



Donate
Today

January 2022: Happy New Year!

Partnering with Rutgers Technical Writing Students

A fall semester class of Rutgers technical writing students completed two projects for Feeding Middlesex County under the direction of their professor, David Howland and Amy Michael, Rutgers Collaborative Center Associate Director and board member of Feeding Middlesex County. Jane Leal, Vice Chair of Feeding Middlesex County served as liaison between the student team and the charity.



With one of Feeding Middlesex County's goals being connecting with young adults for volunteerism and donations, the first project concentrated on the methods that young adults utilize for payments. An email survey was sent to Rutgers students and the results of the survey showed that Venmo was the first payment choice for 50% of respondents. The #2 preferred method was credit/debit cards, and cash was the #3 choice.

As Feeding Middlesex County has initiated an effort to create a strategic plan to cover the next few years, the student team researched food insecurity in Middlesex County in an attempt to determine if there will be an increase in food insecurity. The students reported that by the end of 2024, 14.7% of residents are likely to be food insecure. This is clearly an increase in current estimations of those in need of help with securing food. The data from the team's research will be shared with the strategic plan committee, and their findings will help with future planning.

Many thanks to the student team, Catherine Romoleroux, Sabrina Tavel, Nicole Trent and Maulik Vekaria. Their team worked under the name MSNC, representing the first letters of their first names and a logo was also created.

This team continues a 3-year tradition with the Collaborative Center providing student teams to aid non-profits and to learn about local community needs.

Introducing the 2021 Hunger Heroes

Two years ago, Feeding Middlesex County in partnership with Replenish (formerly MCFOODS), the county food bank, established the **Hunger Heroes**



Awards to honor the volunteers who lead the fight to end hunger in Middlesex County. We are pleased to introduce to you our 2021 honorees.

The *Tom Ellison Memorial Hunger Hero* from the food pantry volunteers in the more than 140 food pantries and social service agencies is **Betty Crews** from Peter's Pantry in Perth Amboy. The award is named after Tom Ellison, the dedicated food bank facility manager who passed away in 2020. Betty has been volunteering at Peter's Pantry since its founding

ten years ago and is devoted to feeding the hungry in Perth Amboy. Betty epitomizes the dedication that Tom Ellison stood for in the fight against hunger. She works for improving the quality of life in Perth Amboy and volunteers at other community organizations including the local garden club. In addition she kicked off the establishment and maintenance of a vegetable garden at Peter's Pantry. In speaking about her volunteerism, Betty said "It fills my life with positive things."

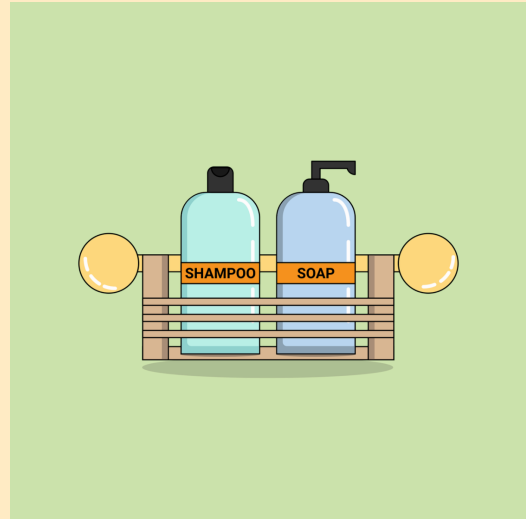
Isabelle Goldman of Monroe Township is honored as the *Hunger Heroes Community Volunteer*. Pre-Covid, Isabelle was a regular volunteer at the county food bank sorting food and helping distribute food to pantry representatives. When Covid19 protections were instituted and volunteering at the facility was put on hold, Isabelle decided to continue helping in the fight against hunger. Her skill as an artist, specializing in landscapes and natural environments, was offered up. She displayed her most popular paintings and asked people to make a donation to Feeding Middlesex County in exchange for a painting. In 2020, she raised more than \$1300 and in 2021, she continued the effort and donations are still coming in. Isabelle is honored for her dedication and her creativity as an artist and her ability to bind her artistry with her passion for fundraising in the fight to end hunger.

Brian Fitzpatrick, the IC District Sales Manager for Liberty Coca Cola Beverages of South Brunswick, accepted the *Corporate Hunger Hero Award* for the company. His experiences of doing volunteer work with his mother at their church influenced him to promote volunteerism and good works at Liberty Coca Cola. Not only has the company donated over 400,000 pounds of products over the last few years to the county food bank, but employees have volunteered their time at food drives in the county. The goal has been to "make an impact" and this has certainly been achieved. The company recently acknowledged Fitzpatrick's efforts by adding Community Engagement Ambassador to his title. This award recognizes the generosity and continuing support of an important local business here in Middlesex County.

The 2021 *Government Hunger Hero Award* honored the work of the **late Middlesex County Deputy Director Commissioner Kenneth Armwood**. Accepting the award for Commissioner Armwood was Keith Jones, New Brunswick's Director of Human and Community Services and a close friend and colleague of the Commissioner. He noted Armwood's passion for food security and his advocacy for feeding the hungry. Armwood attended many FMC and Replenish/MCFOODS events, supporting food drives including those in outdoor areas during the COVID19

A New Need

Feeding Middlesex County's activity concentration has been the purchase of food to supply the Middlesex County food bank, Replenish (formerly known as MCFOODS), but over the last few months, the more the 150 food pantries and social service agencies in the Replenish network have expressed a growing need for non-food items.



To efficiently help the clients who receive food from their local food pantries here in Middlesex County, there is a growing need for paper products, cleaning products and personal products that these folks cannot fit into their limited budgets. According to Jennifer Apostol, Director of Replenish, "We want the food pantry clients to have access to all they need to lead healthy lives and a number of non-food items promote good outcomes."

For those who donate to Feeding Middlesex County, we are pleased to let you know that a portion of the collected funds will now be targeted to purchase these non-food items. And for anyone who donates products directly to Replenish through permanent collection bins at local libraries or through food drives, you can add to the non-food supplies.

The kinds of items needed include:

- Paper products – paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, paper plates, napkins
- Household products – Laundry detergent, spray cleaner, bathroom cleaner, trash bags, glass cleaner,
- Personal products – shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, tooth brushes, toothpaste, lotions, combs, hairbrushes
- Diapers – all sizes plus baby wipes

Adding these products to our stock will help us improve the lives of the families who are relying on help from local food pantries.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
make a difference

How Can YOU Make a Difference?

1. Volunteer at an Upcoming Event -->[Sign Up NOW](#)
2. Donate while you Shop on Amazon -->[Connect with Amazon Smile](#)
3. Raise Funds for FMC -->[Set up a Facebook Fundraiser](#)



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