Thanksgiving Roasted Sweet Potato with Honey and Cinnamon

4 large sweet potatoes (cubed)
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup honey
2 tsp ground cinnamon
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:
1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Lay the sweet potatoes out in a single layer on a roasting tray.
3. Drizzle the oil, honey, cinnamon, salt, and pepper over the potatoes.
4. Roast for 25 to 30 minutes in the oven or cooking for a relatively young hunger-relief organization in Bergen County, was able to expand their distributions to neighbors in need. They purchased necessary equipment that they wouldn’t have otherwise been able to afford, like pallet jacks, hand trucks, freezer blankets, and more. “This grant has truly provided the bedrock of our organization,” they said.


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FROM CARLOS

Dear FoodBank Friends,

At this time last year, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey was anticipating the worst – an unprecedented spike in food insecurity in New Jersey caused by the pandemic. The joy and heartwarming relief that we normally love about the holidays were overshadowed by the prospect of more of our neighbors going hungry than ever before – their savings accounts empty, without jobs, without food, without hope. The thought of this prospect coming true was gut-wrenching, and as this Thanksgiving approaches one year later, I find myself with something extraordinary to be thankful for.

Recently, the USDA released its annual Household Food Security Report, which found that in 2020, food insecurity did not increase as much as expected, despite widespread job loss, business closures, and school shutdowns. Against all odds, the hunger crisis that was eminent just a year ago was mitigated thanks to enormous public and private partnership between government, nonprofit organizations, and private supporters. This collective effort produced some incredible achievements. Private philanthropy rose to new heights, while food banks and pantries distributed more nutritious food than ever before. New Jersey also passed a budget that included measures to boost participation in vital programs like school breakfast and summer meals. And a permanent increase to SNAP, enacted by the USDA, bolstered the household budgets of 830,000 New Jerseyans, funneling $376 million into the local economy. All the while, extended unemployment benefits, eviction moratoriums, and other stimulus measures kept our neighbors out of poverty.

I’m proud of the role that CFBNJ has played in COVID-19 response, as a direct service provider and an advocate, championing transformative legislation. Together with our partners from all sectors of society, we are the HOPE for struggling families.

But the fight against hunger continues. Hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents are food insecure, and with the cost of food on the rise and pandemic safety nets expiring at the end of this year, many more may find themselves struggling in 2022. That's why CFBNJ's work and your support remain more critical than ever. You can help us make even more progress, themselves struggling in 2022. That’s why CFBNJ's work and your support remain more critical than ever. You can help us make even more progress, themselves struggling in 2022. That’s why CFBNJ’s work and your support remain more critical than ever. You can help us make even more progress, themselves struggling in 2022. That’s why CFBNJ’s work and your support remain more critical than ever. You can help us make even more progress, themselves struggling in 2022. That’s why CFBNJ’s work and your support remain more critical than ever. You can help us make even more progress.

Thank you for being the HOPE for our neighbors, and for your generosity and support.

Carlos M. Rodriguez
President & CEO

a message

Thank you for being the HOPE for our neighbors, through the recovery phase of the pandemic and beyond. In 2022, we can expect, despite widespread job loss, business closures, and school shutdowns. Against all odds, the hunger crisis that was imminent just a year ago was mitigated thanks to enormous public and private partnership between government, nonprofit organizations, and private supporters.

This collective effort produced some incredible achievements. Private philanthropy rose to new heights, while food banks and pantries distributed more nutritious food than ever before. New Jersey also passed a budget that included measures to boost participation in vital programs like school breakfast and summer meals. And a permanent increase to SNAP, enacted by the USDA, bolstered the household budgets of 830,000 New Jerseyans, funneling $376 million into the local economy. All the while, extended unemployment benefits, eviction moratoriums, and other stimulus measures kept our neighbors out of poverty.

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items of note

This season, YOU can make a real difference for those in need. Help struggling neighbors enjoy holiday meals with their families by participating in these high-impact ways to give. Every $1 provides 3 meals!

DAF, STOCKS, & SECURITIES
When you recommend a grant through your donor-advised fund or transfer ownership of stocks and securities to CFBNJ, your gift immediately funds mission delivery and may have additional tax benefits to you.

Employer Matching
Leverage automatic payroll deductions and matching gift programs offered by your company to double your contributions.

GIVE MONTHLY
Your monthly gift provides CFBNJ with a steady and predictable source of income to help us plan for the year ahead and launch new initiatives!

GIVE IN TRIBUTE
Tribute gifts are a special way to honor a memory or celebration of someone you love about the holidays were overshadowed by the prospect of more of our neighbors going hungry than ever before – their savings accounts empty, without jobs, without food, without hope. The thought of this prospect coming true was gut-wrenching, and as this Thanksgiving approaches one year later, I find myself with something extraordinary to be thankful for.

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Thank you for being the HOPE for our neighbors, and for your generosity and support.

Carlos M. Rodriguez
President & CEO

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and CFBNJ’s 21st annual Turkey Drive begins this weekend on Saturday, November 20 and Sunday, November 21! Every holiday season, the Turkey Drive brings residents, community groups, companies, and local organizations together to ensure that struggling New Jersey families have what they need for a happy holiday. Last year, we collected more than 2,300 turkeys and over 25,000 pounds of nonperishable food from nearly 40 different locations across the state. Help us make this year’s Turkey Drive the most successful one yet!

The most-needed items include frozen turkeys and ham, roasts, canned vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and other nonperishable items.

“All of our neighbors deserve to have a happy Thanksgiving,” said Gleny Herlihy, Food Sourcing Manager at CFBNJ’s Hillside headquarters. “The holidays are a time of celebration, but they can also be a difficult time for those without enough to eat. That’s why it’s so important to support our Turkey Drive. Together, we can help every family celebrate the season.”

Turkey Drive sites will include supermarkets, churches, community centers, and more. If you can’t join us in person, you can still contribute funds online towards our virtual turkey drive.

cfbnj.org/turkey

Be the HOPE This Holiday Season

This season, YOU can make a real difference for those in need. Help struggling neighbors enjoy holiday meals with their families by participating in these high-impact ways to give. Every $1 provides 3 meals!

Check-Out Hunger* Check-Out Hunger* is going on now at most major supermarkets and convenience stores! Support your neighbors in need by adding $1, $3, or $5 to your total at checkout when you shop for groceries.

CAUSE MARKETING
Shop for a cause this holiday season! Check our website at cfbnj.org/current-promotions to find out which of your favorite businesses are contributing to CFBNJ and Feeding America when you make a purchase.

Neighboring Helping Neighbors
Bring your community together for a cause by holding a virtual food drive or fundraiser to benefit CFBNJ. Our new and improved online platform makes doing your part in the fight against hunger easy and fun! Visit cfbnj.org/fundraise.

Giving Tuesday is coming up!

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Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and CFBNJ’s 21st annual Turkey Drive is coming to your neighborhood on Saturday, November 20 and Sunday, November 21!

Every holiday season, the Turkey Drive brings individuals, community groups, companies, and local organizations together to ensure that struggling New Jersey families have what they need for a special holiday meal. Last year, we collected more than 2,000 turkeys and over 25,000 pounds of nonperishable food items at 40 different locations across the state. Help us make this year’s Turkey Drive the most successful one yet!

Most needed items include frozen turkeys and hams, roasters, canned vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and other nonperishable trimmings.

“All of our neighbors deserve to have a happy Thanksgiving,” said Collette Kraus, Food Sourcing Manager at CFBNJ’s Egg Harbor Township location. “The holidays are a time of celebration, but they can also be a difficult time for those without enough to eat. That’s why it’s so important to support CFBNJ’s annual Turkey Drive. Together, we can help every family celebrate the season.”

Turkey Drive sites will include supermarkets, churches, community centers, and more. If you can’t join us in person, you can still contribute funds online towards our virtual turkey drive. Visit cfbnj.org/turkey for more information and a map of this year’s turkey drive sites.

HELPING HANDS

Fighting hunger is personal for Iris and Ed, who have been volunteering at CFBNJ’s Egg Harbor Township location for about four years. Iris has known hunger first-hand, and Ed used to teach high school in an inner city, where he often saw students come to class hungry. Now, as South Jersey residents, they’ve witnessed heightened need among their neighbors during the off-season and the pandemic. "Just one life event can turn things around for any of us," they explained. "No one is totally secure, but we’re all in this together. That’s why we love volunteering at the FoodBank." Iris and Ed have helped out in so many ways, working at mobile pantries, sorting food in the warehouse, distributing senior boxes, helping at farmers markets, recruiting volunteers, and more. Every holiday season, they assist with our Turkey Drive, too!

“The turkey drive is wonderful because people are in a festive mood and really want to help for the holidays,” they told us.