



Drive By Food Drive in East Brunswick: Recap

The 2nd Drive By Food Drive event to benefit MCFOODS Network took place this past Saturday at Brunswick Square Mall and we had a great time! We received approximately 3,800 lbs. of food items and just over \$1,500 in monetary donations to FMC! Our volunteers were hard at work all day encouraging the mall visitors to stop by, collecting donations from cars, and filling up those bins!

Events like this can't happen without amazing volunteers and we're fortunate that so many people feel strongly about the issue of food insecurity. On Saturday, we had volunteers from East Brunswick's Cub Scout Pack #223 and Carpenters Union Local 254. Middlesex County's Young Democrats and the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce were also represented that day and they also helped with event promotion. Thank you to East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen, and Freeholders Ken Armwood and Shanti Narra for stopping by and supporting the Food Drive as well!

We are thankful to Brunswick Square Mall for partnering with us and hosting this drive. Last but certainly not least, we want to give a shout-out to Milltown's Pasquale's Brick Oven Pizza for providing us and our volunteers our delicious pizza lunch at a discounted rate. We love seeing familiar faces coming out to support us and being able to build relationships with these great Middlesex County groups. Thank you again to everyone involved and stay tuned to find out about our next event!



Spotlight: A Lasting Volunteer Partnership



MCFOODS and FMC are so fortunate to have working relationships with many people and organizations throughout Middlesex County who value our work and our mission, and make it a priority to help out when they can. One of those organizations that has been very involved, especially since the pandemic hit, is Carpenters' Union Local 254. On Saturday, at the Drive By Food Drive, we were able to speak with Representative Jason Friedman about Local 254 and why they choose to volunteer with MCFOODS.

Local 254 has about 5,000 members, including retirees, and there are approximately 500,000 members nationally. Jason has been involved for the last 13 years and spends his days visiting job sites, meeting with members and those involved with the projects they're working on. Local 254 carpenters work on various jobs around New Jersey including such essential construction as highways, colleges, schools, and hospitals, among others.

We asked Jason about how he and the other members find community activities to get involved with and he said that they pick things that really interest the members. Local 254 has a volunteer organizing committee that makes a lot of those choices and the carpenters can be seen volunteering with a wide range of organizations. Jason places great importance on networking within his community and said, "hunger is something that I take an interest in locally."

They say that it's a small world here in our county, but the way Jason and Local 254 got involved with MCFOODS and FMC definitely proves that. The Union's local office is in Edison and it neighbors the Hands of Hope Food Pantry. The carpenters are able to provide manpower and their truck to make it easier for Hands of Hope to get their groceries transported twice a year. Connections with FMC Secretary Margaret Pemberton and the East Brunswick Democrats were how Jason learned about the Drive we had at Menlo Mall, and now we have seen Local 254 members at all our events so far this summer. Jason said he has had to turn folks away who wanted to come since the interest is so significant among members. We thank Jason and Local 254 for their continuing support and we look forward to welcoming more of their members to volunteer at future events!

FMC Board News



Another person we'd like to tell you about is Gary Karlin, FMC's new Board Treasurer. We are so grateful to have him serve in this role. Gary brings his extensive knowledge and background to the position. Let's let him introduce himself to you all:

"I recently retired after a 45-year career in various corporate finance and treasury management roles at companies in the pharmaceutical and industrial sectors. Over the last 27 years I had direct responsibility for the investment management of multi-billion dollar portfolios that, in aggregate, funded global pension and other employee benefit programs in 40+ countries around the world.

I am privileged to be able to share my experience with such a fine organization dedicated to alleviating food insecurity in our community."

Thank you Gary and thank you to Angie Tsirkas, former Board Treasurer, for having served in this position and for your continued dedication to FMC!

Coming Soon: (Virtual) Hunger

Heroes Celebration



Feeding Middlesex County is hosting a virtual Hunger Heroes celebration on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7pm. The event will be available for all supporters of MCFOODS and FMC to enjoy at watch parties throughout the county.

As part of this celebration, we will recognize 5 individuals and/or groups who have made a significant positive difference to hunger issues in our county. Look out for the announcement of the names of these heroes in the near future. We will also recognize the numerous groups who made significant financial contributions this year during the pandemic crisis.

Stay tuned for details as they become available! Access to more information will be located [here](#). We can't wait to honor the many supporters and workers helping us battle food insecurity in Middlesex County and share in this celebration with all of you!

Getting Ready for September: #HungerActionMonth



According to the feedingamerica.org website, "Hunger Action Month is a time when people all over America stand against hunger." FMC will be supporting MCFOODS Network's "30 Ways in 30 Days" Campaign to encourage our community to learn more about food insecurity and take action! #HungerActionMonth is a great time to volunteer, become an advocate using social media, and/or donate and raise funds.

Keep an eye on our social media next month because we will be sharing the daily social media challenges and we can't wait to see your posts showing how you get involved! Follow us on Facebook by [clicking here](#).

Some FMC Reminders



- Feeding Middlesex County MERCHANDISE is still available: [click here](#) to get yourself outfitted with our stylish t-shirts and hats!
- If you still need MASKS: email us at feedingmiddlesexcounty@gmail.com and include your mailing address and the number of masks needed. There is no charge for the masks or the shipping/handling. We ask that you make a donation to Feeding Middlesex County at our [website](#).
- You can also drop off DONATIONS at our warehouse with your non-perishable food and supply DONATIONS Monday through Friday mornings, 6am to 12pm. It is located at 27 Kennedy Blvd., Suite 380, East Brunswick (look for the white tents at the rear of the building). More info about MCFoodbank can be found [here](#).



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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