



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**THE  
FOODBANK**  
of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

A member of  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

**HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE**

**Spring 2017**

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is not Uncommon in our Community – How the FoodBank can Help



Meet Mr. Dixon, a grandparent who currently has custody of his twin granddaughters. According to the latest Hunger Study, he represents 22% of adults in Monmouth and Ocean Counties who are raising their grandchildren. Mr. Dixon was on disability but wanted to provide a stable home for the girls, which they didn't

have with their parents. So he sought help from the FoodBank and one of our outreach specialists helped him apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, one of the many services we provide.

"The SNAP benefits help me provide healthier meals for my granddaughters. Having access to local pantries is a tremendous help to supplement what I have to make 3 square meals for them. I feel like the pantries are not only giving me food, but encouragement and hope. This has moved me to want to give to someone else by volunteering at the pantries as well."

Mr. Dixon's hope is to move forward by being there for his granddaughters and helping them with their care, homework and educational needs. He is waiting for the girls to go to school full time so he can go back to work. In the meantime, taking care of them is his top priority.

## Get the "Buzz"

### New additions to The FoodBank Organic Garden!

The FoodBank organic garden is abuzz with news! We've added Jess Sinkhorn to our staff as Garden Coordinator and he's bringing some fresh ideas and two honeybee hives to the garden. The garden provides 2,000 pounds of fresh produce annually to our feeding program pantries, including our mobile pantry, as well as herbs for our culinary kitchen cooks.

"I'm very excited to be here," says Jess. "My goal this year is to focus on production, education and preventing food waste, and to encourage more community garden partners to join us in the fight against hunger. I'll be looking for volunteers who want to help us get the word out as well as plant, weed and harvest our crops. We'll also be adding some cooking demos with recipes to our mobile pantry."

Some new additions to the garden this year include two active honeybee hives that will produce local honey by fall, as well as seven new Asian Pear Trees, which are known for their resistance to disease and pests. The trees have been donated by Drew Madzin, In Memoriam of his beloved wife Patty. We are also grateful to Monmouth Park Charity Fund, which is supporting the garden this year with a \$3000 grant.

Anyone interested in volunteering in the garden from April through October should contact our Community Engagement Coordinator Judy Daniels at [jdaniels@foodbankmoc.org](mailto:jdaniels@foodbankmoc.org).



# Message from the Executive Director

## HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE



### Headquarters

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

### The B.E.A.T. Center

1769 Hooper Avenue  
Toms River, NJ 08753

[www.foodbankmoc.org](http://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.

### 2017 Board of Trustees

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Spring is in the air! It is the perfect time to send THANKS to our long-standing supporters and welcome our new ones! We have been very busy this year already. Some of the highlights include, awarding our top schools in the Students Change Hunger Challenge with trophies, and honoring our Humanitarians who have done so much to help end hunger in our community. We have also thanked our tireless volunteers, including our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Team who is still hard at work helping our neighbors with Free Tax Prep at our annual appreciation luncheon. We hope you will find inspiration in these featured stories and join us in our mission to ensure that every family has access to enough nutritious food to live an active and healthy life. We cannot do it alone. Please consider holding a fundraiser or food drive, or request a tour of our Neptune and/or Toms River location at The B.E.A.T. Center, to learn more.

Kind Regards,

Carlos M. Rodriguez  
Executive Director



### Students Change Hunger 2016 Results

Congratulations to Howell Middle School South for their award-winning performance – winners of the top prize – The Heavyweight Champion Award!

In the 10 years of Students Change Hunger, The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties has never seen a school bring in as many pounds of food as Howell Middle School South did this year. Their creativity and perseverance to win the competition was notable and they took home The Heavyweight Champion Award (14,810 pounds of food collected), as well as winning their Division and joining the prestigious 5,000 pound club!

This year, the food and funds collected totaled a record-breaking 115,081 pounds, with more than \$15,000 in funds. There were 66,000 student competitors and all of them contributed to making sure that hunger won't win here! For more information about Students Change Hunger, visit our website at [foodbankmoc.org](http://foodbankmoc.org) or call 732-643-5860.



## Chris Burnett, Handsome Creations Catering, Proprietor

Graduated FoodBank Culinary Training – April, 2014



Chris Burnett, alumnus of the FoodBank Culinary Arts Training Program, says his dream was for everyone to know him, because when people got to know him, they would definitely want to do business with him. In January, his wish was granted with a broadcast television debut on Food Network's "Chopped" culinary competition show, where his memorable performance and Japanese Whiskey BBQ Wings were praised by the judges.

But things were not always so easy for Chris. He lost his mother when he was 11 years old, grew up in the foster care system, and served time in prison before finally turning his life around. It was cooking that got him through his most difficult times. "When I came to the FoodBank Culinary Training Program, I was already taking care of my daughter and cooking at a very low-wage job, but I knew I needed structure and a better foundation to really succeed. I couldn't afford a fancy cooking school so this program was great for me. I was taught the basics, but the value of the experience was much more than that. Chef Ray was my role model as a chef and as a person, and I made him a promise that one day I would make it big and impress him."

Impress he did! Since appearing on the show, Chris' notoriety has soared. "I don't forget where I come from," he says. He's currently giving back to the community that cheered him on by working with a local middle school judging their own culinary competition, as he runs his successful catering business, Handsome Creations Catering. There, he enjoys surprising people with his creative creations at weddings, parties and small, exclusive gatherings. To learn more about Chris and his business, you can follow him on Facebook under Handsome Creations Catering.



## FoodBank Head Chef Ray Cattley receives Award!

CONGRATULATIONS to Chef Ray Cattley CEC, ACE for being named Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Federation Jersey Shore Chefs Association! Chef Ray has been Chef/Instructor for The Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties Culinary Training Kitchen for 15 years.

## Milestone Birthday Party as Fund Raiser

Carol Stillwell, President and CEO of The Stillwell Hansen Family of Companies, including Stillwell-Hansen Inc., S/H Technical Services Inc., and S/H Datasite Protection Inc, and her sister Mary Ann Larkin are fraternal twins, born and raised in Roselle Park, NJ. It was their beloved mom and dad who instilled in them the importance of always giving back to family, friends and community. As Carol and Mary Ann grew, so did their dedication to serving many wonderful philanthropic causes, including The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

"It is our true belief that in our great country, state and county, it is unfathomable that children and families are going hungry. People young and old cannot achieve or succeed to their fullest potential when their next meal is uncertain, which in turn adversely affects all the members of society," says Carol. "Hunger is something we clearly know how to cure. It simply takes a call to action by the entire community."

So they are asking their friends and associates to stand with them in the fight against hunger by joining in a celebration of their 70th birthday, which will take place on May 20, 2017 at their Colts Neck farm. In lieu of gifts, the sisters are asking those who attend to provide a donation to benefit the FoodBank in Neptune

and B.E.A.T. Center locations, as well as one of its largest feeding program partners, Lunch Break.

"We have supported the FoodBank in many ways, including sponsorships for galas, support of the Hope 9 concert fundraiser, and direct food donations, but we truly anticipate that the birthday event will provide us with the opportunity, through the kindness and generosity of our friends, to make the biggest impact on hunger in our area to date," said Carol.

She adds, "If anyone has a true desire to help us end hunger, we would be happy to count you among our 'friends we have not met yet' and have you join us for this wonderful celebration." Please contact the FoodBank for details by emailing [dflippo@foodbankmoc.org](mailto:dflippo@foodbankmoc.org).



## Spotlight on FoodBank Retail Donor Partner



"Community partners are the lifeblood of the FoodBank," said Executive Director Carlos Rodriguez, "and we are so grateful to

our retail food partner, ShopRite, for their generous contributions in food and funds over the years. Through their hunger fighting program, ShopRite Partners In Caring, they have contributed more than \$2.5 million dollars to our FoodBank to support our neighbors in need in Monmouth and Ocean counties."

Christine Magyarits, community relations manager for ShopRite, works closely with the FoodBank to support their mission to feed the hungry. "Fighting hunger is at the forefront of ShopRite's charitable giving. It's important for us to know that people in the communities we serve, whether they are our regular ShopRite customers or those struggling to make ends meet, have a place to turn to access healthy food to feed their families."



Partners In Caring

ShopRite participates in the Check-Out Hunger program, where customers make donations to the FoodBank at check-out. They are also consistent supporters of the FoodBank's fundraisers, including the annual Humanitarian Gala and Culinary Classic events. In the past year, ShopRite provided funding and helped stock the shelves in our new location in Toms River at The B.E.A.T. Center. Through the ShopRite LPGA Classic, an annual donation of \$25,000 is made to support a Mobile Food Pantry and local ShopRite stores are an integral part of the FoodBank's Food Recovery program.

The team at the FoodBank strongly believes that if everyone works together, Hunger Won't Win Here!



Rena Levine Levy & Steven Levine, Owners of WindMill Restaurants.

## There's No Place Like the FoodBank - The FoodBank 2017 Humanitarian Gala

The FoodBank held its 2017 Humanitarian Gala at the Navesink Country Club on March 24th. Our 2017 Honorees included Owners of WindMill Restaurants, Rena Levine Levy & Steven Levine, Members of United Teletech Financial, FoodBank Board Chairs Emeritus, Junior Humanitarian Dominic Esposito, and Agency Partner King of Kings Food Pantry. Entertainment was provided by The Nines. The FoodBank Humanitarian Gala is our largest annual fundraiser. To get on our mailing list for next year's Gala, please contact [ksweeney@foodbankmoc.org](mailto:ksweeney@foodbankmoc.org).

## Tax Deadline Approaching April 18th Free Tax Preparation available!

The FoodBank offers Free Tax Prep in many locations throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties, for households earning \$54,000 or less. Workers can be eligible for up to \$8,529 in Earned Income Tax Credits just by filing a tax return.

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, helping us to shorten the food lines.

To book an appointment, call 732-643-5888. Walk-ins are welcome. Visit our website for hours and locations at [foodbankmoc.org](http://foodbankmoc.org).



## WELCOME New FoodBank Team Members!

From (left to right): Rivka (Riki) Milchman, Food Sourcing Manager, Reginald Terry and John Scaglione, Operations

