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COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY URGENTLY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORTS Volunteers needed to pack Emergency Meal Kits, build Family Packs, and more

HILLSIDE, NJ-October 14, 2020

For perhaps the first time in its 45-year history, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) is facing a critical shortage of volunteers at its Hillside warehouse. With food insecurity projected to increase 56% across the state as a result of the pandemic, CFBNJ urgently needs more helping hands to aid in maintaining the magnitude of its response.

"CFBNJ is committed to meeting the prolonged and growing need for food assistance that we have seen throughout New Jersey during COVID-19, but we can't do it without the volunteers that are essential to our operation," said Carlos Rodriguez, President & CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. "With just two hours of your time, you can make a real impact in the fight against hunger where and when it's needed most."

CFBNJ needs volunteers to pack Emergency Meal Kits, assemble Family Packs, assist at off-site food distributions, and more. With one in five children in the state expected to face hunger, the organization plans to double its output of Family Packs in the coming year, which give supplemental food to kids in need and their families. CFBNJ also seeks to continue providing Emergency Meal Kits, of which it has distributed more than 100,000 since March, that each contain enough nonperishable food to sustain a family for several days.

All volunteers must be 14 or older (teens aged 14 and 15 must be accompanied by an adult) and sign a COVID-19 waiver. Social distancing is strictly observed during volunteer shifts, temperatures are taken for all who enter the building, and masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer are provided.

Visit **cfbnj.org/volunteer** to register for a two-hour volunteer shift of your choosing. If your company is interested in bringing a group of employees to volunteer, please contact Xenia Ferencevych, Corporate Volunteer Manager, at **xferencevych@cfbnj.org** or 732-798-5248.

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The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), a member of Feeding America®, has been delivering food, help and hope across the state for 45 years. Last year, CFBNJ provided nutritious food for over 66 million meals through its network of more than 1,000 community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, mobile pantries, and child and senior feeding programs throughout the 11 New Jersey counties it directly serves (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union). For our hungry neighbors, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is the powerful agent of change that fills the emptiness caused by hunger and provides resources that are essential to earning a sustainable living.