

## In Your Neighborhood



Just two blocks from the Elizabeth River, among homes and buildings that make up the city's most historic neighborhood, lives one of the oldest nonprofits in Elizabeth—one of the FoodBank's first partner pantries.

The Elizabethport Presbyterian Center was founded in 1965 to address the needs of the community during a time when major local manufacturers were closing their doors, leaving so many out of work. For over five decades, the agency has provided social services and educational support to children and families.

Today, the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center's food pantry, affectionately known as "Agency Number Nine" among FoodBank staff, serves over 3,500 households each month through weekly distributions, as well as home deliveries for elderly clients. They also provide nutrition education through the FoodBank's NJ SNAP-Ed program.

"We go the extra mile to make sure someone has food in their refrigerator," said James Carey, Director of Social Services at the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center since 2002.

Lauren, 57, is one such client who visits the pantry to put food on the table for herself and her 19-year-old autistic son, who she cares for full-time.

"I've got lights, gas, rent to pay for. I've got to try to buy food, but sometimes I can't," she told us. "So this helps a whole lot."

Lauren is health conscious, striving to maintain a healthy diet for her son, and for herself to ensure her mobility and independence as she gets older.

"I want to depend on me," she said. "And I need to be able to take care of my son."

With a shared commitment to nourishing those in need, like Lauren, James Carey says that the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center's decades-long relationship with the FoodBank has only gotten better over time.

"We share an organic relationship—like childhood friends who have grown up together," he told us. "It goes beyond just providing and receiving food."



## Partner Spotlight: Harvest Restaurant Group

Countless partners of all sorts and sizes have played a role in the FoodBank's success over 45 years, but few have been as consistently dedicated as Harvest Restaurant Group. Their commitment to our mission took root more than 20 years ago, when Harvest Restaurant Group Founders Chip and Cheryl Grabowski first visited the FoodBank for a tour with Kathleen DiChiara.

"We both came out in tears," they told us. "It was extremely emotional to us to realize what the organization was doing and what was actually happening in New Jersey. It opened our eyes."

The rest was history.

Since then, Harvest Restaurant Group has supported our hunger relief efforts in various ways, beginning with their involvement in our annual Blue Jean Ball, which was historically held in our warehouse and featured themed buffet tables that their team helped staff each year with overwhelming enthusiasm.

"It became a favorite of all of our staff," they said. "We always had more than enough people who responded that they wanted to work at the event."

Harvest Restaurant Group's support for our signature events continues today, as they've generously provided wine for our Women Fighting Hunger Luncheon, lent the talents of some of their chefs to our Chefs Tableside Dinner, and donated food and time as one of the food truck vendors for our newly revamped Blue Jean Ball.

They have also been actively involved with our Food Service Training Academy (FSTA). Until recently, they held an annual holiday contest

among the staff at their restaurants—a competition to see who could sell the most pies to benefit the FoodBank. Harvest Restaurant Group customers would place their orders in advance, and the company's culinary team would bake the pies at the FoodBank, with the help of community kitchen staff and FSTA students.

Two years ago, they switched from selling pies to including a special dessert on their restaurants' menus during the month of November.

All proceeds garnered by their Pumpkin Butter Cake are donated to the FoodBank, with amazing results! The dessert menus even include verbiage to educate customers about the FoodBank.

Harvest Restaurant Group has also provided jobs to FSTA graduates—at least half a dozen over the last three years alone.

"The longevity of Harvest Restaurant Group's relationship with the FoodBank is just one reason that our partnership is so special," said Carlos Rodriguez, President & CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. "They always step up when we need them. The Grabowskis have cultivated a culture of giving back that touches every member of their team."

One of their employees, the General Manager at Roots Steakhouse, even serves on the FoodBank's new Emerging Leaders Board.

"We strive to be a larger part of the community and to make a difference," Chip and Cheryl said. "Feeding those in need is very important to us, and we're here to help our neighbors every day."

For more information on how your company can get involved with the FoodBank, please contact Debby Scheinholtz, Director of Corporate Relations, at 908-242-3951 or [dscheinholtz@cfbnj.org](mailto:dscheinholtz@cfbnj.org).



**Do you have fond memories from the FoodBank's history?** If so, please post your photos on social media with the tag **#CFBNJ45** to share them with us. We look forward to seeing them!



## Thank You To Our Recent Donors

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

### \$100,000+

Russo Family Foundation Inc.  
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust  
Wakefern Food Corporation  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Allergan Foundation  
M & J Realty Partners, LLC  
The Morris & Jingoli Families  
Nagel Rice, LLP  
QuickChek Corporation  
Valley National Bank

### \$50,000-\$99,999

Arthur and Barbara Vitarius Foundation  
Azeez Foundation  
Bank Of New York Mellon Community Partnership  
Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.  
C & S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.  
CBA Industries, Inc.  
Chatham Asset Management, LLC  
Citizens Bank\*

ConvaTec Inc.  
Credit Suisse Disney\*  
Forsgate Industrial Partners  
Grainger Foundation  
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts Program  
The KRE Group  
Milliman, FRM  
NAIOP New Jersey Chapter  
Prudential Financial, Inc.  
Quest Diagnostics Incorporated  
Red Nose Day Fund\*  
Ruane Family Foundation  
Seymore & Helen Ann Rubin Foundation  
TD Charitable Foundation  
United Airlines  
Verizon Foundation  
Walmart, Inc.  
Welsh Family Foundation

### \$1,000 - \$9,999

A3 Technology, Inc.  
Accent Fence, Inc.  
ADP, LLC  
America's Charities  
Aquestive  
Artist Baker, LLC  
Atlantic City Community Fund

Atlantic County Bar Association  
ATM Money Machine, Inc.  
Beach Creek Oyster Bar  
Big Catch Inc  
Boathouse Restaurant  
BOB Construction  
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa  
Broadley's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning  
BRV Sharma Family Foundation  
Calvi Electric  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Citigroup  
Coast Tile & Marble Supply, Inc.  
Cooper Levenson  
Crispy Green  
D'arcy Johnson Day Lawyers  
DCO Energy, LLC  
Distinctive Car Toyz of Pleasantville, LLC.  
Dixon Associates Engineering, LLC  
Ducktown Tavern  
Enlightened Solutions & The Hansen Foundation  
Ernst & Young

Feldman-Rayfield Cosmetic Surgery, P.A.  
Fort Washington Surgery Center  
Foster-Karney Foundation Fund  
Fox Rothschild LLC  
Garden Homes Management Corporation  
Gem Casino Trave  
Giltitz Family Foundation  
Glenn Insurance Inc.  
Goldman, Sachs & Co. Matching Gift Program  
Good Time Tricycle Productions  
Grant Thornton, LLP  
Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis LLP  
Hankin Sandman Palladino Weintrub & Bell  
Harrison Beverage  
Hartz Mountain Industries, Inc.  
Heist Insurance Agency  
HSBC Bank USA, N.A.  
Inspira Health Network  
J.W. Didado Electric, LLC  
Jersey Cares  
Jersey Coast Insurance & Financial Svcs, LLC  
JET Electrical Testing, LLC

Kings Food Markets, Inc.  
L Feriozzi Concrete Co  
Laricks Real Estate  
Levine Family Foundation Inc.  
Mazars USA LLP  
McCarter & English, LLP  
Merck Foundation  
Millburn High School Girls Field Hockey  
Mondelez International  
Muslims For Peace  
New York Football Giants  
New York Yankees Foundation  
NJM Insurance Group  
North Jersey Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.  
OceanFirst Foundation  
Paul B. Greetin & Beryl S. Greetin Foundation  
Pfizer Matching Gifts Program  
PNC Financial Services  
Raffiani Family Foundation, Inc.  
Reckitt Benckiser  
Reconstructive Orthopaedic Associates II, PC  
Region Nine Housing Corporation  
Resorts Casino Hotel  
Richard H. Holzer Memorial

Foundation  
Roberts Fine Jewelers  
Rothman Institute  
Salartash Surgical Associates LLC  
Savastano Family Foundation, Inc.  
Section 16 Group, A Public Charity  
SGS North America Inc.  
Siganos Management  
South Jersey Industries, Inc.  
Steve & Cookies By The Bay  
TD Bank  
The Dance Place  
The Kean Foundation Inc.  
The MCJ Amelior Foundation  
Tropicana Casino & Resort  
Troverie  
UBS  
Urie's Waterfront Restaurant  
US Foods  
Van Buren Injury Treatment Center, PC  
Westside Meats  
Willis of New Jersey, Inc.  
WithumSmith+Brown, PC  
Zissu Family Foundation  
\*Funds received via Feeding America



# The Feed

Spring 2020

## A Message From Carlos

Dear FoodBank Friends,

In 2020, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is recognizing a milestone anniversary—45 years of service to our state's neighbors in need. Though our history is rich with accomplishments, we would much rather be out of business with no one in New Jersey going hungry. Nevertheless, this is an opportunity to reflect, to honor those who have helped the FoodBank fulfill its mission, and to look ahead as we anticipate what the next 45 years will call us to do.

You've likely noticed the FoodBank's refreshed brand, complete with a new logo and updated color palette—part of our efforts to fill hungry hearts with hope as we prepare for the organization's next chapter. I hope that you like it and will consider it synonymous with the fight against hunger in New Jersey, one that we can win together.

With Kathleen DiChiara as our pioneer, the FoodBank has grown from a one-woman operation in the back of a station wagon to New Jersey's largest anti-hunger organization. The state of hunger, too, has changed over the years but not drastically enough. Hungry families may face marginally less stigma than they once did, but more are struggling despite having at least one household member with a job—more than half of all homes served by the FoodBank today versus about 3% in 1975.

I sat down with FoodBank Founder Kathleen DiChiara and long-time food banker Cathy McCann to discover more about our history and to paint a picture of the organization and of hunger in New Jersey then and now. I hope that our conversation is as illuminating for you as it was for me.

Thank you for making the last 45 years possible, and for believing that no one in our state should go hungry.

Sincerely,

Carlos M. Rodriguez

Follow Carlos on Twitter! @FoodBankCarlos



## Q&A with Kathleen DiChiara and Cathy McCann



**CR:** What moved you to start serving the community?

**KD:** It goes way back. In the early 70s. There was great famine in Bangladesh. My sister is a nun, and the sisters from her order were there. It was just before Christmas when I heard about it, and my husband and I decided that instead of exchanging gifts, we would make a donation. And then one summer, I took a class at Seton Hall—global action and human relations. I was the only suburban housewife there, and everyone else was with a peace and justice committee or a religious group. But from there, I said to myself, "Yes, I am concerned about world

(continued on pg 2)



hunger, and where my feet are planted is part of the world. Now, let me see who in my area is going hungry."

The next Sunday at church, I asked the priest if I could ask people to start bringing in food every Sunday, and he agreed. Then, I gave out my home phone number to everyone in town that I could think of, and I asked that if they knew of anyone without food to tell them to call me. And what I experienced was that no one without food called me. Instead, neighbors and friends called. One of the first calls that I got was from the friend of a man who had lost his job. I got some food together and knocked on the man's door, and when he answered and I had a bag of food, he started yelling at me, saying, "Who told you I needed that?" So, I said, "Okay, if you don't need it, find somebody that does," and I left it for him. Three weeks later, the man called up and said, "I want to apologize to you. I was so embarrassed I couldn't support my family. But I've got a job now, and I want to help. Where do I drop off some food?"

I think that my whole life experience, from the very beginning, involved learning things that broke down myths about what this type of person does or does not do. I've always wanted people to move away from believing that "the hungry are over here." No, they're everywhere, and that's true today.

**CR: Is there a moment in the FoodBank's history that you would consider particularly pivotal?**

**CM:** For me, it was moving into the current building on Evans Terminal. When we went and looked at this building, it was so huge and empty, and I said to Kathleen, "We'll never fill this whole thing up," and she said, "Oh, yes, we will." And we did. Kathleen was a dreamer, and we got it done. We were able to start new programs and do even more with the new space that we had.

**KD:** The other thing that, in so many ways, was pivotal was when we became involved in Second Harvest (now Feeding America). To be able to call up my friends at different food banks was really a turning point for me, since nothing in my educational background prepared me to drive a forklift or to run a warehouse.

I grew up the middle child of three. People used to ask my brother, my sister, and I, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" My sister always said that she wanted to be a nurse. My brother wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to be a lion tamer, and I have been one. It just wasn't with the big cats. It was tackling big challenges, and joining Second Harvest was part of that.

**CR: What's the significance of the FoodBank's three main tenets of food, help, and hope? How are they still relevant now?**

**KD:** Having distributed millions of pounds of food, it's shocking that more people seem to be struggling now than when I began in 1975. Back then, one person working in a household was sort of the rule, but now for so many homes, two people may have jobs and still may not be able to support a family. When I started, there were many senior citizens that were hungry and situations where someone in the household lost their job. Those circumstances still occur today, but on top of that, we've had a few generations of people growing up in poverty. No matter how far we're going, there's still the challenge to get other people involved and to raise the funds to continue this important work.

**CR: In honor of the FoodBank's anniversary, what message do you have for everyone who's made the last 45 years possible?**

**KD:** Keep the good going. It's harder out there now for people than it was when I first began. The successes that we've had along the way were because of so many people who were generous in sharing their funds, their time, and their talent. Those things are still needed today, and they're needed as we think about going 45 more years.

Read the full Q&A with FoodBank Founder Kathleen DiChiara and long-time VP of Operations Cathy McCann at [cfbnj.org/45thanniversary](http://cfbnj.org/45thanniversary).

# 45 Years of FOOD, HELP and HOPE

1975

Kathleen DiChiara sees the need in the community and begins collecting and distributing food from the back of her station wagon, using her garage as storage and her kitchen as an office.



1982

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, distributing 150,000 pounds of food during the year.

1987

The FoodBank takes over the Salvation Army program serving Atlantic County and expands its hunger relief efforts to South Jersey with a new Southern Branch in Landisville, which would later relocate to Egg Harbor Township.

1991



Check-Out Hunger® launches with 10 founding retail partners, raising over \$200,000 statewide and putting food insecurity front and center at 730 supermarkets and convenience stores.

1993

The FoodBank's headquarters moves to its current home at 31 Evans Terminal in Hillside, a former Kraft factory with 285,000 square feet of warehouse space.



1994



The first Blue Jean Ball annual fundraiser is held on October 22 with an "Age of Aquarius" theme. The event is \$75 per ticket and features cocktail hour, a silent auction, and dinner and dancing in the warehouse.

1999

The Kids Cafe program is launched with an initial goal of nourishing up to 500 children per day with dinners prepared in the FoodBank's newly completed commissary kitchen.

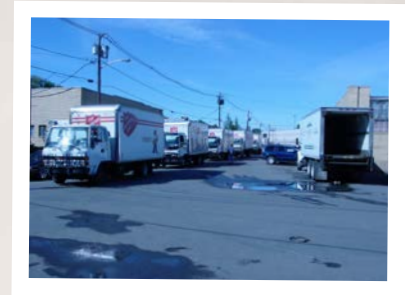


2000

The Food Service Training Academy begins as a 12-week culinary and life skills program to help those in need procure employment in the food service industry.

2001

After the September 11 World Trade Center attack, the FoodBank serves as the processing center for all relief donations arriving from points west and south of New York City, working with the Salvation Army to coordinate emergency supplies and to provide bottled water and meals for rescue workers.



2012



Despite power outages and major flooding in its warehouse, the FoodBank responds to statewide need in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

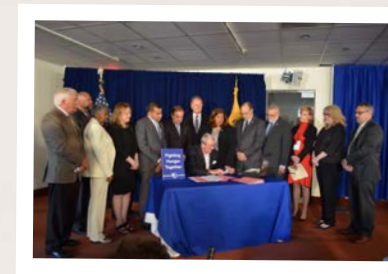
2015

After 40 years as Executive Director, FoodBank founder Kathleen DiChiara retires, leaving behind a legacy of food, help and hope that has touched countless lives.

2017

The FoodBank launches its *Hunger as a Health Issue* initiative that takes a holistic approach to food insecurity with access to fresh produce, free health screenings, and nutrition education. New programs include Healthy Families Farmers Markets and Food, Health and Hope: An Answer to Diabetes.

2019



New Jersey takes a major step towards expanding food access for neighbors in need as Governor Phil Murphy signs Speaker Craig Coughlin's comprehensive hunger bill package into law. Current FoodBank President & CEO Carlos Rodriguez takes part in the historic event, receiving the pen that one of the laws was signed with.

2020

Today, the FoodBank is the hub of a robust network of more than 1,000 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other feeding programs, distributing over 60 million pounds of food annually. In recognition of our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we're evolving our brand with the introduction of a new logo—one that represents our end goal of striving to fill our hungry neighbors' hearts with hope.



Become a monthly donor of \$45 or more and receive a special gift! Your generous donation in honor of our landmark anniversary will help the FoodBank build on its history of service to our state's most vulnerable. Get started at [cfbnj.org/45monthly](http://cfbnj.org/45monthly).