



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MERCER STREET FRIENDS FOOD BANK TO UNVEIL NEW REFRIGERATION UNIT
Community FoodBank of New Jersey and BJ's Charitable Foundation Team Up to Expand MSF
Food Bank's Fresh Produce Capacity**

HILLSIDE, N.J., Feb. 27, 2018 –Mercer Street Friends (MSF) Food Bank, a partner distribution organization of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of their new 20-foot box refrigerator-freezer unit on Wednesday, February 28 at 10 am. The expanded refrigeration space will increase the Food Bank's capacity to store and distribute fresh food to pantries and meal sites throughout Mercer County.

The unit was purchased for MSF Food Bank by the Community FoodBank of New Jersey thanks to a generous capacity building grant from BJ's Charitable Foundation. The grant, which was part of BJ's \$1 million donation to Feeding America, was announced in September 2017 and was used to purchase new refrigeration equipment for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey and its partner agencies to help advance the collective goal of distributing more fresh, nutritious food, including produce, dairy, and lean proteins, to food-insecure people across New Jersey.

"BJ's is committed to nourishing communities and helping families thrive by improving access to fresh, nutritious food," said Kirk Saville, executive director of BJ's Charitable Foundation. "We're thrilled to celebrate the expansion of MSF's refrigeration space and help the food bank in its quest to end hunger."

Robbinsville Mayor Dave Fried will attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with representatives from the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, BJ's Wholesale Club, and the Sands Foundation. The Robbinsville Hydroponic Farm team, which provides fresh baby lettuces to children as part of MSF Food Bank's Send Hunger Packing weekend meal program, will also be at the event. With the new refrigerator in place, MSF Food Bank expects to double the amount of fresh produce it can provide by expanding its partnerships with farmers and retailers to accept more produce for distribution among children and families struggling with hunger in Mercer County.

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About BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.

Headquartered in Westborough, Massachusetts, BJ's is the leading operator of membership warehouse clubs in the Eastern United States. The company currently operates 215 clubs and 133 BJ's Gas[®] locations in 16 states.

BJ's provides a one-stop shopping destination filled with top-quality, leading brands, including its exclusive Wellsley Farms[®] and Berkley Jensen[®] brands, along with USDA Choice meats, premium produce and delicious organics, many in supermarket sizes. BJ's is also the only major membership warehouse club to accept all manufacturers' coupons.

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About Mercer Street Friends Food Bank

Founded in 1958 by Quakers, Mercer Street Friends responds to the needs of the community to build alliances that will have the most meaningful impact in addressing issues of poverty. We provide a range of integrated services that build community, nurture self-worth and independence, and offer resources for children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and its lasting effects.

About the Community FoodBank of New Jersey

The [Community FoodBank of New Jersey](#), a member of Feeding America[®], provides people across the state with food, help and hope. The FoodBank distributed more than 50 million pounds of food last year to its more than 1,000 community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, mobile pantries, and child and senior feeding programs. More than 4.7 million times a year, someone in need is fed by the FoodBank's network of partners. For our neighbors, especially families, and for the volunteers and donors who support them, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is the powerful change agent that fills the emptiness caused by hunger with the basic human essentials people need to survive.