

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you to our caring and generous donors, volunteers and supporters for your gifts of food, funds, and time in 2013. You made it possible for us to channel food into our community for hunger relief and link children, adults and senior citizens to programs that provide food assistance. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- *Distributed nearly **2,600,000** pounds of food and groceries.*
- **Food and Grocery Breakdown**

Fruits and Vegetables	41%
Protein	31%
Grains	17%
Dairy	3%
Sweets	1%
Fats	4%
Other	2%
Non-food.....	1%

- *Supplied food and groceries to **60** hunger relief programs.*
- *Helped over **25,000** children, adults and seniors facing food insecurity and hunger.*
- *Distributed monthly meal boxes to **100** low-income senior citizens.*



- *Fed over **500** children with weekly Send Hunger Packing weekend meal packs during the school year and partnered with **12** school sites.*
- *Provided breakfast and lunch meals during the summer to **100** low-income children.*
- *Engaged and marshaled the time, labor, and talent of **1,080** volunteers who contributed **5,700** hours of service.*
- *Conducted SNAP outreach at **25** community sites, prescreened **294** people for program eligibility, helped **288** individuals complete the on-line application to receive SNAP.*
- *Educated member agencies and their clients about good nutrition; increased their access to healthy food, and provided tools to help low-income people learn to make healthy food choices.*

FOOD BANK MEMBER PROGRAMS 2013

- Abundant Life Christian Center
- Amani House
- Anchor House
- ARC Mercer
- Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Cadwalader-Asbury United Methodist Church
- Catholic Charities – Emergency Services
- Catholic Charities – New Choices
- Catholic Charities – Partners in Recovery
- Celestial Church of Christ
- Christ Presbyterian Church
- Concerned Citizens of Ewing
- Crisis Ministry – Bethany
- Crisis Ministry – Princeton
- Crisis Ministry – Trenton
- Divine Mercy
- East Trenton Center
- Elm Court
- Faith Baptist Church
- Faith Deliverance Cathedral
- Family Preservation Center (HomeFront)
- First Haitian Church of God
- First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury
- First Presbyterian Church of Morrisville
- Griggs Farm
- Harriet Bryan House
- HomeFront Pantry
- Jewish Family & Children’s Services
- Lawrence Community Center
- Mercer Street Friends Parent Child West Center
- Mercer Street Friends Preschool
- Mercer Street Friends Send Hunger Packing
- Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing
- Mount Carmel Guild
- New Bethel Kingdom of Faith Ministries
- New Covenant United Methodist Church
- New Hope Church of God
- New Jersey Conference Adventist Community Service
- Primera Iglesia Pentecostal Alpha & Omega
- Princeton Deliverance Center
- Rescue Mission of Trenton
- Restoration Outreach Christian Care
- Resurrection Lutheran Church
- RISE (Community Action Service Center)
- Sacred Heart Church
- Salvation Army – Adult Rehabilitation Center
- Salvation Army – Canteen
- Samaritan Baptist Church
- St. Raphael-Holy Angels Parish
- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- Trenton Deliverance Center
- Trenton Family Preservation House
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
- True Servant CDC-Multitudes Food Pantry
- Turning Point United Methodist Church
- United Progress, Inc.
- UPI Transitional Housing
- Urban Promise
- Word to the World Ministries – Canteen
- Word to the World Ministries – Food Pantry

2014 FARM BILL

Dear Partner,

It is so unsettling to know that there are so many children in our community who face food hardships. Send Hunger Packing, our weekend meal program, is making a difference for the 500 plus children who are able to participate in the program.

But there is another vital program, the School Breakfast Program, which can also close meal gaps for poorly nourished and underfed children.

There are umpteen numbers of studies that have shown that children who eat breakfast perform better academically in school, are less likely to be sick or ill and have fewer behavioral problems.

Often families that live on a tight budget cannot afford to provide a good breakfast on a regular basis. This is why we need to make sure that the schools are offering healthy and well balanced breakfast and enrolling all eligible children in the breakfast program.

Currently, schools are required to offer school breakfast if 20 percent or more of their students qualify for free or reduced meals under the federal School Lunch Program. The cost of the meal is reimbursed by the federal government.

There is a bill (A2840) under consideration in the state legislature that would drop the threshold to five percent, substantially increasing the number of poor students able to start the school day without being distracted by hunger.

Another bill under consideration (A2186) would require low-income districts that have 40 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch to offer "Breakfast After the Bell" – an even better model. Students would have breakfast in the classroom during the first minutes of the school day rather than in the cafeteria before the bell rings. No hungry child would miss breakfast because they did not get to the cafeteria in time.

We urge you to contact your state legislators and voice your support of the two bills that will close meal gaps for hungry children.

Rucha

After months of negotiations, the 2014 Farm Bill was signed into law on February 7, 2014. The law sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policies for the next five years. The bill that was enacted reflected an **\$8.6 billion cut** to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP and formerly known as food stamps) over 10 years.

The House supported a cut of \$40 billion while the Senate proposed to cut \$4 billion, so the final bill was a compromise – yet still affects 850,000 American families who will lose as much as **\$90 a month** to purchase food.



SNAP is often called the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity. SNAP benefits enable food insecure households to buy groceries and reduce the pressure of having to make hard choices between eating right and

paying for other essentials. Program eligibility is based on household income, resources and expenses for housing, utilities, medical and dependent care.

SNAP acts as a safety net for people who are temporarily unemployed due to a recession or other downturns in the economy. It also puts food on the table for people who have been out of work for weeks or months because of a shrinking labor market and for low income workers whose wages are insufficient to meet basic needs.

The number of Mercer County residents receiving SNAP has doubled since the start of the recession in 2007 – rising from 17,404 participants to 35,564 participants in November, 2013. Close to half of the beneficiaries are children.

Contrary to the portrait of recipients painted by opponents of the program, most SNAP households are not on public assistance. Just 10 percent of Mercer County households enrolled in the program are receiving cash welfare benefits.

SNAP benefits can be used only to purchase food. They *cannot* be used for nonfood items such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo, detergent, disposable diapers – let alone cigarettes or alcohol.

SNAP benefits are woefully inadequate given food costs. The average meal cost for the nation is \$2.67; the average meal cost in New Jersey is \$2.82; and the average meal cost in Mercer County \$2.93. (*Map the Meal Gap 2013, Feeding America*).

The average SNAP benefit is \$1.40 per person per meal – hardly enough to feast on lobster or steak. In reality, most of a household's SNAP benefits are spent by the third week of the month, which is why food pantries and meal sites see an uptake at the end of each month.

With the job market in Mercer County not recovered from the recession and the end of long-term unemployment insurance, coupled with rising consumer food prices, there will be no lessening in the number of families facing food shortages and needing the vital SNAP benefits.

TableTalk A PUBLICATION FROM THE
MERCER STREET FRIENDS FOOD BANK

Contributors: Rucha Gadre, Brian Peterson and
Phyllis Stoolmacher

HONOR ROLL OF FOOD DONORS 2013

Thank you to the following individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses for conducting food drives or donating food and groceries to the Food Bank in 2013.

- AAA Mid-Atlantic, Hamilton and Princeton
- Accenture – Great Places to Work Committee
- Albridge Solutions
- Alexander Elementary School
- Bank of America – Merrill Lynch
- Bank of America – Merrill Lynch Campus Recruiting
- Bear Tavern Elementary School
- Ben Franklin Elementary School
- Berlitz Languages, Inc.
- Beyond Business in Bordentown
- Billtrust
- Birthday Party Food Drive – Linda Dubrow
- Birthday Party Food Drive – Travis Weaver
- Blank Rome LLP
- Bristol-Myers Squibb – External Data Operations
- Bristol-Myers Squibb – Global Commercialization
- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
- CA Technologies
- Call Kyle, Inc,
- Cambridge School
- Capital Health System
- Capital Health Regional Medical Center – Dialysis
- Carrier Clinic
- CBIZ KA Consulting
- CBIZ Valuation Group
- Cenlar
- Chandler Hall
- Church & Dwight
- Communication Workers of America, Local 1036 – Shop Steward Trainings
- Congregation Beth Chaim Religious School
- Cornerstone Health and Wellness
- Crossings at Ewing
- Cub Scouts Pack 95
- Curves of Ewing
- Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible Camp
- Educational Testing Service
- Elm Ridge Park Neighborhood
- Enchantment at Hamilton
- Evonik Oil Additives
- Ewing Presbyterian Church and Nursery School
- Ewing Township Office of the Mayor and Town Council
- Falzone Financial
- Federal Highway Administration
- Feds Feed Families – USDA – Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
- French American School of Princeton
- Gathering of Friends – Daniel Ratner
- Gathering of Friends – Lindi Von Mutius
- Gathering of Friends – Olive Coghlan
- Girl Scout Brownies Troop 70642
- Girl Scout Troop 70637
- Girl Scout Troop 70641
- Gloria Nilson Real Estate
- Grant Chapel AME Church
- Gregory Elementary School
- Hamilton High School West
- Hamilton Key Club
- Health Force
- Higher Ground Interdenominational Church
- Highlands Insurance
- Homasote Co.
- Home Schoolers Network
- Honda of Princeton
- Hopewell Community Collection in Memory of David Knights
- Hopewell Valley Central High School
- Horizon NJ Health
- Individual Food Drive – Gianna Mannix
- Jack and Jill of America, Inc. – Mercer County Chapter
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals – Research & Development
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kaufman Chiropractic
- KinderCare
- KNF Neuberger, Inc.
- Lawrence Toyota
- Learning Experience – Hamilton
- Lewis School of Princeton
- Lore Elementary School
- Marsh McLennan and Companies
- McMaster-Carr
- Mercer County 4-H Fair and Rutgers Against Hunger
- Mercer County Community College
- Mercer County Community College – B-Gone Travel
- Mercer County Library System
- Mercer County Technical School – Health and Child Care
- Mercer County Technical School – Medical Assistant Program
- Mercer County Top Producers
- Moms Club of Lawrenceville West
- Moms Club of Pennington

If you would like to organize a food drive at your place of work, house of worship, school, etc. or if you would like to donate food, please call us at 609-406-0503.

continued on next page

HONOR ROLL OF FOOD DONORS 2013

continued from page 3

- Multiplex Cinemas at Town Center Plaza – Holiday Classics
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- Neighborhood Food Drive – Brenda Miranda
- Neighborhood Food Drive – Elm Ridge Park
- Neighborhood Food Drive – Vicki Dorsey
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation
- New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company
- New Jersey State Library
- New Jersey Youth and Student Government
- Newtown Friends Meeting
- NICUSA, Inc. – New Jersey Information Division
- Notre Dame High School
- Nottingham High School
- Nottingham Insurance
- Novo Nordisk
- Novo Nordisk – Recipes for Success
- NRG Energy
- Old Navy – Central New Jersey Market
- Parkway Elementary School – Junior PAWS
- Powerhouse Gym
- Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart
- Princeton Church of Christ
- Princeton Friends School
- Princeton University
- Pro-Tech Energy Solutions, Inc. – NJ Kids Project
- Quaker Bridge Mall – Grand Re-Opening
- Ravine Swim Club
- Red Nucleus
- Reynolds Middle School – Early Act Club
- Robert Wood Johnson Hospital – Hamilton
- Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County
- SA Technologies
- Springpont Senior Living
- SRI International
- State Street Corporation
- Steinert High School
- Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart
- Sunrise Rotary Club – Robbinsville and Hamilton
- TAIHO Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.
- Temple Micah
- The College of New Jersey – Alpha Phi Omega
- The College of New Jersey – Bonner Center
- The College of New Jersey – Security
- The College of New Jersey – Sodexo Dining Services
- Theta Lambda Home School Honor Society
- Toll Gate Grammar School
- Trane
- Trenton Half Marathon
- Trenton Ski Club
- Trenton Thunder Baseball
- TYCO
- Viva Dance Studio
- Voxware
- Weight Watchers – Lawrenceville
- West Windsor Bahá'í Community
- Wildflowers II
- Xerox Corporation

- Yardville Elementary School
- Yardley Friends Meeting

PRODUCE DONORS

- Bright Farms
- Community FoodBank of NJ
- Farmers Against Hunger
- Gunn Creek Farm
- Howell Living History Farm
- Kerr's Kornstand

RETAILERS/ DISTRIBUTORS/ MANUFACTURERS

- Abbotts Frozen Custard
- ACME Markets – Hamilton Square
- ACME Markets – Lawrenceville
- ACME Markets – Yardville
- Bottom Dollar
- JM Group
- Marrazzo's Thriftway – Ewing
- McCaffrey's Market – Princeton
- Mike's Vending
- See's Chocolates
- Shop Rite – Hamilton Marketplace
- ShopRite Supermarkets/Wakefern Food Corporation
- Smithfield
- Stop & Shop – Pennington
- Target – Nassau Park
- Tyson Foods
- Windsor Farms

SPECIAL THANKS

- Community FoodBank of NJ – *for the ongoing partnership*
- Pearson Education – *whose donation of boxes is priceless*
- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen – *30th Anniversary Food Drive donations*



SECOND ANNUAL STUDENTS CHANGE HUNGER CHALLENGE IS A WINNER!



Foreground (left to right) **Cambridge School** students Parker Schwadron, Catherine Chiarella, and Isabel D'Esposito. Background (left to right) Brian Peterson, Food Bank Community Resource Liaison; Lisa Kuzniacki, Language Specialist; and James Maher, Assistant Head of School and Educational Administrator.



Left to right: Brian Peterson, Food Bank Community Resource Liaison; Amy Davis, **Ben Franklin Elementary School** PTO Vice President; Olivia Boccanfuso, 1st grade student; Jack Boccanfuso, 3rd grade student and Christopher Turnbull, Principal.

The second annual Students Change Hunger Challenge raised \$2,180 in monetary donations and 12,856 pounds of food for the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank.

Thirteen schools in Mercer County participated in the competition which ran from September 16, 2013 to November 22, 2013.

- **Ben Franklin Elementary School**
- **Cambridge School**
- **Hamilton High School West**
- **Hopewell Valley Central High School**
- **Learning Experience**
- **KinderCare Learning Center**
- **Mercer County Community College**
- **Notre Dame High School**
- **Reynolds Middle School**
- **Steinert High School**
- **Stuart Country Day School**
- **Toll Gate Elementary School**
- **Yardville Elementary School**

Students Change Hunger, a collaboration of the NJ Federation of Food Banks (www.studentschangehunger.org), engages and mobilizes students to learn about hunger and to take direct action to help those in their community who struggle with food hardships.

Schools within each of the food bank's service area compete against each other, based on the size of the student population,

and vie for the most pounds collected as well as demonstrated spirit and creativity.

Awarded first place again in 2013 was the **Cambridge School**, earning the most points through a combination of funds (Pound\$ for Dollar\$), pounds of food and bonuses for early sign up and drop off. Students began collecting food in September and continued throughout the entire period, dropping off food donations 19 times! They also raised money through bake sales and other fundraisers.

Earning first place for Pound\$ for Dollar\$ was **Ben Franklin Elementary School**. The students donated \$1,000 – half of their hard earned class trip money – to Students Change Hunger.

For information about the 2014 Students Change Hunger competition, contact Brian Peterson at 609-406-0503 or email to bpeterson@mercerstreefriends.org.



Student Leader recognition went to Roger Kleinmann (right) of **Hamilton High School West**. Roger organized his very own volleyball tournament and asked for Students Change Hunger donations as an entry fee. Presenting the award is Brian Peterson (left) Food Bank Community Resource Liaison.



Connecting with Our Community

PUTTING FOR A CAUSE

Novo Nordisk employees, in partnership with **Impact 4 Good**, built a three-hole putting green with food loaned by the Food Bank for a team competition. Proceeds went to the Food Bank (and the food was returned!)



CHECK-OUT HUNGER

Thank you to all the food retailers that participated in the Check-Out Hunger 2013-14 campaign, the volunteers who kept an eye on the display boards and all the shoppers who made donations at the following locations:

- **Marrazzo's**
- **McCaffrey's**
- **Pennington Quality Market**
- **Risoldi's**
- **ShopRite**
- **Wawa**
- **Wegmans**



Check-Out Hunger is our most important fundraiser and the efforts to raise awareness of hunger and funds helps to ensure that our vital work to prevent and alleviate hunger goes on.

WHOLE FOODS 5% DAY

Mercer Street Friends was the beneficiary of Whole Foods Market's 5% Community Day that was held on January 14, 2014. **Whole Foods** donated \$7,130.60 (5% net sales) to support the work of the Food Bank.



Rich Buckley (left), the Food Bank's AmeriCorps member and Brian Peterson (right), Community Resource Liaison at the Food Bank's information table.



PRINCETON RESTAURANTS INCLUDE THE FOOD BANK IN ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Guests attending the first year anniversary celebration of **Agricola Eatery** (11 Witherspoon Street) were invited to make a voluntary contribution to the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank.

The **Alchemist & Barrister** (28 Witherspoon Street) is marking its 40th anniversary with an array of special events and fundraisers for the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, including designating the Food Bank as the recipient of its annual St. Patrick's Day Party and Long Beard contest.

Community to End Hunger

RECENT GRANTS AND AWARDS

- **Arvesen Foundation** – *Send Hunger Packing*
- **Bunbury Company** – *Healthy Eating Initiatives*
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** – *Send Hunger Packing*
- **Church and Dwight** – *Hunger Relief and Prevention*
- **Darden Restaurant Foundation** – *Food Rescue*
- **Karma Foundation** – *Food Distribution/TEFAP*
- **ShopRite LPGA Classic** – *Child Hunger Programs*
- **Trinity Church Hunger Fund** – *Food Distribution*

VOLUNTEER COUNTS

Mid-October, 2013 - Mid-March, 2014

Thank you to the following groups for helping in the warehouse during this period.

Number of Volunteers.....**426**
Number of Hours.....**1,170**

GROUPS:

- Alpha Phi Omega at The College of New Jersey
- Ameriprise Financials
- Ascensus
- Bank of New York – Mellon Albright Solutions
- Billtrust
- Bloomberg
- BMS – Plainsboro Oncology
- Credit Suisse
- Cub Scouts Pack 95 Webelos (Yardley, PA)
- Educational Testing Service
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals
- Johnson & Johnson (Skillman)
- Lewis School
- Market Reach
- McMaster-Carr
- Merck
- NJ Youth Corps – MCCC
- Notre Dame High School
- NJ Office of Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly
- Princeton University Faith in Action
- Princeton University Student Volunteers Council
- Red Nucleus
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- SERV
- Six Flags
- State Street
- TD Bank
- Trenton Catholic Academy
- Voxware
- Waldorf School

SHOPRITE RENEWS SUPPORT TO FIGHT HUNGER



The Mercer Street Friends Food Bank has been awarded \$70,000 in funding from the **ShopRite Partners In Caring** program to help supply our member agencies with food. ShopRite Partners In Caring is a year-round, community-based, hunger-fighting initiative that works with more than 50 food industry manufacturers to provide \$2 million annually in grants. Marking its 15th year anniversary, Partners In Caring donations to food banks in eight states have exceeded \$33 million.

FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE

Every gift of funds or food (valued at \$1.00 per item) received by the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank between March 1st and April 30th will earn us additional dollars from a donation challenge by the **Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation**, which has pledged \$1 million to be shared among domestic hunger fighting organizations.

If you would like to volunteer, please call us at 609-406-0503.



TableTalk

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*I want to be part of the
community response to hunger.
Here is my contribution of:*

\$50 \$100 \$250 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make check payable to:
Mercer Street Friends Food Bank
824 Silvia Street, Ewing, NJ 08628

Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.



**Bridging opportunity gaps...
Helping families and communities
make the journey out of poverty.**

Mercer Street Friends is a Quaker affiliated, nonsectarian human care organization that works to reduce hunger and food insecurity, close education gaps, and improve the physical and emotional well-being of at-risk populations through its three divisions:

- Children and Youth Services
- Food Bank
- Parenting and Adult Services

To learn more about the programs and services of Mercer Street Friends, please visit our website at www.mercerstreetfriends.org.

