

FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY



PARTNERING TO END HUNGER

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

Because you are all part of our community, we feel it is important to start this letter off by sharing some sad news about the loss of someone near and dear to us. After a heroic battle fighting esophageal cancer, Tom Ellison, the warehouse manager at MCFOODS, passed away March 7th. Tom's sons Peter, Simon and daughter-in-law Kristina were at his side at JFK Hospital.

For ten years, Tom was the heart and soul of the food bank operation, and his previous employment experience in warehousing was a natural benefit for the MCFOODS warehouse. Tom's dedication to the cause of food insecurity in Middlesex County was unsurpassed. It was not unusual to find Tom working at the warehouse on weekends or very early on weekday mornings perfecting distribution capabilities. He could be a demanding supervisor because of his goals to improve operations. At the same time, he was helpful and generous with his time and efforts when it came to co-workers, volunteers and food insecurity stakeholders. He was also a significant monetary donor to Feeding Middlesex County helping to keep food on the foodbank shelves.

Tom was not just a lover of music but a truly knowledgeable music fan. The MCFOODS warehouse's speakers were often full of classic rock or blues---All DJ Tom's picks. And Tom's strong voice could often be heard over the music.

Tom will be missed by everyone involved with Feeding Middlesex County and MCFOODS and will not be forgotten. The vision of Tom navigating and criss-crossing the warehouse and grounds on a speedy forklift will live in our visual memories forever. His dedication and forcefulness will keep serving as a goal for all of us as we continue to fight hunger in our community.

Plans are in the works for a memorial service dedicated to Tom, and scheduling will go forth as soon as crowds are able to get together again, post-coronavirus.



Access to food during the coronavirus

As you all know, the world is facing a serious health crisis right now and we are all working hard to help each other through this time. Due to the coronavirus health situation many schools and businesses are closing their doors or reducing operation hours. Many children are not receiving their school meals; although schools are taking measures to provide alternate access to food by sending grab-and-go meals on school bus routes or having bagged food available at area parks. At the same time, the annual school food drive which supplies the food bank with the largest quantity of donated items annually, is being interrupted due to closings and the expected tonnages from the drive will be substantially less than normal. Many hourly workers whose businesses are shutting down or reducing operating hours are now without a paycheck. Many do not have the resources to stock up on a 14 day supply of food.

Now more than ever food pantries are needed to assist are most vulnerable residents and we need your help to keep our shelves stocked. To help Feeding Middlesex County during these trying times and to meet the food insecurity needs here in Middlesex County, we are requesting monetary donations. We can turn these donations into the most needed foods in an efficient and timely way to immediately serve the families and children.

Please click below to donate or visit feedingmiddlesexcounty.org and press the donate button . You can donate via credit card or paypal. An immediate surge in donated funds will instantly become lifesaving food for our neighbors in need. We also encourage you to keep in touch with us on our social media sites. Stay well and stay connected!

[Donate Now!](#)

Advancing Community Development



As we mentioned last month, the Advancing Community Development students at Rutgers are hard at work on their goal to bring more awareness and recurring donations to FMC! We would like to take the time now to introduce this semester's team and clue you in on how you will be able to lend them a hand! The director of the Advancing Community Development is Amy Michael. Alexandra Russomano is teaching the course this semester. The Johnson & Johnson mentor is Christa Heydt. The team members are Eric Mao, Alex Anesetti, and Taslim Soomar. Again, we are so excited to see how the semester unfolds for this great group of people!

Be sure to keep your eyes peeled because in the next few weeks, you will get to participate in an important facet of their work. The team is working on a survey that will let us know why you are interested in the problem of hunger in Middlesex County. It will also help us improve our outreach to donors and stakeholders. The survey will be sent out to all of you who receive this newsletter, it will only take a few minutes to complete, and it will be a huge help to the Rutgers students and to us at Feeding Middlesex County. Thanks so much for your input!

Walk to End Hunger: Postponed



We regret to announce that Feeding Middlesex County's planned April 25th walk in Thompson Park is being postponed due to the CDC's recommendation to delay gatherings of 50+ people. At this time, there is no specific new date, but the walk committee will assess the ever-changing situation and announce a new date soon. Feeding Middlesex County thanks its supporters, vendors and donors for their patience and understanding. Refunds for sign-ups are in the works.

As we mentioned earlier, now is a crucial time for our neighbors in need. Monetary donations are the best way for you to help out. Please click the Donate button above, or visit our website and give what you can. We thank you for your continued support and your patience regarding the postponement of this event. As much as we were looking forward to the walk, the safety and wellbeing of our community is always priority number one. For further questions, email us at feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com.

Thank you, East Brunswick AARP!



A volunteer group from the East Brunswick chapter of AARP came to the MCFOODS warehouse ready to give a helping hand. On March 11, the group sorted numerous bins of donated non-perishable food items, and they also packaged food items to be distributed to participating food pantries the following Tuesday.

This kind of volunteer activity is crucial to the food bank operations. MCFOODS and Feeding Middlesex County are fortunate to have such a long-term working relationship with this AARP group. Besides their volunteer hours, the group runs food drives as well. We can only express our gratitude for their time, effort and dedication to our organization and their contribution towards furthering our mission.



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Feeding Middlesex County (FMC) financially supports organizations that feed the hungry. We are a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

We raise funds to purchase food and equipment to assist qualifying agencies in procuring, storing, preserving and transporting food and other necessary items to our food insecure neighbors.



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Feeding Middlesex County
P.O. Box 781
Edison, New Jersey 08818 - United States
Telephone: 732-723-8106