Hungry Kids Need Our Help This Summer…

With the school year almost over, a lot of New Jersey families are looking forward to vacations and carefree summer days. But many others are dreading the long stretch, because their kids will be missing out on the breakfasts and lunches they usually get at school—sometimes the only meals these hungry children can count on. The USDA’s latest numbers show almost 700,000 children in New Jersey take part in the National School Lunch Program, and more than 300,000 take part in the School Breakfast Program. In order to help bridge the gap, CFBNJ’s Hillside headquarters and Southern Branch in Egg Harbor Township will be serving tens of thousands of meals to hungry children at Summer Food Service Program sites around the state from June 27th through August 26th.

We recently asked some kids to share a little about what it’s like to go hungry. Here’s what a few of them told us:

“You feel down, you feel sad that you don’t have food at the table.”

“When I’m in school and I’m hungry, I go to where the water fountain is and I drink a lot of water.”

“I cry when I’m hungry because it’s really hurtful to my stomach.”

“Sometimes, all that makes you feel better is food.”

And they told us how it feels when they get food:

“I feel happy because I know I will have something to eat.”

“Sometimes we run out of food so it helps.”

“It helps us eat a dinner without my grandmother having to worry about having enough rice to give us.”

“My mom says it’s a blessing to have food to eat together.”

…but We Can’t Do It Alone

In order to feed hungry children and families in New Jersey this summer, we rely on our generous donors and volunteers, as well as our relationships with more than 1,000 partner charities. When CFBNJ provides food and meals to these agencies, it changes lives. On page 5, you’ll find more on how the food we provide is making it possible for one agency—Cornerstone Family Programs in Morristown—to nourish hundreds of children a day with healthy meals.
A Message From Debra

Dear FoodBank Friends,

A person with food has many problems.
A person without food has one.

Children who are hungry will be entering their most vulnerable time of year—summer.

Without school as their home base for meals, many children suffer. It is very difficult for a lot of us to imagine that children right here in New Jersey and across the United States of America are hungry. It seems unfathomable.

On this very afternoon as I write to you, just as on so many busy afternoons here at the FoodBank, our trucks are rolling out to deliver meals to children for dinner at schools, after-school programs, recreation centers, and neighborhoods. The Community FoodBank of New Jersey does this every single day.

As I meet people around the state, I am often asked “What can I do to help kids?” I would invite those who care about children’s hunger to come visit us to see us in action. We have Kids Cafes throughout New Jersey that can give you a glimpse of our reach and our needs.

Our core mission is to feed the hungry. Children do not get a vacation from hunger. As summer approaches, please make this the time to remember them in your giving, your thoughts and your volunteering. Donate generously on behalf of a child in your life.

On behalf of all the hungry children in New Jersey, we thank you!

Best,
Bank of America’s annual “Give A Meal” program raised enough money to help CFBNJ provide more than 400,000 meals.

The New Jersey State Bar Association’s 2nd annual “Lawyers Feeding NJ” campaign raised enough money to help us provide 140,000 meals.

Turtle Back Zoo in Essex County helped collect more than 50,000 pounds of food for our neighbors in need.

The Red Bulls food drive at the team’s Harrison, New Jersey arena brought in more than 1,000 pounds of food.
When the drinking water was shut off to many Newark schools because of elevated lead levels, CFBNJ immediately put our disaster response know-how into action. Our trucks rolled out and our team delivered badly-needed bottled water to schools and designated drop-off sites in the city, helping ease a difficult situation.

Our Kathleen’s Closet Thrift Store in Hillside is helping nourish minds, donating hundreds of books—especially children’s books—to help fill the shelves of the Hillside Public Library, which is still trying to replace books destroyed by a severe flood in 2013.

CFBNJ and volunteers worked to make our part of the world a little more beautiful, spending Earth Day cleaning up and planting the Hillside Community Garden near our headquarters.

Our next Food Service Training Academy class begins June 27th. Go to cfbnj.org/fsta to meet some of the students in this extraordinary job training program, and to learn about enrolling, or hiring one of our highly-qualified graduates.
What Can YOU Do to End Hunger in 2016?

By Diane Riley, Director of Advocacy

Hunger is one of those problems that everyone agrees should be fixed. In this land of opportunity, with the financial crisis behind us, we should be celebrating the reduction of the prevalence of hunger. Sadly, in New Jersey, more than one million people still struggle to get enough to eat on a regular basis. Nearly 1 in 5 children in the state faces hunger. Ending hunger can be done. But it will take all sectors of society including individuals, charities, business and the government. And it will take serious commitment. In this election year, what could be a more important issue for our country than making sure all Americans have access to enough food to be able to thrive? Help us to educate politicians and those running for office about the problem, and ask them how they will be part of the solution by making ending hunger a priority.

Learn more about the issues at our Advocacy page cfbnj.org/help/advocate
Follow #VoteToEndHunger

Get voting information from the New Jersey Division of Elections njlections.org and League of Women Voters lwv.org

Advocacy in Action

(left) In Trenton - Being honored at the State Assembly during Women’s History Month for work in the fight against hunger and poverty

(above/right) In Washington, DC - For a Day of Action, with U.S. Representative Donald Payne, Jr., and other anti-hunger advocates

(above/left) In the Community - At a Feeding America SNAP Summit in Connecticut

Partners in Providing Food and Promoting Healthy Eating Habits

When 8-year-old Alejandra gets off the school bus in Morristown to attend Cornerstone Family Programs’ After School Enrichment Program at 3:15pm, she races to the third grade classroom, hangs up her coat and backpack and settles in for a nutritious hot meal. The meal might be salad, baked chicken, homemade corn bread and broccoli. Or meatloaf with green beans and biscuits made from scratch. Or macaroni and cheese with mixed vegetables and homemade apple sauce. Because Alejandra’s parents work split shifts, this after-school meal is her dinner.

Thanks to a partnership with CFBNJ, Cornerstone’s cooking staff has the fresh ingredients to provide 450 meals a day to the 300 children in its pre-school, before-school and after-school programs at its subsidiary, the Morristown Neighborhood House. During its summer camp, the number of meals Cornerstone serves daily jumps to 800.

Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are the norm for children served at the Neighborhood House, explained Patrice Picard, CFP’s Chief Executive Officer. “We are committed to teaching kids the difference between healthy eating and filling up on ‘empty calories,’” said Picard. “Our partnership with CFBNJ enables us to provide healthy and delicious meals with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables every day.”

CFBNJ thanks Pam Palumbo of Cornerstone Family Programs for Sharing this Story.
Spotlight on Our Southern Branch

A Chance to Say Thanks

Our warmest thanks to the hundreds of CFBNJ supporters who turned out for our Chance Auction. Special thanks to Francesca Bishop, Miss New Jersey American Teenager, and Whitney Ullman, our celebrity emcee for the event, pictured here with Richard Uniacke, Vice President of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey’s Southern Branch. Thanks also to ICON Hospitality and The Carriage House in Galloway.

Put a Bad Beat on Hunger!

This popular charity poker tournament to benefit CFBNJ returns this summer to the Borgata. It’s a guaranteed good time for a great cause. Join in the fun and fundraising Friday, July 15th. Registration begins at the Borgata at 10:30am that day. See you there!

Grateful for Our Volunteers

The Galloway Township Middle School Student Council and the Ruff Ryders are just two of the groups that recently pitched in to help our neighbors in need. If you’d like to volunteer at our Egg Harbor Township facility, please contact Maria Bocelle at 609-383-8843, ext. 114 or mbocelle@cfbnj.org
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Become a Monthly Sustainer

Our Sustainers Circle is a powerful, effective way for you to support CFBNJ on an ongoing basis. Your sustained monthly contributions will make a positive impact on the lives of people throughout New Jersey who struggle to meet their basic needs. This steady source of income allows CFBNJ to plan ahead, respond to emergencies, and help as many people in need as possible. For more information, and to join the Sustainers Circle, visit cfbnj.org/help/sustainers.

Shop ... Save ... Support!

Kathleen’s Closet Thrift Store Locations:
15-19 Evans Terminal, Hillside, NJ
908-242-3955
MGM Mall
6400 Black Horse Pike,
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
609-241-7323