



Hunger Risk Runs High During Summer Months For Many New Jersey Children, No School Means No Food

With the start of summer around the corner, a lot of families are looking forward to enjoying vacations and carefree days. But for hundreds of thousands of people in New Jersey, the end of the school year marks a time filled with new worries about how and when their kids will eat. The latest numbers show that across the country, 31 million low-income children received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. However, fewer than 2.5 million took part in the Summer Food Service Program. With your help, CFBNJ is working to reduce the number of hungry children in New Jersey year-round.

Our Backpack Program, Kids Cafes and Pediatric Pantries serve thousands of children every month, and our Summer Feeding Program helps many hundreds more, providing breakfasts and lunches during July and August. We know from grateful parents, teachers, school nurses—and the children themselves—what a difference this food makes. A few of them recently shared what it means to have meals and snacks to help bridge the gap when school is closed.

BY THE NUMBERS...

400,000 children in New Jersey (1 in 5) face hunger.

An 11-year-old boy with seven people in his household said, **"I can eat the food when my mother runs out of food. Thank you for the food."** His teacher told us, **"He has to volunteer at a food store bagging groceries so that he can get tips to bring home to help pay for food and rent."**

A 10-year-old girl had a simple message that **"food helps me with my hunger."** Her teacher is well aware, saying the girl **"doesn't have enough food at home. She has also expressed that sometimes she doesn't eat."**

A 9-year-old boy also knows what it's like to stare at bare shelves and an empty fridge, telling us, **"At times mom has no money over the weekend, and no food."**

And a little boy, just 8 years old, shares what food he can with his five brothers and two sisters. As he put it, **"I get food for my siblings."** His teacher added, **"His mother is experiencing health complications and doesn't have help with her children."**

All of these kids you're reading about are right here in New Jersey, and all of them are counting on us to keep working together through the summer, and through the year, to help provide the food they need to get by.

Major donors to our child-feeding programs include:

The ShopRite LPGA Classic, Stop & Shop's Our Family Foundation, the Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Kings Food Markets and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

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Giving is a Family Affair

For many of our volunteers, being part of the CFBNJ community is something they share with their friends, co-workers and family. The Salzmans are one great example of longtime supporters who help year-round. Chuck Salzman is the third-generation owner of Peerless Beverage. Along with making donations and sponsoring special events, Chuck and his company pitch in sorting food, holding Turkey Drives, and using Peerless trucks for the "Caravan if You Care" to collect household items for our Kathleen's Closet Thrift Store. Chuck's wife, Jennifer, has also donated wedding gowns and dresses from her J. Salzman clothing line to Kathleen's Closet. Chuck's message to others is, "Take a drive to the FoodBank and see firsthand how friendly the staff is and how amazing the programs are. The FoodBank is involved in just about every aspect of the community, and they are working to make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many."

Our thanks to Chuck, Jennifer and all our supporters who make such a difference for our neighbors in need.



BY THE NUMBERS...

In 2013, our Hillside headquarters had 34,900 volunteer visits totaling 85,200 hours. Our Southern Branch had 8,805 individual and 174 group volunteer visits totaling 30,039 hours.

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908-242-3955

The Festival at Hamilton
4450 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing, NJ
609-241-7323