



## Partnering to End Hunger

### FMC Newsletter: Special Hunger Heroes Edition



Greetings!

Five deserving honorees received Hunger Heroes Awards on September 24th, and those five represent the dedication and the epitome of community spirit especially in this time of COVID. The event took place in the studio of Piscataway Community Television Center (PCTC) and was streamed live on their YouTube channel. If you missed it live, you can still access the program by [clicking here](#).

Opening remarks by Jane Brady, chair of FMC, focused on the creation of FMC, its goals and its achievements. Jennifer Apostol summarized the activities of MCFOODS in this challenging year of COVID. "Since March we have seen an increase of over 112% in the amount of food received and distributed. Over 3 million pounds of food have

been distributed in the past 8.5 months, far exceeding the 2.1 million pounds distributed in all of 2019.” Jane Leal, vice chair of FMC, detailed the difficulties that FMC faced in 2020 and cited the creativity needed to succeed. She also acknowledged the generosity of the community in providing funds, volunteer hours and food donations.

Besides honoring the 2020 Hunger Heroes, the live stream event also focused on community spirit in facing the covid challenge. Jane Brady noted “This live stream event was meant to be a thank-you for the generosity of monetary donations and volunteer hours during this crisis.” There were also musical performances by duo Ilon Eisenzweig and Mike Noordzy.

The awards were presented as follows:

---

## The Posthumous Hunger Heroes Award: Tom Ellison



A posthumous Hero award was presented to the family of Tom Ellison, the late manager of the MCFOODS warehouse. Tom’s dedication to fighting hunger in Middlesex County was unparalleled. He went beyond his job duties to move along the effort to eliminate food insecurity in Middlesex County. Besides organizing the food warehouse and overseeing the logistics of picking up food donations, accepting them at the warehouse and packing them for distribution to the 130 food pantries, meal preparation sites and social service agencies, he planted vegetables to be distributed; he shared recipes; and he donated personal funds to the cause.

His award was presented by Jennifer Apostol and she commented “Tom had the biggest heart and gave so much to MCFOODS. The growth of the program is due in great part to Tom’s dedication and desire to always do more.”

---

## The Volunteer Hunger Hero Award: Kathi Lombardi

After Peter & Kristi Ellison accepted Tom's award for the Ellison family, they were able to present the Tom Ellison Volunteer Hunger Hero Award to Kathi Lombardi from the Highland Park Food Pantry. Kathi’s many achievements were noted, and it was stated how appropriate it is for her to be awarded the Tom Ellison Volunteer Hunger Hero Award because she exemplifies Tom’s legacy of someone dedicating themselves to serving others and fighting food insecurity.

---

## The Community Hunger Hero Award: Lisa Chippendale

FMC Board Member Neil Wolf presented the Community Hunger Hero Award to Lisa Chippendale of Middlesex Borough. Lisa's community spirit that benefitted Feeding Middlesex County and MCFOODS were encapsulated by Neil "Over the past 6 years Lisa and her family have led and grown a community wide effort to generate food donations through mega food drives. Over that period of time, Lisa and her family have collected over 22,000 pounds of food for the MCFOODS food bank."

---

## The Corporate Hunger Hero Award: ShopRite of Spotswood

FMC board member Stu Schwartz shared the achievements of ShopRite of Spotswood in fighting hunger. He pointed out that "ShopRite of Spotswood regularly works with Feeding Middlesex County by facilitating regular weekly purchases of 3-5 pallets of groceries to help restock MCFOODS' shelves." And "with the increase in food insecurity due to the pandemic, ShopRite of Spotswood ran a food drive with their patrons that resulted in the donation of 15,450 pounds of food to Feeding Middlesex County."



ShopRite Supermarkets, Inc. Vice President of Operations Tom Urtz, said "Fighting hunger has always been at the heart of what we do at ShopRite, and it makes me proud to see our stores making a difference in their local communities, and I applaud ShopRite of Spotswood for their efforts as food banks need our support more than ever." He added "Thank you to Feeding Middlesex County for recognizing the great work the ShopRite of Spotswood team does."

---

## The Government Hunger Hero Award: Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin



The Government Hunger Hero Award recipient was Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and although Assembly Speaker Coughlin was not present, a video of his acceptance of the award was played. Jane Brady cited the many achievements Speaker Coughlin reached in fighting hunger such as supporting legislation essential to helping food insecure residents as our strong voice in Trenton. He also sponsors a Bowl-a-rama in Woodbridge to raise awareness and funds for the food pantries. Speaker

Coughlin has visited MCFOODS and the Community Food Bank in Hillside to learn firsthand the challenges facing food distribution agencies.

---

Thank you to everyone who helped us make this event possible! Special thanks to the team at Piscataway Community TV for making our vision for this program a reality! Thank you all for celebrating this year's heroes with us and for your continued efforts toward battling food insecurity along with us!



Consider highlighting products or services, sales or promotions, personal bios, and more. Use images that complement your message, and link your images to supporting resources.

[Donate Now](#)



P.O. Box 781  
Edison, N.J. 08818  
T: 732-723-8106

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



Share



Tweet

