



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**THE
FOODBANK**
of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

Winter 2016



Your Support of the FoodBank Mobile Pantry Makes the Difference

When you support the Mobile Pantry, you are supporting many of the most vulnerable populations in our community, including seniors, children and veterans who are food insecure. Thank you for your donations to Mobile Pantry and to the volunteers who help us set up and distribute food.

The Mobile Pantry distributes food in locations that are not well-served by pantries. Clients can go to these sites to receive non-perishable food, as well as fresh produce and baked goods.

The Mobile Pantry operates at several low-income housing sites in addition to other locations throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Last year the Mobile served an average of 905 families per month in underserved areas, including 420 low-income seniors.

To learn more about the Foodbank Mobile Pantry, visit www.foodbankmoc.org.

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HEADSTANDS FOR HUNGER - We were head over heels for this donation!



A big THANK YOU to all the individuals, businesses and organizations that create fun and meaningful food and fund drives on behalf of the FoodBank all year round. One of our favorite fundraisers of the holiday season was **Headstands for Hunger** - an annual food drive and fundraising yoga marathon event in its fourth year, held at Convention Hall in Asbury Park. Participants contributed enough food and funds to support more than 1,400 meals!

A special thank you to Vanessa Van Noy, Ali McGrath (pictured here) as well as Jodi Kobrin and Jon Bagnato, for helping to organize the event. For more information or to download our food and fund drive kit, visit our website at foodbankmoc.org.

Message from the Executive Director

HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE



As the New Year begins, we thank you and renew our pledge to you, our donors, by promising to stay true to our goal to end hunger in this community.

We thank you for trusting us with your financial gifts, for contributing time and in-kind professional services, and for partnering with us to ensure that **Hunger Won't Win Here**.

This year you will notice some big changes that focus on impact and results, as we continue to provide a growing response to the underlying root causes of hunger in our area.

In addition to food distribution, we provide critical services with trained specialists to determine eligibility for benefits and services; as well as connect to education, job training and placement.

On behalf of all our colleagues at the Neptune and Toms River FoodBank facilities, we offer our sincere thanks and ask for your continued support in helping to change lives for the better.

Happy New Year!

Carlos M. Rodriguez
Executive Director



HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

\$1 Donation = 3 meals



Total volunteer hours = 27,667



\$700= feeds a child for the summer. We served close to 32,000 meals for low-income children



95 Cents of every dollar raised supports food and programs



422,267 lbs of food donated from food drives = more than 351,000 meals



\$6,400 = Approximate cost of Culinary Tuition for one student. This year, 21 students graduated, 18 received jobs



Volunteer income tax assistance with 2,493 hours of volunteer time = \$3,189,959 in tax refunds



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www.foodbankmoc.org

Follow us on



The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for seven consecutive years. This distinction means the FoodBank, a 501 (c)3 charitable organization, outperformed most charities in America in areas of efficiency, fiscal integrity, and effectiveness.

2016 Board of Trustees

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Executive Director
Carlos M. Rodriguez

FoodBank Network Agency Profile: Greater Tuckerton Food Pantry

Greater Tuckerton Food Pantry serves 200 families and more than 500 women and children per month, and the numbers are increasing, due in part to the closures of the casinos in the area.

“People went from having full time jobs with benefits and all the things that come with that like nice homes and cars, to job hunting and scrambling to figure out how to make ends meet,” said Penny Hughes, Pantry Director. “It’s a shock for them to be without the funds for food after paying bills and worrying about unemployment. We also have families in our community who are still displaced after Superstorm Sandy. But our staff of volunteers is here to help.”

“Without the food pantry, we would probably have to choose between paying the bills and eating. That’s not a choice I want to submit my family to.”

The pantry has recently received refrigeration and a van with the help of FoodBank grants and outreach specialists visit there to provide needed services beyond food like help with Healthcare and SNAP applications, as well as free tax preparation. “We also partner with other local nonprofits that provide clothing for job



interviews. We do all we can to help people get back on their feet again,” said Hughes.

Many thanks to all the dedicated and wonderful volunteers who provide support here - this site is run completely by volunteers and includes a community garden that clients can use to grow their own produce. The Greater Tuckerton Food Pantry is located at 148 Green Street, in Tuckerton, and is open Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 PM.

For more information, call 609-294-4777.

A Special **THANK YOU** to Our Grantors!

The FoodBank recently received grants from Feeding America and their charitable foundation partners, including PwC Charitable Foundation and the Red Nose Day Fund, for the expansion of our After School Meals Program at The B.E.A.T. Center location in Toms River.

Since opening, The B.E.A.T. Center is providing daily hot meals to four Y-Kids programs at elementary schools in Lakewood and this funding supports the cost of preparing meals.



Left to right: Serena DiMaso, Deputy Director Monmouth County Freeholder, Mai-Uyen Nguyen, Award Recipient, Judy Daniels, FoodBank Community Engagement Coordinator, John P. Curly, Freeholder.



Outstanding Volunteer Receives County-Wide Award for her Service

Mai-Uyen Nguyen, a FoodBank volunteer, recently received a prestigious volunteer recognition award at the annual SCAN (Social Community Activities Network) Leaders of Distinction Luncheon for her service to SCAN, The FoodBank and other nonprofits.

When Ms. Nguyen retired from AT&T in 2015 after years as a global systems engineer, she knew she wanted to volunteer for nonprofits committed to alleviating poverty and building sustainable communities. She chose the FoodBank as one of her regular stops. “Having been in the corporate world for over 30 years, I know how hard it is to be efficient but at the same time compassionate. It’s very hard to be lean without being mean, but I feel the FoodBank is achieving that balance.”

She began volunteering at the FoodBank by helping distribute food at our mobile pantries and then became a trained Volunteer Income Tax Assistance tax preparer. While she continues those volunteer activities, she is also now helping to configure and launch new volunteer management software.

“Mai is a very special volunteer because she started by filling a pressing need we had, and then went several steps further by contributing her professional skills to helping us manage a new software program while continuing with her original volunteer activities. That’s more than we ever expected and she truly is helping us to make a great volunteer program even stronger,” said Judy Daniels, Community Engagement Coordinator.

“Mai is a very special volunteer... she truly is helping us to make a great volunteer program even stronger.”

The FoodBank relies on volunteers to provide extra help with a variety of functions from sorting donated food to working events to providing a variety of professional skills in areas of marketing, hospitality and fundraising.

For more information on how you can help, go to www.foodbankmoc.org.

HELP ENSURE THAT HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

For 132,000 people in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, hunger is a year-round problem.

With a gift of \$1,000 or more annually to The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, you join a special group of dedicated families and individuals—**Silo of Hope Society**—those who are deeply committed to providing for the most basic of human needs, food.

Silo of Hope members make up 84% of our individual donations, critical to keeping us strong. Your leadership support assists the FoodBank’s mission to alleviate hunger and build food secure communities in Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

If you are interested in becoming a Silo of Hope member, contact Diana Flippo at 732-643-5843 or email dflippo@foodbankmoc.org.

Silo of Hope Society

Silo of Hope has six levels of annual giving, starting at \$1,000

- \$1,000+ Seed of Hope
- \$2,500+ Gardener of Hope
- \$5,000+ Gatherer of Hope
- \$10,000+ Cultivator of Hope
- \$25,000+ Nourisher of Hope
- \$50,000+ Leader of Hope