



## Partnering to End Hunger

### FMC Newsletter: June 2021

Greetings!

### Tackling Food Insecurity Together

In 2020, Feeding Middlesex County had a hefty goal of increasing revenues in efforts to meet the challenges of COVID19 and increased food insecurity needs in the form of cash donations, in-kind donations, and grants. Through **YOUR** assistance, FMC exceeded \$500,000 and **WE** were able to assist those struggling in **OUR** County.

As we look forward into 2021, it is very likely that **OUR** food insecurity crisis will far outlast the health crisis and the economic impact of the pandemic will have a long lasting impact on **OUR** most vulnerable populations in Middlesex County.

Feeding Middlesex County plans continue to seek partnerships to expand our base of support as we strive to achieve **OUR** vision to eliminate food insecurity in Middlesex County.

But **WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE**. Here are some ways to make a difference:

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



## Dine Below the Line - What a Night!

What a way to kick off June...with DINE BELOW THE LINE'S first-ever virtual edition showcasing local chefs as they prepared recipes on a budget.

Host Sharon Gordon, started off the night in enthusiastic fashion by introducing the judges, Chairman of Feeding Middlesex County's board, Kevin Hoagland, New Brunswick's Keith Jones, II, and 1450 WCTC-AM's radio anchor Racquel Williams.

Then off to the races for the chefs from around the County to prepare a meal using ingredients found at your local food pantry. Here were your celebrity chefs for the evening:

[Chef Cathy representing St. Peter's Spotswood](#)

[Chef Doug, Chef Glen and Chef Matthew representing Team Piscataway](#)

[Chef Jackie and Chef Carolina representing Team New Brunswick](#)

[Chef Pearl representing Promise Culinary School](#)

After watching four amazing dishes and the comical commentary, it was down to a nail bitter on the winners of the night for two possible awards; judge's choice and people's choice.

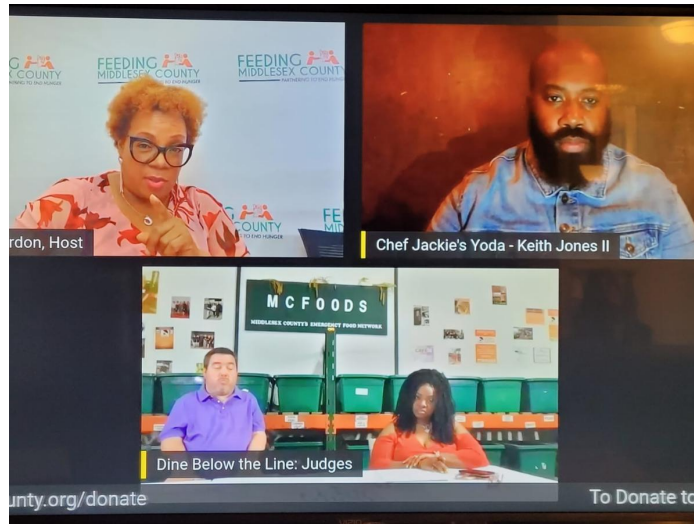
Congratulations to Cathy Decker on winning the judge's choice award.  
Congratulations to Chefs Jackie and Carolina from Team New Brunswick for capturing the people's choice vote!

This event could not have been pulled off the way it did without our sponsor, Northfield Bank. Thank you for all your support!

If you missed the event, check out the video above or this [YouTube link](#).

And if you are in the mood to test out your cooking skills, [download a copy of the RECIPE BOOK](#) to catch all the excitement from Dine Below the Line 2021.

We hope we can join together in person for the 2022 Dine Below the Line!



**TEAM NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Chef Jackie**

Jackie Mazza is a New Brunswick based chef and restaurateur. Chef Jackie was the Executive Pastry Chef at The Frog and the Peach before moving on to be the head baker of ScratchBREAD in New York. Upon returning to New Brunswick, she started Knead...Baked Goods, a small bread company incubated within Elijah's Promise, where she also served as an adjunct chef instructor. Chef Jackie is committed to not only elevating her craft but the knowledge and education of her peers and colleagues.

**TEAM PISCATAWAY**

**Chef Doug  
Chef Glen  
Chef Matthew**

Chef Doug Wilson is a local caterer, food pantry volunteer and community activist who founded the Dine Below the Line concept 5 years ago while directing the Christ Church Food Pantry in New Brunswick. Chef Glen Rodriguez joined the army straight out of high school and traveled the country before working for a national restaurant group in Florida and eventually becoming a chef here in Piscataway. Chef Matthew Smith is a Johnson and Whales graduate and local chef who in his leisure time enjoys umpiring youth baseball.

**PROMISE CULINARY SCHOOL**

**Chef Pearl**

Chef Pearl Thompson has taught culinary for over 30 years, 23 of which were here in Middlesex county. She lives by the philosophy that good food for all is a right and not charity. As a Jersey Girl through and through, her life has been dedicated to ensuring justice for all.

**ST. PETER'S SPOTSWOOD**

**Chef Cathy**

By day, a travel publicist representing worldwide brands, Cathy Decker is also a compulsive community activist and volunteer. A former Warden at St. Peter's Spotswood, where she continues to lend her time and talent to the Thrift Shop and Wednesday Night Community Supper, Decker is an East Brunswick Democratic Committeewoman, serves on the East Brunswick Zoning Board and is president of the local Royal Neighbors of America chapter.

## Dine To Donate Recap

Thank you to [Fiddleheads Restaurant](#) in Jamesburg for hosting our recent Dine to

Donate event on June 10th where a portion of the total food and beverage purchases were donated to Feeding Middlesex County.

We want to thank those diners for being part of the event and those who have pledged to match the donations.

The money raised is much appreciated and assists us with our mission to serve, support and care for the citizens of Middlesex County.

If you are a restaurant interested in being part of the next Dine to Donate event, please reach out to us at [feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com](mailto:feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com).



## **Before you go..... Upcoming Events!!!!**

Keep your eyes on your inbox because we have a couple July and Summer events to tell you about. But, if you haven't already heard, here's a little sneak peek...

### **Music in the Park Series**

*Weekly Free Concert Series in South Amboy & Edison*

MCFOODS and Feeding Middlesex County will be present collecting food and monetary donations for the benefit of County residents in need of assistance.

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THESE EVENTS?**

**[Click here to Sign Up Now](#)**



PRESENTED BY MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ

FREE CONCERT SERIES 2021

RARITAN BAY WATERFRONT PARK

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. • O'LEARY BLVD., SOUTH AMBOY

- JULY 7 DANNY V'S 52ND ST. BAND - A TRIBUTE TO BILLY JOEL
JULY 14 SCARBOROUGH FAIR - A TRIBUTE TO SIMON & GARFUNKEL
JULY 21 UNDERWATER AIRLINES - A CLASSIC ROCKIN' BAND
JULY 28 SOUNDS OF THE STREET - GOLDEN OLDIES AT IT'S BEST!
AUGUST 4 PARKWAY SOUL - A VARIETY OF MOTOWN CLASSICS
AUGUST 11 ZYDECO-A-GO-GO - NEW ORLEANS STYLE RHYTHM & BLUES, 40'S JAZZ & SWING
AUGUST 18 GREEN RIVER - A TRIBUTE TO CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL
AUGUST 25 THE PERRY BROTHERS - IRISH FAVORITES AND MORE

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, CONCERTS WILL BE CANCELED AND RESCHEDULED BASED ON BAND AVAILABILITY. CONCERTS WILL NOT BE HELD INDOORS.



McFOODS and Feeding Middlesex County will also be present at each event collecting food donations for the benefit of county residents in need of assistance. Be sure to bring a non-perishable food donation with you to the park, your support is vital! For details, visit feedingmiddlesexcounty.org.

www.middlesexcountynj.gov/music



PRESENTED BY MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ

FREE CONCERT SERIES 2021

ROOSEVELT PARK

AT



SUNDAYS, 6:00 TO 7:30 P.M. • PINE DRIVE., EDISON

- JULY 11 KRAUS MEMORIAL BAND - MUSIC FROM THE THEATER AT THE THEATER AND MORE!
JULY 18 INTO THE WOODS WOODWIND TRIO - BACH TO THE FUTURE (CLASSICAL, BROADWAY, POP & JAZZ)
AUGUST 1 MARK HETER BAND - NEW TO YOU OLD FAVORITES
AUGUST 8 GREG GIANNASCOLI & FRIENDS - FROM AMERICAN TO ARGENTINA
AUGUST 22 SILK CITY JAZZ QUARTET - SMOKIN' HOT JAZZ
AUGUST 29 SANDY SASSO'S SWINGING BIG BAND - HITS AND STANDARDS FROM THE BIG BAND ERA



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www.middlesexcountynj.gov/music



Drive By Food Drive in Partnership with Woodbridge We Feed Pantries

Saturday, July 24th at Woodbridge Center

Drive up, pop you trunk and volunteers will remove your non-perishable food donations and monetary donations in a contactless format.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THESE EVENTS?

Click here to Sign Up Now

Feeding Middlesex County

Hunger Heroes



Thursday, September 23rd, 6pm

SAVE THE DATE

More details to follow



[Donate Now](#)



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