



HUNGER
WON'T
WIN HERE
MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It Takes More Than Food To End Hunger

Life is unpredictable and a safety net is critical for every family. As our new name implies, we **“fulfill”** the greater needs of the hungry, from distributing nutritious food to providing life-changing resources – resources that help families move past the rough times.

Jack lost both his job and his job-based health insurance in one day, leaving himself, his wife Cindy and their two children financially vulnerable.* As the stress of looking for new employment continued, Jack suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. Cindy’s part-time employment was not enough to pay for the mortgage, utilities, the cost of COBRA, and food. Adding to their struggle, doctors determined that Jack’s heart condition was disabling and returning to full-time employment would no longer be an option for him. His only recourse was to apply for permanent disability. For someone who worked hard all his life, it was a tough decision.

The family turned to **Fulfill** and Susan, one of our many Resource Connection Specialists, for help. “I used our network of partners and connections to other nonprofits to get them assistance,” said Susan. “We were able to provide them access to healthcare through NJ Family

Care, the SNAP program to help with food, utility assistance, free financial counseling from the Financial Success Center, and a one-time mortgage payment from St. Vincent de Paul.”

Today, the family is back on the road to financial recovery, and they no longer need the benefits they received, including SNAP.

“They are so grateful that we were there for them in their time of need,” says Susan, “and are now asking what they can do to give back.”

*Names changed for privacy.



*Susan Fowler,
Fulfill Resource Connections Team Member*

WELCOME New Fulfill Chef

Chef Lisa Palmieri recently joined **Fulfill’s** Culinary Team as Culinary Service Manager. Lisa comes with over 20 years of diverse experience in the culinary field, including her most recent position with Smithville Peanut Butter Company. Lisa has her BS in Food and Nutrition from Montclair University and her Certificate of Baking and Pastry Arts from the Culinary Institute of America, in addition to her ServSafe Certification. As a prior freelance instructor at Fulfill’s Culinary Training Program, she is no

stranger to our success. Her vast range of experiences and training are a great addition to our mission and our team.



THE FOODBANK OF
MONMOUTH & OCEAN
COUNTIES IS NOW...



Headquarters

3300 Route 66
Neptune, NJ 07753
(732) 918-2600

The B.E.A.T. Center

1769 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753

www.fulfillnj.org

Follow us on



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



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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends of Fulfill,

As Board Chair, it is my pleasure to express my gratitude for all you do to support **Fulfill**. Last year at this time, we launched our new branding and The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties became **Fulfill**. Our name was changed to reflect the fact that we do far more to end hunger than just distributing nutritious food. We offer children's meal programs, income tax assistance, SNAP application facilitation, culinary training, pediatric and mobile pantries and more. Through these and other programs, as well as resource connections, we assure that those who need help, receive it. We feed the lines while working to shorten them.

All of this would not be possible without your help and support. Working together, we ensure that every family has access to enough healthy food to live happy and healthy lives. Thank you for your support of our programs, for attending our fundraisers and for volunteering. Thank you for providing hope. Please accept our invitation to visit us in Neptune or Toms River to learn more about our hunger-fighting strategies. We are able to help more of our neighbors because of **You!**

Regards,


Dave Offenberg
Board Chair

THANKS TO VITA VOLUNTEERS!

Fulfill Free Tax Preparation Ends on April 18th

As we approach the end of another tax season, **Fulfill** wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped us offer Free Tax Preparation for households earning \$54,000 or less in many locations throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

We're doing more taxes than ever before, thanks to a grant from Single Stop USA and the dedicated work of our IRS-trained volunteers. Tax refunds have a direct impact on a family's cash flow and they help us to shorten the food line and provide steps toward financial independence.



For more information about our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program and how to sign up to volunteer for next year, visit our website at fulfillnj.org or email Judy Daniels at jdaniels@fulfillnj.org.

Upcoming Event

SAVE THE DATE!

Jersey Strong Foundation's 4th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Benefiting Fulfill

May 14, 2018

For tickets contact kirving@fulfillnj.org

**JERSEY
STRONG
FOUNDATION**

Students Change Hunger Competition

Midstreams Elementary Wins 2018 Heavyweight Champion Award

Fulfill announced the results and award winners in the 11th Annual Students Change Hunger Competition. Thanks to the participating local schools and amazing sponsors, we

experienced an incredible record-breaking year in which 82 schools and 14 sponsors worked together and helped to provide close to 200,000 meals this holiday season.

All those who donated played an important role in ending hunger, right in their own communities. We especially want to recognize Midstreams Elementary School, who received the Heavyweight Champion Award for collecting the most poundage. From the start of the program, this school was determined

to really make a difference and win. Not only did Midstreams collect 3,268 pounds of food, but they also raised over \$3,000 in donations. To put that in perspective, for every dollar raised, **Fulfill** can provide 3 meals to someone in need. Overall, between food and fund donations, they provided over 11,000 meals!

For more information on how your school can participate in the next Students Change Hunger Competition, please visit our website at www.fulfillnj.org.



Helping the Bees and Reducing Hunger Together

Imagine a world without almonds, apples or fragrant flowers...Unfortunately, that's the shocking future we face if we don't work to help our most precious pollinator: bees. They are at the heart of our survival - one in three bites of food we eat depends entirely on bees - and they are dying out.

The Honeybee Conservancy is a 501c3 non-profit organization that works to help the bees, while increasing access to organic, sustainable food in under-served communities. This year, **Fulfill** is proud to be a recipient of a grant from the Sponsor-a-Hive program from the conservancy.

The Sponsor-A-Hive program strategically places bees in gardens and urban farms that are doing exceptional work to grow fresh produce for schools, soup kitchens, senior



citizen centers, and low income neighborhoods. By adding bees to these vibrant gardens, fruit and vegetable quality improves and the amount of food grown increases up to 71%!

Through this program, grantees receive free bees, bee hives, equipment and support. This year, **Fulfill** was chosen to receive: one beekeeping beginner kit, which includes a queen bee and her court, a 3 lb. package of bees, and a beekeeping suit. The bees will arrive by Spring. "These bees will be a wonderful addition to our garden and will help us grow even more produce in our garden next year," said Garden Coordinator Jess Sinkhorn.

The Fulfill 2018 Humanitarian Gala

Fulfill held its 2018 Humanitarian Gala at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch on March 16th.

The 2018 Honorees included the Storino Family of Jenkinson's Boardwalk & Casino Pier and Manasquan Bank. Both honorees have worked closely with **Fulfill** and strive to make a positive difference in their communities.

Special recognition was also given

to agency partner, Keyport Ministerium, and Mitch Berman and Geoffrey Nishiura, who received The Eleanor Levine Unsung Hero Award given to volunteers for extraordinary service to their community.

Entertainment for the event was provided by Shorty Long and the Jersey Horns. The **Fulfill** Humanitarian Gala is our largest annual fundraiser.

To join our mailing list for next year's Gala, please contact Kate Irving at kirving@fulfillnj.org.



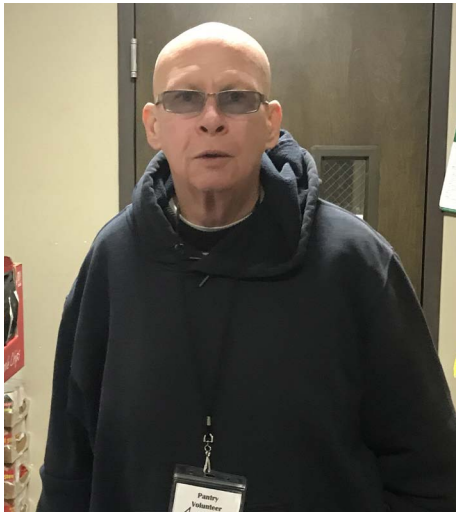
Saturday Deliveries Help Pantries Boost Their Food Capacity and Offer Nutritious Groceries to More Families

Some of **Fulfill's** program partners are small capacity pantries without a lot of storage, who are serving an increasing number of local families.

In order to help meet the demand, **Fulfill** is providing Saturday deliveries of fresh produce, frozen meats and other nutritional proteins to complement the array of groceries available at monthly pantry sites.

One Saturday stop is Shore Vineyard Church pantry that

serves 129 families, which is more than 350 individuals a month in South Toms River. This faith-based pantry is run by church leadership and about 25 additional volunteers. "We are located in a community that needs help after the effects of Superstorm Sandy and the economy, and the need just keeps growing," said Co-Director Jack Thal. "We don't have enough storage space so the Saturday deliveries allow us to serve more families healthy, fresh food."



Meet Andrew

Andrew was 58 years old, homeless, and living in the woods when a friend brought him to the Shore Vineyard Church in Toms River. **"I knew I wanted to change my life,"** he said, **"but I wasn't sure how to get help."** He soon made friends at the Church, who referred him to The B.E.A.T. Center in Toms River. **There, he received food from the Peoples Pantry and help from a Fulfill**

Resource Connection Specialist, who signed him up for healthcare.

Andrew received the health care he needed as well as employment and a place to live. Today, he volunteers at the pantry that once helped him - to help others and to give back. **"I'm so thankful for my friends, the church, and this pantry,"** says Andrew. **"Even my worst days now are good, compared to where I was."**

After-School Meals Help Kids and Working Parents

Fulfill provides food for the After-School Meals Program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monmouth County. We recently met this father of two of the children served by the program. When he picks them up, he sits and talks to them as they finish dinner. When asked how important the food that is served to the community is, his response was, "It is extremely important. There are many kids that don't

have an opportunity to eat dinner after they leave here. I'm sure some parents are working 13-14 hours a day at 2 or 3 jobs. The food from **Fulfill** literally saves lives and it puts parents' minds at ease knowing that the club feeds our children."

Learn more about our Kids Meal Programs and how you can help by contacting **Diana Flippo at 732-643-5843 or dflippo@fulfillnj.org.**



"The food from Fulfill literally saves lives and it puts parents' minds at ease knowing that the club feeds our children."