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**STATEMENT FROM CARLOS M. RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY, ON REPORT SHOWING INCREASE IN NJ HOUSEHOLDS UNABLE TO COVER BASIC NECESSITIES**

**OCTOBER 22, 2018 (HILLSIDE, NJ)** – Today, the United Way of New Jersey released its 2018 Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) report, which shows that the number of New Jersey households unable to cover basic necessities increased from 37% to 38.5% between 2014 and 2016 as the cost of living outpaced wages. In response to the report, Carlos M. Rodriguez, President and CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, said:

“I thank the United Way for helping to shine a spotlight on the ongoing hardship that many New Jerseyans are facing. Looking around the state, you may not realize who is experiencing hunger, but the truth is it’s our friends, neighbors, family members, and co-workers. Hunger is a problem that hides in the shadows as hard-working families are unable to keep up with increasing costs, and sadly, the number only appears to be growing. This is an urgent issue that requires coordinated action from non-profit, government and private sector partners to find solutions and help those in need.”

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The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), a member of Feeding America®, has been delivering food, help and hope across the state for over 40 years. Last year, CFBNJ provided nutritious food for over 47 million meals through its network of more than 1,000 community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, mobile pantries, and child and senior feeding programs. For our hungry neighbors, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is the powerful agent of change that fills the emptiness caused by hunger and provides resources that are essential to earning a sustainable living.