

Network News

September 2016

A NEW NAME AND A NEW EMAIL!

The Agency Relations Department is now the **Network Engagement Team! (NET)**

Email us at: net@foodbankmoc.org

Hunger Action Month

September is **Hunger Action Month** and the Statehouse will be hosting a **Day of Advocacy!** On September 15th, all the New Jersey FoodBanks will band together and head to Trenton to meet with Legislature on key hunger issues in our state.

We would love to have your programs represented, and this is how you can be:

Please provide us with a brief write-up of your program which we will post to a paper plate display. In the write-up, please include

- Name and town of program
- Number of people served each month
- A sentence about anything you would like to let our legislators know, for instance:

"We are seeing more people than before"

"Please support any programs that feed the hungry"

Email your responses to net@foodbankmoc.org with the subject line "Advocacy Day" or fax to 732-918-0145, attention "NET Advocacy Day"

Bonus!

The first 10 programs to submit their message will be entered to win gift cards for your program! One winner will be chosen.



THE FOODBANK
of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

3300 Rt. 66 • Neptune, NJ 07753
732-918-2600 • www.foodbankmoc.org

A Word on Thanksgiving...

To our network partners,

As you know we are fast approaching our Thanksgiving season. This year so far, the FoodBank has secured an estimated 8,000 turkeys to distribute to our programs at \$0.18/lb. SMF. We realize that the requests from you are typically much greater than this amount, and we are working on various initiatives to help obtain additional turkey donations to help us fill the need and provide your clients with a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy.

This year, we are requiring any pantry that wishes to receive turkeys to submit a sign-up sheet of clients by October 21st. All other programs have been asked to submit a request based on your meal service. The reason we are doing this is to be able to assess the needs of our network as accurately as possible, which will hopefully assist you with being able to utilize your resources efficiently by eliminating duplications or other errors. Turkeys will be allocated according to our supply, and we will make every effort to continue fulfilling your requests as more come in.

We encourage you to communicate with other programs if you feel it will help you plan an organized and efficient distribution. Please do not assume that all of your clients will require a turkey, and we may also suggest limiting your timeframe for signups and focus your resources on clients that regularly utilize your services as one of our programs will be doing this year.

Please continue to communicate your questions and concerns to our Network Engagement Team by emailing us at net@foodbankmoc.org, or calling us at 732-643-5889.



MEMBER TRAININGS

Safe Food Handling: Thursday, September 8th 2:30 pm
At The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
3300 Route 66, Neptune

Must be completed at least every three years. If you are unsure of your expiration please contact the NET, as programs with an expired certification will be placed on hold until it is renewed. If your agency has had turnover of staff or volunteers, training must be completed as soon as possible for those new representatives.

FoodBank Orientation: Monday, September 12th, 1 pm
Orientation is open to new groups interested in becoming members of the FoodBank, as well as individuals that are new to your agency.

Agency Express: Wednesday, September 14th, 10am
At The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
3300 Route 66, Neptune

If you plan to attend, please make arrangements to bring your own laptop or tablet to use.

PLEASE EMAIL THE NET OFFICE TO RSVP TO ALL TRAININGS. INCLUDE NAMES, CONTACT NUMBER, AND PROGRAM NAME

Friendly FoodBank Reminders!

Please accept this reminder that Health Inspections are good for 1 year. Please forward us your most recent inspection certificate. If you have not received an inspection in the last 12 months, please contact the local health department to have one scheduled.

If you have not already completed a GMP form please complete and return to the FoodBank ASAP. A copy can be emailed to you. Please include the names of all staff approved to pick up orders for your program.

Please remember to use only the most recent approved TEFAP signature sheets ASAP! These are FEDERAL forms and MUST be complied with. If you need new copies please let us know.

Please make sure we have your most recent contact information (phone, email, address). If you have recently changed anything please forward to the NET so we know how to reach you!

Thank you!

Produce Spotlight



Easy Eggplant Stir Fry

Ingredients

- 2 eggplant (peeled and cubed)
- 1 zucchini (thinly sliced)
- 1 cup green bell pepper (cut into strips)
- 2 onion, sliced
- 3 Tablespoons Low Fat Italian Salad Dressing
- 2 cups quartered tomatoes or cherry tomatoes
- 2 cups cooked brown rice

1. Place eggplant, zucchini, green bell pepper, onions, and salad dressing into a skillet.
2. Stir lightly to combine and cook over low heat until tender.
3. Stir in cherry tomatoes and cook for 3-5 minutes. Serve over cooked brown rice.

**Makes 4 servings: Calories: 230; Total fat: 3 g;
Saturated fat: 0 g; Sodium: 90 mg;
Carbohydrate: 50g; Fiber: 9 g; Protein: 6 g**

Salvaging Produce

The FoodBank makes every effort to obtain fresh, nutritious produce to distribute to our programs.

While there may be times that you unintentionally receive product that is past its shelf life, oftentimes fruits and vegetables that may not appear to be top quality are often partially if not entirely usable.

Please see the enclosed tip sheet to help you determine if your fruits and vegetables are suitable for distribution. If at any time you receive produce that you feel is not suitable for distribution, please email us with a photo of the product prior to discarding.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the NET.