and gear. You're sure to find the perfect gift (that gives back) for your loved ones. All proceeds support the fight against hunger.

Thank You To Our Recent Donors

These corporations, foundations and organizations made recent generous donations to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey: BJ's Charitable Foundation; Bloomberg; Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa; Catalent Pharma Solutions; Charles A. Meyers Private Foundation; Chatham Asset Management; D'Augustine Foundation; Dun & Bradstreet; Foster-Karney Foundation Fund; Fred C. Rummel Foundation; George Bauer Family Foundation; Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Hoboken Farms; Hollister Construction Company; Inspira Health Network; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Krupnick Foundation; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; NAIOP; Prudential Financial; PSE&G; Rocker Family Foundation; Spectrum Foundation Charitable Foundation; Stop & Shop; Wilf Family Foundation.



A Message From Debra



Dear FoodBank Friends,

As the holiday season approaches and we prepare for Thanksgiving, it's the perfect time to reflect upon our blessings. I am thankful every day – for my loved ones, good health, the FoodBank family and those who support our mission.

At the FoodBank, we have been working since spring to guarantee that thousands of turkeys and the holiday fixings will be provided to families for this special day of thanks. In addition to the food itself, the simple act of feeding our hungry neighbors offers humanity, hope and promise.

Many opportunities exist for you to get involved this fall, including our annual

Turkey Drive the weekend before Thanksgiving and our signature Check-Out Hunger® campaign at participating grocery and convenience stores. Please consider donating to help us make sure every New Jersey family enjoys the holidays. All of these small efforts make an enormous difference in the lives of food insecure families.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at the FoodBank, and please do not hesitate to call me if you have ideas for how CFBNJ might be of greater service in your own community!

Debra D'Agostino



It's Turkey Time!

Thanksgiving is just weeks away... and we want to make sure food insecure New Jersey families share in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. You can support our effort by visiting one of our Turkey Drive sites on Saturday, November 19th, and Sunday, November 20th. Last year, we collected nearly 35,000 pounds of food and more than 4,300 turkeys thanks to generous donors. Find donation sites near you at cfbnj.org/turkey.

Support CFBNJ While Shopping

Put Check-Out Hunger® on your grocery list! It's an easy way to help our neighbors in need. As you check out at participating grocery and convenience stores, make a donation to support your local food bank. You can also become a Check-Out Hunger® donor at cfbnj.org/coh.



Students Change Hunger Is Underway



Students Change Hunger began in September, and we are seeing the progress of the schools involved in this year's statewide competition, which runs until Monday, December 12th. Schools can still register at studentschangehunger.org. It's a great way for students to unite in the fight against hunger.

Partners Help Serve Healthy Food



Tough choices. Food insecure people across New Jersey make them every day.

One decision they regularly face is what quality of food to purchase. Processed foods tend to be more affordable and filling, but they lack the nutritional value of other foods, like fruits and vegetables. In fact, 75 percent of the people we serve told us they often choose inexpensive, unhealthy food as a way to cope.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey aims to fill the nutrition gap with healthy food, distributing more than 10.7 million pounds of produce among our over 1,000 partner charities in the last year alone.

We're able to distribute millions of pounds of fruits and vegetables thanks to government and private donations, FoodBank purchases and our gleaning partners. We glean from retailers and local farms, who send surplus and imperfect-looking produce, reducing waste and feeding more people in need.



The FoodBank receives shipments from retail partners, such as Wakefern and Amazon; produce from local farms, like Grow-a-Row in Pittstown; and financial support from donors, like CME Group Community Foundation. Our warehouse always has pallets full of seasonal produce, which our partner agencies point out as they pick up food for the people they help us reach across New Jersey.

"Good nutrition is essential," said Terrence from AIDS Resource Foundation for Children in Newark. He knows that whenever he comes to the FoodBank, he's sure to find fresh and healthy options for the people he feeds.

Jessica from Faith Fellowship Ministries in Sayreville echoes his thoughts about providing healthy food to people who might otherwise eat something inexpensive and with little or no nutritional value. "They love it," she told us about the people she serves.

Those in need at pantries, soup kitchens and shelters appreciate the nutritious options they might otherwise struggle to afford. We know how important healthy food is and how food insecurity impedes on one's access to quality meal choices. We work every day – with help from our partners and generous donors – to serve healthy food for our neighbors to lead healthy lives.



Southern Branch Spotlight

Save The Date!

Our Captain's Table at the Atlantic City Boat Show is set for Thursday, March 2nd, 2017.

Grab 50 Bites+ For A Cause

Atlantic City Weekly's 50 Bites+ has already begun. When you purchase your pass, you receive more than 50 bites at Atlantic County's best restaurants – and you support the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, which receives a portion of the proceeds. Join the food journey and help fight hunger... There are now less than 50 days to enjoy all your bites, as the fundraiser ends Thursday, December 1st, so act now! Get tickets at atlanticcityweekly.com/50bites.

A.C. Seafood Festival

Staff and volunteers headed to the Atlantic City Seafood Festival at Bader Field this September. Attendees stopped by the FoodBank booth to get passes for the Chowder Cook-Off fundraiser, and Good Time Tricycle Productions donated a portion of entrance ticket proceeds. The 2-day festival raised more than \$8,300 for the FoodBank thanks to the support of seafood lovers!

We Stuffed The Bus!

To help kids in Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May counties prepare for back-to-school season, our Southern Branch teamed up with Boscov's and Longport Media to collect backpacks and supplies. They gathered 400 backpacks full of essentials through the Stuff the Bus fundraiser, giving children the tools they needed heading into the new school year.

