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COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY – SOUTHERN BRANCH LAUNCHES 'FEED A FAMILY' DINE OUT FUNDRAISER Local Restaurants Encourage Patrons to Add \$5 to Their Bill to Combat Hunger

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To support its hunger-relief efforts in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey – Southern Branch will soon kick off a weeklong "Feed a Family" fundraiser in partnership with local restaurants. The dine out program will run from Sunday, July 30, through Sunday, August 6.

Some 25 local restaurants have already signed on to encourage their patrons to add \$5 to their bill. "Adding \$5 to your bill at any of the participating restaurants will allow the FoodBank to provide 15 meals for families in need in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties," said Richard Uniacke, Vice President of the Southern Branch. "We are so grateful to our generous partners and encourage other restaurants to join us."

Participating restaurants include: **Atlantic City:** Dock's Oyster House, Gordon Ramsay Pub & Grill, Guy Fieri's Chophouse, Hard Rock Cafe, Harry's Oyster Bar, Knife & Fork Inn, The Iron Room, Wonder Bar & Grill; **Avalon:** Bobby Dee's Rock 'N Chair; **Galloway:** Assaggio!, Oyster Creek Inn, Romanelli's Garden Cafe; **Linwood:** Casaldi's Cucina; **Margate:** Downbeach Deli & Restaurant, Essex Seafood Co., Maynard's Cafe, Steve & Cookie's By The Bay, Tomatoes; **Northfield:** Carluccio's Coal Fired Pizza, Chido Burrito; **Ocean City:** Island Grill; **Smithville:** Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern, The Smithville Inn; **Somers Point:** Charlie's Bar & Restaurant, Smitty's Clam Bar; **Ventnor:** Annette's, Cardinal Bistro, Domenico's, Red Room Cafe, Tutto Fresco.

The Iron Room in Atlantic City has pledged to match the total amount raised from the weeklong fundraiser.

Uniacke said Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties have some of the highest rates of child food insecurity in the state; close to one in four kids in these communities doesn't know where his or her next meal will come from. "Families make tough choices every day to provide for their children, often deciding between food and other necessities and skipping meals so their kids have enough to eat."

"Summertime is the toughest season for food insecure children and their families because kids don't have access to the healthy school meals they rely on," Uniacke added. "The FoodBank is serving nutritious summer meals to help fill the gap, but there's much more to be done to eliminate hunger in our region. 'Feed a Family' provides a simple way for South Jersey residents to support their struggling neighbors as they dine out with their families."

To participate, contact Renate Taylor, Development Officer, at rtaylor@cfbnj.org or 609-383-8843 ext. 122 .

The <u>Community FoodBank of New Jersey</u>, a member of Feeding America®, provides people across the state with food, help and hope. The FoodBank distributed over 43 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 that people need to survive.