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Dear {FIRST\_NAME},

For many people, summertime means long weekends at the beach and barbecues on Sunday afternoons. However, for 70,000 Middlesex County residents who are food insecure, summertime means empty food pantry shelves and no school-provided breakfasts and lunches. We're a little over a month away from when school lets out and the long summer days come along.

You can help keep shelves stocked and make sure all Middlesex County children and families have enough to eat! [Contact MCFOODS](#) if you'd like to host a food drive or consider making a monetary donation with the ["Donate" button](#) at the bottom of this newsletter!

Regards,  
Jane Brady

## RSVP for 4th Annual Dine Below the Line on May 18th

Dine Below the Line is an annual tradition for FMC and MCFOODS. Talented professional chefs create a casual yet elegant menu on a food pantry budget. All of the dishes incorporate foods exclusively found on pantry shelves. This year's event is being hosted by **St. Anthony of Padua Church** in **Port Reading** on **Saturday, May 18th** at 6:00 p.m.

RSVP to attend now by clicking [here](#) or by calling 609-409-5033.

Let us and your friends know you're planning to attend by [RSVP'ing on Facebook!](#)

The flyer is a vertical rectangular graphic with a white background and orange accents. At the top, it reads 'FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MCFOODS &amp; "WE FEED" WOODBRIDGE PRESENT'. Below this is a logo for 'COME DINE BELOW THE LINE' featuring a black umbrella over a bowl of food. To the right of the logo, it says 'A casually elegant, upscale, gourmet dining experience on a food pantry budget. Experience what it is like to eat on an income that is below the poverty line.' The event details are listed in the center: 'Date: Saturday, May 18, 2019', 'Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm', 'Where: St. Anthony of Padua Parish Hall, 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading', and 'Cost: FREE and ALL ARE WELCOME'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Please RSVP to 609-409-5033 or ja@mcdauth.com online at www.FeedingMiddlesexcounty.org'. The footer contains logos for 'MIDDLESEX COUNTY', 'FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY', 'WE FEED WOODBRIDGE', and 'Provident BANK'.

[View Upcoming Events](#)

## Have You Been Reading Expiration Dates Incorrectly?

MCFOODS recently partnered with Rutgers University Advancing Community Development students who put together a series of information to help educate the public on food product dating, safety and consumption. Confusion over the meaning of dates applied to food products has resulted in many consumers discarding wholesome food. By understanding food product dating, we can decrease food waste in our community.

Tune into the [MCFOODS](#) and [FMC Facebook](#) pages to follow the "Did You Know?" series on product dating.



## Thanks for joining us at our Walk to End Hunger!



We had a **GREAT** turnout at our 2019 Walk to End Hunger hosted in Piscataway's Johnson Park on Saturday, April 27th - and the beautiful weather was a welcome bonus! We had over **100** participants attend to show their support for FMC and mission of eliminating food insecurity in Middlesex County. We collected 25 boxes of food for the MCFOODS warehouse and made a lot of great new connections.

Do you have any photos from the event? Please share them with us on Facebook by tagging [@feedingMC1](#) and [#FMC!](#)

## Organization Spotlight: New Life Food Pantry (Helmetta, NJ)



The New Life Food Pantry, located in Helmetta, provides perishable and nonperishable food items to patrons, as well as prepared food from Wawa and Panera Bread and personal care items. Beyond providing food and personal items, the New Life Food Pantry also provides health screenings, nutritional information and utility assistance. New Life Food Pantry ensures that anyone in need of access to food, regardless of where they live or what their financial situation is, can obtain it. The staff and volunteers of the pantry make every effort to uplift the spirits of any patron who comes to them in need.

*"The experience here is more like a friendly store than a food pantry. Patrons are given a shopping cart and are allowed to select items they would enjoy. Volunteers make a special effort to learn about patrons' dietary restrictions and food preferences so they can provide great customer service when that patron returns."*

Partnering with MCFOODS and FMC has allowed New Life Food Pantry to provide increased amounts of nutritious, fresh foods to clients beyond the non-perishable staples most pantries are known for.

To learn more about New Life Food Pantry, visit their [website](#) and like them on [Facebook](#)!

## Rutgers Students Complete Two Projects for FMC

We'd like to take a moment to thank the Rutgers Advancing Community Development spring 2019 class for their hard work over this past semester! The class devised and implemented two wonderful projects to assist with the fundraising and marketing and communications activities of FMC.

One team worked with FMC Vice Chair Jane Leal to create FMC's first ever annual report, which will be released in mid-June. The team of students took a deep dive into all of FMC's activities, events, and financials. Rich in photos, the report includes graphics that are very reader friendly.

Another team worked with FMC Chair Jane Brady on a fundraising campaign. The campaign culminated in an open mic night at Penstock Coffee in Highland Park. Singers, songwriters, duos and groups came out to perform for a great cause. Penstock even donated 10% of the evening's revenues to FMC.



## Connect with us on Social Media!

We are always looking for volunteers to become FMC Ambassadors on social media! We're on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. Follow us at @FeedingMC1 and help us share our mission with your friends, family and connections!

Want more information about becoming an FMC Ambassador? Please contact [feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com](mailto:feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com)!



[Donate Now!](#)

**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