

# the feed

STORIES OF FOOD, HELP & HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

## INVESTING IN OUR NETWORK'S CAPACITY: CFBNJ Provides Grants to Local Organizations

Earlier this year, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), Mercer Street Friends, and Norwescap selected 292 community partners, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and more, across 18 counties to receive grants through a \$3.5 million investment in network capacity. Though these local food assistance organizations are more essential than ever, many of them are struggling financially, as they've experienced unexpected and increased expenses due to the pandemic.

Awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 were given to help these partners expand their capabilities during this time of historic food insecurity by funding additional refrigeration, household and hygiene items for clients, transportation, equipment to enable outdoor distributions, and other critical needs. These grants, which were given in collaboration with the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund's Endurance Grants program,

represent the first round of a larger, multi-year Network Investment Initiative. CFBNJ is also grateful to the Community Foundation of New Jersey for their generous support and partnership in facilitating the grant awards.

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green Food Pantry, a grant recipient in Essex County, has gone from serving about 60 people each month to serving about 500 people each month. The funds from CFBNJ have helped them to pay for winterization expenses, repairs to their kitchen floor, a new freezer, additional shelving, and diapers to distribute to clients.

"We expect that the need will stay more or less on this level, which is way beyond what we're used to," said Don Cornell, Food Pantry Director. "We wouldn't be able to continue serving this many people without the grant from the FoodBank."

Approximately 95% of grant applicants reported significant increases in demand for food assistance over the past year, and elevated levels of food insecurity precipitated by COVID-19 may continue after the pandemic has ended.

At the James O. Bryant Food Pantry in Piscataway, Middlesex County, the grant has increased their capacity so greatly that they can now participate in CFBNJ's gleaning direct program, picking up donated food from their local supermarket that they didn't have enough storage to accept previously. The pantry's clientele has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, so they have purchased new equipment to allow them to continue providing more food than ever before.

"With the grant from the FoodBank, the pantry is giving people nutritious food and making them feel cared for," said Wilhelmina Bryant, Food Pantry Director. "It's breaking down barriers, because people who would not have come to a food pantry before are finding themselves in need now."

Continue reading this issue of *The Feed* for more on the grant recipients and the funding partners who have helped to make the Network Investment Initiative possible.



Aldersgate Outreach Community Center (top, left) in Middlesex County used their Network Investment Initiative grant to purchase a new van for food pickups that alleviated the need for staff and volunteers to use their personal vehicles. Church of the Oranges (right) in Essex County repaved their difficult parking lot with the funds, while The Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City (bottom, left) purchased a new freezer and other food and beverage equipment to help them continue providing summer and afterschool meals for kids.



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## a message

FROM CARLOS

At our virtual Blue Jean Ball in May, I welcomed the nearly 400 attendees who joined us from their homes with some big news...that CFBNJ was on track to distribute a new record number of nutritious meals, one that went above and beyond our goals and projections! Now, having closed out the year at the end of June, I'm proud to share with you that we provided enough food for a total of 85 million meals.

This milestone, which has exceeded our expectations, could never have been reached without our network of over 800 community partners. The small church pantries serving twice as many clients as they're used to. The retirees dedicating their golden years to feeding families in need. The volunteers running drive-through distributions, making deliveries, and packing bags of food. They are the unsung heroes of the pandemic and the true driving force in the fight against hunger in New Jersey.

Fittingly, we at CFBNJ have dubbed 2021 "The Year of the Network," a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our community partners, while working to meet their most urgent needs. The Network Investment Initiative, which is the main focus of this issue of The Feed, was launched this year to address a potential threat to our shared future – that many of our partners lack the resources they need to keep up with rising hunger in their communities.

Together with the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund, Mercer Street Friends, Norwescap, generous corporate partners, and donors like you, we are providing much-needed support to allow these local organizations to continue their critical work. And this is just the beginning! Funds provided by the State of New Jersey through the CARES Act will allow us to further build upon this initiative, extending it into a multi-year commitment.

Our community partners have never wavered in their commitment to serve those in need, even in the face of an unprecedented health crisis, just as you've never wavered in your support of our shared mission. When you give to CFBNJ, there's a good chance you're also helping the food pantry or soup kitchen in your own town – *thank you!*

Best wishes for a wonderful fall,

Carlos M. Rodriguez  
President & CEO

Follow Carlos on Twitter!  
@FoodBankCarlos



## partner spotlight: DELTA DENTAL

Delta Dental is one of the generous corporate partners whose support enabled the first round of our Network Investment Initiative. Their contribution was enough to provide capacity grants for at least 11 organizations contending with heightened need in their communities.

"The pandemic has created a hunger crisis, with more people than ever before relying on food pantries to feed their families," said Dennis Wilson, president and CEO of Delta Dental of New Jersey. "We are thankful for organizations that help ease this burden, and we are humbled to provide this vital support so that families across the state can feed their loved ones."

The company is dedicated to volunteerism, too. Its compassionate employees visit our warehouse in groups to get hands-on in the fight against hunger and have even continued to come throughout the pandemic when their help was needed most.

In addition to giving funds and time for CFBNJ's mission, Delta Dental has also made in-kind donations. They've provided dental hygiene kits that were especially meaningful to our shelter partners and their clients, as well as reusable tote bags to

## items of note

### NJ CELEBRITIES COME OUT FOR HUNGER AT BLUE JEAN BALL

CFBNJ's annual Blue Jean Ball was a great success! Nearly 400 attendees came together virtually to raise more than \$1.3 million as the need in our state remains higher than ever. The highlight of the evening featured pre-recorded performances by New Jersey native Jon Bon Jovi and the Goo Goo Dolls, who generously lent their star power to the cause. This year's FOOD, HELP, and HOPE honorees were Stop & Shop, First Lady Tammy Synder Murphy and the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund, and CFBNJ's partners in disaster and pandemic relief.

Thank you to the attendees, honorees, sponsors, performers, and all who made the event possible!



FOOD  
SHOULDN'T  
BE AN  
IMPOSSIBLE  
CHOICE



### SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Together, we can end hunger one helping at a time. Hunger Action Month is a time for everyone to unite with the Feeding America network of food banks by donating, volunteering, hosting a food drive, contacting local representatives, and spreading the word about need in New Jersey. You can make a difference in the fight against hunger! CFBNJ is in critical need of volunteers to support our mission. Visit [cfbnj.org/volunteer](https://cfbnj.org/volunteer) to sign up.



### REGISTER YOUR STUDENT FOR CFBNJ'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

With school back in session, it's a good time to get students involved in CFBNJ's youth programs! Register your school for Students Change Hunger, the friendly food and fund drive competition that starts on September 13. You can also reserve your student's spot in this year's Teen Hunger Summit or schedule a workshop to learn more about hunger in New Jersey through fun, hands-on activities. Visit [cfbnj.org/youth-programs](https://cfbnj.org/youth-programs) to learn more.

## in your neighborhood



The James O. Bryant Food Pantry in Piscataway has been a pillar of hope in the community since 1994, assisting hundreds of neighbors in need each month out of the double garage of a house.

The pantry is also a grant recipient through CFBNJ's Network Investment Initiative. They have used the funds awarded to purchase hygiene items for clients, a new commercial refrigerator, additional shelving, and hand trucks.

"This grant has been a very good opportunity for us and for members of the community," said Wilhelmina Bryant, Food Pantry Director.

With CFBNJ as their primary source of food, they now serve between 800 and 1,000 clients per month – more than double as many as they served before the pandemic. This has led to a need for greater capacity to accept and distribute food, and fortunately, the pantry is now able to participate in CFBNJ's gleaning direct program thanks to the new equipment funded by the grant. They visit their local supermarket three Fridays a month to pick up generous donations of produce, bread, and to-go meals.

"This allows us to accept more food from the FoodBank. It allows us to accept more from supermarkets and individuals who wish to make donations. It makes a huge difference," Wilhelmina told us. "I would've been appreciative of this grant if we had gotten it five years ago, but I'm super appreciative of it now because this is the time when we need it most."

### HELPING HANDS

Robert, John, and Bill are three of our most dedicated volunteers who became friends while helping out at CFBNJ. They come every week to our Hillside warehouse to scoop pasta, pack emergency meal kits, work in the kitchen, and more – assisting in any way that they can. "When you enter the front door of the FoodBank, you know that you're entering into a different place," they told us. "There's a lot of humility, mutual respect, camaraderie, friendliness, and also dedication to accomplishing a goal." The three are retired now and donate their time to help feed neighbors in need. "Unfortunately, many people are having very hard times, but anything that can be done to help them is a great thing," they said.



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help community organizations run efficient and eco-friendly distributions.

"Together with caring partners like Delta Dental, I'm proud of what we've accomplished through the Network Investment Initiative, providing much-needed support to our network during this time when it's needed most," said Carlos Rodriguez, President & CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. "We're so grateful for the monetary gifts, in-kind donations, and volunteerism that Delta Dental has provided over the years as one of CFBNJ's Visionary Impact Partners."

**For more information on how your company can get involved with CFBNJ, please contact Debby Scheinholtz, Senior Director of Corporate Relations and Volunteers, at 908-440-0138 or [dscheinholtz@cfbnj.org](mailto:dscheinholtz@cfbnj.org).**



# in your neighborhood

With locations in Vineland and Port Norris, Building New Lives, Inc. has been serving South Jersey neighbors in need since 2016.

The pantry is also a grant recipient through CFBNJ's Network Investment Initiative. They have used the funds awarded for a renovation of their facility that will help them to better accommodate a choice pantry model – allowing clients to shop as they would at a grocery store. They have also purchased new equipment, including a freezer and a rolling conveyor belt, to increase their capacity to accept and distribute food.

"This opportunity means so much to us," said Sharon Dobbins, Executive Director. "Before we received this grant, we didn't have any income at all."

With no money coming in, the pantry previously relied entirely on donated items and equipment. CFBNJ serves as their sole source of food.

Building New Lives, Inc. serves 60 to 80 people per month per location and also takes a van full of food to a senior center each month, providing nourishment for about 30 struggling residents.

"There are so many people in our community who are hungry. It's been such a blessing to serve people who might otherwise go without," Sharon told us. "If you don't have food, you can't live, and without nutritious food comes bad health issues. I'm grateful that we'll be able to feed more people with this grant from the FoodBank."

## HELPING HANDS

Elaine is recently retired from forty years as a cashier at ShopRite, one of CFBNJ's oldest and most committed corporate supporters. Their annual Partners in Caring campaign inspired her to start volunteering to sort food at our Egg Harbor Township location. "Right now, there are a lot of people who are out of work. Many of them worked in the casinos. It's really been tough," she told us. She comes in twice a week, dedicating her time and energy to helping her South Jersey neighbors in need.

"It feels great to volunteer at the FoodBank, knowing that I'm helping somebody," Elaine said.





# cooking for a cause

WITH CHEF PAUL



## Zesty Watermelon Salsa

- 4 tbs lime juice
- 1 tbs sugar
- 4 cups watermelon (cubed)
- 1 small yellow pepper (¼ inch dice)
- 1 jalapeño pepper (⅛ inch dice)
- 1 small red onion (⅛ inch dice)
- 2 tbs mint leaves (chiffonade)
- 2 tbs cilantro (chiffonade)
- ¼ tsp pepper

1. Combine sugar and fresh lime juice
2. Toss prepared fruits, vegetables, and cilantro with lime solution
3. Garnish with chiffonade mint

Want more delicious and healthy  
recipes straight from our kitchen?  
**Follow us on social!**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NETWORK INVESTMENT INITIATIVE GRANT RECIPIENTS!

### Atlantic County

Atlantic Cape Family Organization  
Atlantic City Rescue Mission  
Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City  
Career Opportunity Development,  
Inc.  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Food Pantry  
Friends of Jean Webster, Inc.:  
Sister Jean's Pantry  
Grace Beyond Our Doors at  
Community Church of the Nazarene  
Hamilton Township Schools/  
Shaner School  
Main Street Pantry  
Pleasantville Center for Hispanic  
Outreach (PCHO)  
Pleasantville SDA  
The Salvation Army Atlantic  
City Corps  
South Jersey AIDS Alliance  
Spanish Community Center  
St. Andrew by the Sea Church  
Victory AME Zion Church  
Westminster Christian  
Worship Center

### Bergen County

Berkeley College Foundation  
Buddies of New Jersey, Inc  
The Food Brigade Inc  
Franciscan Community Development  
Center of Fairview  
Garfield YMCA  
Jewish Family & Children's Services  
of Northern New Jersey (JFCS)  
Mount Olive Baptist Church  
North Jersey Vineyard Church  
The Office of Concern Food Pantry  
at St. Cecilia  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
El Faro  
Social Service Association of  
Ridgewood and Vicinity  
Varick Memorial Food Pantry

### Burlington County

Southside Baptist Church of  
Lumberton, NJ

### Camden County

Better Tomorrows

### Cape May County

Bethel Commandment Church  
Caring for Kids  
Coalition Against Rape & Abuse,  
Inc. (CARA)  
Holy Redeemer NJ Food Pantry  
Lazarus House Ministries, Inc.  
Seashore Community Church  
"Gleaning Center"

### Cumberland County

Bridgeton Assembly of God  
Building New Lives Inc.  
Catholic Charities, Diocese  
of Camden  
First United Methodist Bridgeton  
Gateway Community Action  
Partnership  
Holly City Development Corporation  
Panamericana Seventh Day  
Adventist Church – Food Pantry  
The Salvation Army Vineland  
St. John United Methodist Church  
Vineland Ministerium

### Essex County

Allen Village  
The Apostles' House  
Berean Seventh-Day Adventist  
Church  
Bethany Baptist Church Food Pantry  
Bethlehem Community Church  
Bethlehem French SDA Church  
Blessed Sacrament-St Charles  
Borromeo Church  
Bloomfield Presbyterian Church

Calvary Baptist Church  
Calvary Touch of God Ministry Inc.  
Canaan Baptist Church  
Christ Glory Community  
Development Center  
Church at Shalom Inc  
Church of Epiphany Outreach  
Church of the Eternal God  
Church of the Oranges Pantry  
CIAO Manna from Heaven  
Circle of Life Shelter  
Covenant House New Jersey  
Deeper Life Bible Church  
Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Ebenezer Food Pantry  
Emmanuel Church of Christ  
First Hopewell Baptist Church  
First Seventh Day Adventist Church  
of Montclair  
FOCUS Hispanic Center for  
Community Development, Inc.  
Franciscan Charities  
Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church  
Greater New Point Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Haitian Baptist Church Crossroads  
Helping Hands and Ears  
Holy Trinity-West Orange Food  
Pantry

House of Love Soup Kitchen/Pantry  
House of Mercy Ministries  
Iglesia Cristiana Evangelio  
Completo Food Pantry  
Igreja Evangelica Vida Nova  
Iranbound Community Corporation  
Irvington Neighborhood  
Improvement Corporation (INIC)  
Isaiah House  
Jo-Beth Inc  
Joi's Angels  
Little Zion UAME Church  
Love of Jesus Family Church  
of Belleville  
Love of Jesus Ministries  
Men and Women of Value  
Mount Olives Church of God  
Mount Zion Baptist Church  
New Born Holy Church Food Pantry  
New Ephesus Baptist Church  
New Hope Baptist Church of  
East Orange  
New United Neighbor Dev  
Child Carecenter  
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center  
Newark Bible Fellowship Church  
North Jersey Community Research  
Initiative  
Nutley Family Service Bureau, Inc.  
Oheb Shalom Bobrow Kosher  
Food Pantry  
Park United Methodist Church  
PFCD Food Pantry  
Pierre Toussaint Food Pantry  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
Praise Temple Economic and  
Community Development Inc.  
The Redeemed Christian Church  
of God  
The Redeemed Christian Church  
of God Overcomers Chapel, NJ  
Reveal To Heal Consulting  
Revival Temple Holiness Church  
Roseville Presbyterian Church  
The Salvation Army Montclair  
The Salvation Army Westside Corps  
Solid Rock Baptist Church  
Food Pantry  
St. James Social Service  
Corporation  
St. John Baptist Church  
St. Paul Tabernacle of Divine  
Prophecy Inc.  
Tree House Ent Cultural Arts  
Movement, Inc.  
Trinity UAME Church  
Tzu Chi Food Pantry  
United Community Corporation  
Urban League of Essex County  
Vincent UMC Care Pantry  
Willing Heart Community  
Care Center

### Hudson County

AngelaCARES  
At The Feet Of Jesus Luke 10:39  
Bayonne Economic Opportunity  
Foundation (BEOF)  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Brian P. Stack Civic Association  
Curries Woods  
Dvine Konektion Community  
Development Corporation  
Episcopal Jersey City CDC –  
Triangle Park  
First Assembly of God  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Arlington  
Hoboken Community Center  
Leaders Without Limits of NJ LLC  
Let's Celebrate  
Mt. Sinai Full Gospel Church  
Palisade Emergency Residence Corp  
The Salvation Army Jersey City  
The Salvation Army Kearny  
The Salvation Army Union City  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Food pantry  
Woodcliff Christian Harvest

### Hunterdon County

Fisherman's Mark  
Flemington Area Food Pantry  
Good News Home, Inc. – AKA  
Good News Home for Women  
Hunterdon Youth Services Inc  
North Hunterdon Community  
Food Pantry  
Open Cupboard Food Pantry  
Round Valley UMC Loaves of Love

### Mercer County

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship  
Arm in Arm  
Bethel French Seventh Day  
Adventist Church  
Bethel World Outreach Ministries  
Community Action Service  
Center RISE  
Faith Deliverance Cathedral  
Food Pantry  
Homefront, Inc.  
Jewish Family & Children's Service  
of Greater Mercer County  
Mother Estelle Clark Food Pantry  
Mount Carmel Guild of Trenton –  
Catholic Charities Diocese  
New Covenant United  
Methodist Church  
New Hope Church of God  
NJ Adventist Community Services  
Princeton Deliverance Center  
Food Pantry  
Rehoboth Pentecostal Ministries  
Rescue Mission of Trenton  
Sacred Heart Parish  
The Salvation Army Trenton Citadel  
Samaritan Baptist Church  
Share My Meals, Inc.  
Trenton Deliverance Center  
True Love Center Food Pantry  
Turning Point United  
Methodist Church  
United Progress, Inc.  
Volunteers of America Delaware  
Valley (Amani House)

### Middlesex County

Aldersgate Outreach  
Community Center  
Broken Loaves  
Calvary Chapel Crossfields  
Cathedral Community Development  
Corporation: Mercy House  
Favor Ministries  
Feeding Middlesex County  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
Fish, Inc. Dunellen Area  
FPC Food Pantry  
Glenn and Jake Foundation of Hope  
Heaven's Helpers Food Pantry &  
Soup Kitchen, LLC

Hogar CREA  
James O. Bryant Food Pantry  
New Beginnings Food Pantry  
New Destiny Family Worship Center  
New Life Food Pantry  
Peter's Pantry  
Raritan Valley YMCA  
Rutgers Student Food Pantry/  
Off-Campus Living  
The Salvation Army New Brunswick  
The Salvation Army Perth  
Amboy Corps  
Skeet's Food Pantry – First  
Presbyterian Church of Cranbury  
St. Cecelia Food Pantry  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Food Pantry  
St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Zion Hill Baptist Church of  
Piscataway

### Morris County

Butler Church of the Nazarene  
Faith Kitchen  
Jewish Relief Agency  
Loaves and Fishes  
Mount Zion Baptist Church  
The Salvation Army Dover  
Spring Street CDC/Table of Hope  
Stanhope United Methodist Church  
Wharton United Community Church

### Passaic County

Center of Grace  
Christian Fellowship Center  
CrossRoads Food Pantry  
Eva's Village Inc.  
Faith in Action Community  
Development Center  
The First Seventh Day Adventist  
Church of Paterson  
The Food Pantry at St. Agnes  
Grandparent Relatives Care  
Harvest Outreach Ministry  
Heaven's Gate Christian Fellowship  
Jumpstart Community Training &  
Services INC  
Madison Avenue Crossroads  
New Hope Community Ministries  
Oasis – A Haven for Women  
and Children  
Paterson Task Force for Community  
Action, Inc.  
The Salvation Army Passaic  
The Salvation Army Paterson  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Smile For Charity Organization  
St. Luke CDC  
St. Paul's Community Development  
Corporation  
St. Peter's Haven  
Strengthen Our Sisters  
Trinity Assembly of God Feed  
the Need

### Salem County

Mission Teens, Inc.  
The Salvation Army Salem  
Service Unit

### Somerset County

Cancer Support Community Central  
New Jersey  
Feeding Hands, Inc.  
God's Co-op Pantry of Bernardsville,  
Basking Ridge & Peapack-Gladstone  
ICNA Relief USA  
Somerset County Young Men's  
Christian Association, Inc.

### Sussex County

First Baptist Church food pantry  
PALS HOUSE  
The Pantry  
Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex  
County Inc.  
Saint Joseph Church dba Saint Mother  
Teresa Food Pantry  
Samaritan Inn, Inc.

Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry  
STP Save the people West Side UMC  
Vernon United Methodist Church

### Union County

Agape Family Worship Center  
Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S., Inc  
Christ Fellowship  
Elizabethport Presbyterian Center  
First Baptist Church Cranford/  
Elizabeth  
GRACE  
Greater Refuge Church of Christ  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
Jefferson Park Ministries  
Jesus is Lord  
Jewish Family Service of Central NJ  
Linden Food Pantry (LINCS)  
Linden Presbyterian Church  
Morning Star Community  
Development Corporation Inc  
Muslim Community Soup Kitchen,  
Inc.  
New Destiny, CDC  
Our Lady of Peace Church  
Rahway Food For Friends  
SHEELD, Inc.  
The Salvation Army Elizabeth  
The Salvation Army Plainfield Corps  
Sparrow Food Pantry: First Baptist  
of Hillside  
StarFish Food Pantry

### Warren County

Calvary Bible Fellowship Church  
Food Pantry  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of  
Metuchen  
Community Food Pantry of  
Washington, NJ  
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault  
Crisis Center of Warren County  
First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry  
First United Methodist Church  
of Blairstown  
Foodshed Alliance  
Joseph Firth Youth Center  
Lord's Pantry  
The Outreach Connection, Inc.  
Phillipsburg School Based Youth  
Services Program  
River of Life  
St. John's Hope Community  
Food Pantry  
St. Luke's Pantry

