



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Michelle Jansen, Director of School Programs & Community Outreach
mjansen@cfbnj.org/908-355-3663 ext. 279

Nicole Williams, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
nwilliams@cfbnj.org / 908-355-3663 ext. 282

**COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY HOSTS GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY
Day of Service Encourages New Jersey Youth to Help Others in Need**

HILLSIDE, NJ—April 30, 2018

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey hosted Global Youth Service Day at their Hillside facility on Saturday, April 21. Global Youth Service Day is a day of service for youth across the world to help others in need. Forty-four participating students represented school districts across New Jersey. Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr. provided the keynote address for the event and spoke about how real change in the world requires young people to be at the forefront. A teen panel included three students that launched hunger-fighting projects in local communities to provide food, help and hope to those in need. Each teen panelist presented information on how they became engaged in the fight against hunger and the long-term impact of each initiative. Teens were presented with awards from the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in appreciation for their time, commitment and dedication to making sure that no one has to use their imagination for dinner.

Teen panelists included Margot Kapusinki from Cedar Grove, NJ who started a food drive initiative called “Margot’s Meals” that has provided 600 lbs. of food and over \$1,000 in funds to support those in need. Avika Bansal from Livingston High School has launched multiple food, fund and clothing drives that have provided over 5,000 lbs. of food to combat hunger and poverty in Essex county. Sanford Miller from Westfield, NJ spoke about his countless hours of volunteering at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in his role as a Student Ambassador.

The event included middle and high school students from YouthBuild Newark, Montville High School, Mount St. Mary High School, Bloomfield High School, Cristo Rey High School, Wardlaw-Hartridge School, St. Catherine of Sienna, Livingston High School as well as students from the National Honor Society at the Walter O. Krumbiegel Middle School in Hillside. Students from “The Hygiene Project” in Secaucus and the Union Baptist Church in Elizabeth also attended. Michelle Jansen, Director of Schools & Community Outreach for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, spoke about the history of the food bank and how students can become involved in promoting wellness and increasing access to healthy food through grassroots community projects. Students enjoyed the presentations and team-building activities that were followed by a two-hour volunteer shift packaging food for distribution to the food bank’s network of more than 1,000 partnering food pantries and soup kitchens.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is looking forward to working with high school students during the upcoming “Teen Leadership Institutes” that will be held during the month of July 2018 in partnership with City Green. Interested students can contact Michelle Jansen at the food bank for more information about registering at mjansen@cfnj.org.

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.