Check-Out Hunger Turns 25!

This year marks the silver anniversary of one of our best-known fundraisers: Check-Out Hunger. Every holiday season, Check-Out Hunger gives shoppers at many major supermarkets and popular convenience stores an easy and effective way to give. How easy?

Simply scan a donation slip, and the amount is added to the bill and appears on the receipt. 100% of every Check-Out Hunger donation in our service area comes straight to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, reaching hungry people in need with food, help and hope.

Mary O’Connell, Check-Out Hunger Coordinator at CFBNJ, says, “While the individual donations are small, they add up to millions of dollars every year. Those dollars benefit 37 Feeding America Food Banks in ten states. Please give generously when you see our Check-Out Hunger displays. Every penny of every donation goes to the local Feeding America food bank. Our thanks go to everyone at all of the participating retailers and their customers, who donate so generously each year.” Special thanks go to Check-Out Hunger sponsor Premio Foods.

Last year, those $1, $3 and $5 slips from generous Check-Out Hunger donors really added up, totaling almost $800,000 for CFBNJ! And with every dollar donated, we’re able to distribute almost $10 worth of food. To celebrate a quarter century, this season got off the ground in a really special way, with the launch of a Check-Out Hunger 25th anniversary balloon at the QuickChek balloon festival.

So next time you’re at the store over the holidays, we hope you’ll join us and help Check-Out Hunger!

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A Message From Debra

Dear FoodBank Friends,


These are the core values we hold dear at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

Every day, our ambassadors of hope—our staff, volunteers, partner charities, donors, Board and all our friends—live these three words.

As I drive to work and see these three simple but profound words gracing the facade of our building, I am grateful for, and humbled by, the monumental task that we have been given—to feed the hungry, and to offer an abundant life full of hope and promise.

As I travel this state in the footsteps of my mentor, Kathleen Di Chiara, people often ask how they can provide food, help and hope. I ask them to consider a simple exercise, and I issue a challenge. Take a moment to think of five things in your life that you are grateful for today. Imagine what your life would be like without these things. Gratitude is the alchemy that turns problems into blessings, and the unexpected into gifts.

That gratitude needs to be shared. If you carry the message to others, you will be making the best repayment for the gifts given to you. Gratitude is far more than an attitude. Gratitude is action.

How can you provide food, help and hope? Act now. Look at your own gratitude list, and pay it forward. If we all came together to do just that, help and hope would follow in abundance.

As much as we are doing, people are hungry for us to do more—every day.

In this season of giving and thanks, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for everything you do to support the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

On behalf of all of us at CFBNJ, and all those we serve, you top our gratitude list!

Wishing you and your loved ones all the best,
WHO’S HUNGRY?
If You Think You Know the Face of Hunger ... Think Again

48 million Americans, including more than 15 million children, struggle with hunger. You might never know who is worried about where they’ll find their next meal. You might never know who needs help—and it might be your neighbor.

HUNGER IN NEW JERSEY

- More than 1.1 million people in New Jersey don’t have enough to eat.
- Almost 400,000 of them are children.
- 1 in 5 kids in our state is hungry.

Stephanie, David and their three kids are just one example. Their stable lives became filled with stress and hardship when David was laid off from the transportation industry job he’d held for years. Both tried to find jobs that would make ends meet, but Stephanie admits sometimes they just aren’t able to pay their bills on time. That’s where food, help and hope come in. “We first found out about the food pantry while I was volunteering at my children’s school,” says Stephanie. She had never heard of a food pantry before, let alone been to one. But that quickly changed. This wife and mother shares, “We began volunteering at the pantry and also taking food home to feed our children. We get fresh fruits and vegetables that would be very hard to afford otherwise, and are critical to giving my children the energy they need to continue to do positive things like play sports and succeed in school. I know that soon our family will be out of this tough time, but I will always be grateful that the food pantry provided us with extra help when we needed it most.”

More than 4.7 million times a year, someone in need is fed by CFBNJ’s network of partner charities, including food pantries. In the past year, we distributed 44.6 million pounds of food—the most in our history. But new numbers from the US Census Bureau show that almost one million people in New Jersey are living in poverty, an increase of almost 250,000 in the past ten years, and the poverty rate in New Jersey has jumped from 8.7 percent to 11.1 percent. While much is already being done, we know people are hungry for us to do more.

TURKEY DRIVE TIME

One way to help your neighbors in need is through CFBNJ’s Turkey Drive, our signature holiday season food drive. It will be held the weekend before Thanksgiving, Saturday, November 21st and Sunday, November 22nd. FoodBank staffers and volunteers will be set up at supermarkets and other sites for this community event which brings in turkeys along with other much-needed food and donations. Find details at cfnj.org.

Tyson Foods made its annual donation to CFBNJ’s Southern Branch, delivering a truck-load filled with 40,000 pounds of chicken.
Dine for Food – Help – Hope

If you’re going out to eat, we have a great way to help feed your hungry neighbors with Dine for Food – Help – Hope. Some of the area’s most popular restaurants are taking part, making it easy for you to give. By just adding $5 to your bill, you can help feed a family of four. You’ll find the list of participating restaurants at cfbnj.org/dineforfoodhelphope

FSTA Shows the Way!

All the best to the latest graduates of CFBNJ’s Food Service Training Academy! They highlight the success of this life-changing program. The most recent class had 18 graduates, and on graduation day 13 of them already had jobs. From recruitment to 18 weeks of hands-on culinary training, to life skills lessons and job placement support, the FSTA makes a difference every day. To find out about enrolling, please contact Rosemarie Murray at 908-355-3663 ext. 240 or rmurray@cfbnj.org. To find out about hiring one of our qualified, ServSafe certified grads, please contact Wilma Armstrong at 908-355-3663, ext. 288 or warmstrong@cfbnj.org.

Thank You to Our Recent Donors

These corporations, foundations and organizations made recent financial donations to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey:


Signed by “The Boss”

Congratulations to Jeffrey Haber, who had the winning ticket when we raffled off this 1952 reissue Fender Telecaster—autographed by longtime CFBNJ friend and supporter Bruce Springsteen!

The drawing was held at the Chatham Club, which hosted the 2nd Annual Fit-to-Food 5k to benefit the FoodBank. Many thanks to the Chatham Club, all the walkers and runners, everyone who bought a raffle ticket … and to Bruce!
Creating a Lasting Legacy

You can make a difference into the future in the lives of those in need by becoming a member of the Legacy Partners of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey with a planned gift.

For close to 40 years, we have been working to provide food, help and hope to men, women and children in our state. By including CFBNJ in your estate plan, you can help sustain our mission. A planned gift is especially meaningful because it provides long-term support that strengthens CFBNJ’s ability to meet challenges down the road in the fight against hunger.

There are several ways to meet your charitable objectives. For example, you can leave a bequest in your will, add CFBNJ as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, or give a gift of retirement assets (IRA, 401k or other retirement plan). We recommend you consult with your legal and/or financial advisor to determine the best option for your circumstances.

Your lasting commitment will enable CFBNJ to continue to meet the basic needs of families who struggle to put food on the table.

If you have any questions about charitable gift planning or the Legacy Partners, please call Phyllis Dunlop, Vice President of Resource Development and Marketing, at 908-355-3663, ext. 233, or email pdunlop@cfbnj.com.

A Night to Remember!

Our Chefs Tableside Dinner held in September was a great success and enjoyed by all. We want to thank The Westin Governor Morris, Chris Casey & Co. Catering, Allied Beverage Group, Harvest Restaurant Group, and the chefs who were so generous with their time and talent:

- Anthony Bucco - Restaurant Latour @ Crystal Springs Resort
- Thomas Ciszak - Chakra
- Bryan Gregg - Escape
- Corey Heyer - Bernards Inn
- Bruce Johnson -
  Harvest Restaurant Group
- Paul Kapner - CFBNJ (FSTA)
- Marty Kester - Ninety Acres
- Eric LeVine -
  Morris Tap & Grill/Paragon
- Ryan de Persio - Fascino
- Craig Polignano - Ryland Inn
- Kevin Sippel - Jockey Hollow Bar & Kitchen
- Scott Snyder - BoulevardFive 72
- Kevin Takahashi - The Washington House
- Robert Uehara - Redux
- Bobby Varua - Blue Morel
- Todd Villani - Terre à Terre
More than Meals

Waste Not, Want Not

by Meenu Mahajan

Recently, Feeding America has been asking a good question about this country, one that deserves a good answer: How can 48 million people face hunger when 70 billion pounds of food go to waste?

Now, at least a partial solution is in the works. In September, the United States Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency announced aggressive goals to cut food waste in the U.S. in half by 2030.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is already working on the problem. Our Retail Gleaning Program is an excellent example of saving wholesome and edible food and using it to feed hungry people in our communities. The FoodBank’s partnership with major wholesalers, retailers and supermarkets rescued 8.3 million pounds of food last year, using it for our child feeding programs and for distribution to our partner charities including soup kitchens, food pantries and senior programs. Most importantly, we were able to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dairy for those who face hunger in New Jersey.

It is heartening to see that the voluntary goals set by USDA are backed by the private sector, faith-based organizations and charitable institutions, many of whom have already started taking steps to save food. Reducing food loss by just 15 percent could feed more than 25 million Americans each year, and help protect the environment.

When food ends up in landfills, it becomes part of solid waste that leads to 16 percent of all methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Producing food also takes as much as 80 percent of all consumable water in the U.S. Reducing food waste can deliver the triple bottom line of reducing hunger, saving water and energy, and addressing climate change goals.

Almost half of the food that America produces is wasted and it is clear that this perfectly good food should be used to feed people and not landfills. CFBNJ is proud to be playing a part in the effort to cut down on food waste and provide healthy food for those who are hungry in our communities.

Meenu Mahajan is a Grant Writer at CFBNJ

SOUTHERN BRANCH SAVE THE DATES!

The 2016 Captain’s Table at the Atlantic City Boat Show will be held Thursday, February 11 from 6pm-9pm. Tickets for the gala are $125 per person, and include food tastings from renowned Atlantic County restaurants, wine and spirits samplings from Allied Beverage, admission to the boat show, and free valet parking. Sponsorships for the event are available. Please contact Evelyn Benton, Executive Director of CFBNJ’s Southern Branch, at 609-383-8843, ext. 109, or ebenton@cfbnj.org

The Annual Chance Auction at The Carriage House in Galloway Township will be held Sunday, April 10 from 1pm-6pm. Advance tickets are $20, and tickets at the door are $25. Tickets include parking, entrance, buffet, and a sheet of free bidding tickets. Only 300 seats available!
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Lisa Knuthe
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Kathleen’s Closet Thrift Store Locations:
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6400 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 609-241-7323

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