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FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY



PARTNERING TO END HUNGER

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

In these difficult times, Feeding Middlesex County has been so blessed with an outpouring of support from folks all over the county. The monetary contributions are enabling us to purchase food for distribution to the 130 pantries in the MCFOODS network. So many organizations have stepped up to spread the need to their members and friends. Goodness abounds.

At this time, we are searching for food distribution companies who will partner with Feeding Middlesex County by selling us food items in retail sizes, but large quantities. If you know of companies, please call Jane Brady at (732) 723-8106.

As we move forward in this springtime of new growth, we thank you for your support and encourage you to stay safe.

Jane Brady
Chair

This Semester's Rutgers Round-Up



Another semester/school year is coming to a close and we truly commend all the students, teachers, professors, and school-related professionals in our community who have worked so hard to adjust to remote-learning, teaching virtually, and getting it all done! It hasn't been an easy transition, by any means, but it has been heartening to see folks working together to help our students through this!

With that in mind, we wanted be sure to highlight the work of our partners at Rutgers University's Advancing Community Development (ACD) course. This class comes from the university's Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service and a collaboration with Johnson & Johnson. This past semester, with the help of a J&J mentor, students worked with FMC to develop a communications strategy aiming to attract donors to donate monthly automatically and bring more awareness to our organization. They recently (virtually) presented their project and we are so thankful for their creativity in approaching and accomplishing their goal.

As you may remember seeing in previous newsletters, the team drew up a survey that will help us learn more about how we can keep our donors engaged and up-to-date with our current efforts. We are continuing to collect responses so if you haven't already done so, please take 2 minutes to complete it:

<https://tinyurl.com/fmcdonorsurvey>

The other facet of this semester's project revolved around increasing the number of sustaining supporters. The students drew up a campaign that will recognize three tiers of incentives, corresponding with levels of sustaining monthly support. Stay tuned for more information - we look forward to rolling out this campaign and sharing it with you!!

Feds Approve \$248M Food Benefits For 600K NJ Children

Food insecure children in our community have had an even harder time due to the pandemic; the schools where many students receive meals have been closed since mid-March. According to an article from dailyvoice.com, "nearly 600,000 New Jersey schoolchildren could qualify for extra food benefits that otherwise would have been spent on free or reduced meals at school." The State Department said that these extra benefits should get to the families by next month. If you're interested, you can find the full article [here](#).

This news gives us a sense of relief but we, along with MCFOODS, will continue working to provide meals for these families and the need still grows. Because of this health crisis, our partner food pantries see new patrons who've never accessed the services before. Not only have schools been closed since March, but many people have lost their jobs and been out of work for two months. The fight against food insecurity has been increasingly difficult due to the coronavirus and we need all the help we can get to do our part here in Middlesex County.



FMC Mask Campaign

Last month, we told you about our mask project in lieu of our April Walk that got cancelled. The response has been great -- we have sent out more than 500 masks over the last month!

The ambitious sewists are still hard at work making and distributing stylish masks, with priority going to healthcare providers and first responders. But, we're still fulfilling FMC-related requests. If you would like a mask or masks, please email your request to feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com and include your name, mailing address, and the number of masks needed.

We ask that you make a donation to Feeding Middlesex County on our website: feedingmiddlesexcounty.org/donate.



Drive-By Food Drive

We are excited to announce that Feeding Middlesex County and MCFOODS are hosting a **Drive-By Food Drive** next month, in collaboration with Simon Malls! On **June 6th**, in the **Menlo Park Mall parking lot**, in Edison NJ, we will be safely collecting food donations. This is an opportunity for you to come by and make a contact-less donation (without even getting out of your car). Monetary donations will also be accepted on the day of the drive.

We assure you that we will share more information regarding this event as soon as possible. Details will be posted on our website [here](#) soon, and we will be sure to

reach out to you with the specifics. In the meantime, check out the lists below to get an idea of what donations are most needed at this time.

And as always, be sure to keep in touch with us on social media as another way to stay updated with all the goings-on here at FMC!

What do Food Pantries Need?

Fruits/Veggies
Look for "no sugar added" and veggies with "no salt added"

- 100% fruit juice
- Pasta sauce, tomato products (sauce, crushed, whole, diced, puree etc)
- Canned vegetables

Dairy
Shelf stable low-fat or non-fat dairy products

- Dry milk
- Evaporated milk
- Soy, Almond, and Rice milk

Protein
Look for "no salt added" "low-sodium" and canned in water

- Canned beans
- Tuna fish, salmon and other canned fish
- Peanut Butter
- Canned meats and meals (ravioli, hash, stew, chili etc)

Fresh Grains
Donate whole grains when possible

- Cereal (low sugar, high fiber)
- Oatmeal
- Whole grain bread or bagels

Soup

- "Low sodium" and heart healthy varieties

Baby Items

- Infant formula
- Baby food and cereal
- Diapers and wipes

Side Dishes

- Rice
- Pasta
- Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper

Other Items

- Ziplock bags
- Boost or Ensure, regular, and glucose control
- Toothpaste, shampoo, and soap
- Paper products

[Donate Now!](#)

[View the 2018 Annual Report](#)

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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