

The mission of the Franklin Township Food Bank is to enhance the quality of life for Franklin Township residents by providing food assistance in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

FRANKLIN FOOD BANK

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

More Than 2,000 of Your Neighbors Had Empty Cupboards

In 2015 we provided food for:

- **2,024 families**
- **2,316 children**
- **278 senior citizens**



Who Needs the Food Bank?

- The veteran you see at the Memorial Day parade
He needs bus fare to get to the VA Hospital
- The elderly couple down the street from you
They need to buy prescriptions
- The woman two cubicles down from you at work
She needs to fix her car to so she can get to work
- The family across the aisle at your worship service
He just lost his job and is now under-employed
- The mother you helped with her baby carriage
She is also struggling to pay the electric bill
- The young boy who sits next to your child in homeroom
He needs to eat breakfast so he can learn and grow

A Choice You Shouldn't Have to Make ...

The federal* poverty level for a family of four is \$23,800. This is based on a national level and does not factor in the high cost of living in New Jersey, which could be two to three times higher**.

Our clients are faced with choosing between paying rent or feeding their families; buying needed prescriptions or feeding their families; keeping the lights on or feeding their families; putting gas in their car to get to work or feeding their families.

You should NOT have to choose to feed your family.



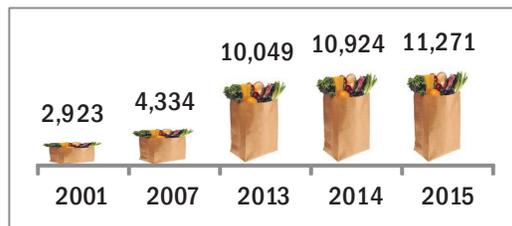
Clients were able to pay for these bills with funds they would have spent on food
Based on Client Satisfaction Survey, September 2015

*Based on US Census Report, September 2015

**Based on NJ Legal Services Poverty Benchmarks 2015, The Annual Overview of New Jersey's Progress Against Poverty, November 2015

We'd Like to Go Out of Business

We'd love to go out of business! It would mean that we have solved hunger in our community. Unfortunately, we don't see that happening in the near future. In fact, the need for our services has continued to rise at a steady rate each year. We'd love to go out of business but



how can we when our neighbors are hungry?

How Does the Food Bank Work?

We don't provide our clients with one meal like a soup kitchen; we provide them with groceries so they can have a few meals. How long it takes them to consume the food is entirely up to how much they eat and how creative they are with the preparation. This is why when you ask "How many meals does my donation provide?" it is difficult to answer because we technically aren't providing a set meal, we are providing groceries to create multiple meals.

All of our clients must (re)-register annually and provide identification for all family members. Some clients, who receive government assistance, are entitled to additional food based on a federal and state grant*. Food is provided to our clients based on family size.

Our clients may come once a month for food packages and up to three extra visits a year because some months are harder than others. Clients do not have to come each month—we are there when they need us.

Our clients may also come daily for bread and produce, when available, to augment their groceries. The produce comes from our relationship with local farmers, as well as Farmers Against Hunger, Grow-A-Row, our own garden, and our relationship with our co-op.

All of our client information is stored via a secure server and is not shared with any organizations.

**Clients must show eligibility in government programs to qualify*

How Are We Doing?



We want to continue to deliver quality service to our clients. In our 2015 Client Satisfaction Survey our clients gave us an **A Approval Rating!**

We're Breaking the Scale!

We weigh all food that comes into the Food Bank which is used for accounting purposes.

Produce that spoils is **not** thrown out ; it is given to a local farmer who, in turn, uses it on the farm.

In 2015 the scales weighed in at:

577,034— Locally Donated

174,872—State & Federally Funded

111,962—COOP Purchased

289,377—COOP Donated



In 2015, we distributed 11,272 food packages to 2,024 families.

Based on Year-End Results, 2015

The Journey of a Donation

Your job or child's school is having a food drive. You look in your pantry or maybe even go to the local grocery store to participate. You carry the soup can and place it in the food collection bin. You've done your part but what happens next?



The Food Bank has to send our van to pick up the donation. When it gets back to the Food Bank it is weighed—all of our donations are weighed and tracked for

accounting purposes. After the weight is recorded it is placed in a bin until a volunteer can check the expiration date on the can. We cannot give our clients expired food. It is then placed in a box with other cans of soup and stored in another location until we are ready to use it. When we need soup the van goes to the other warehouse and brings back the items we need for the week. A staff member fulfills the grocery bags based on family size and puts them on a shelf in our Client Service area waiting for a family to put it on their dinner table.

Why Volunteer?

Volunteers are so valuable that even the IRS places a value on their time (for budgeting purposes). In 2015 our volunteers donated 7,202 hours of their time for an in-kind donation worth \$25.68 per hour. That is equivalent to a \$184,947.36 donation!

From an hour at a food drive, to working in the warehouse sorting groceries, to picking produce in our garden, to serving on one of our Board committees, to helping at an event—our volunteers are priceless!

www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Michael's Story ...

Michael is a 23-year old recent college graduate. He moved into his apartment in Franklin because it was closer to his new job. He even got a dog from the shelter. Life was looking up for him.

Suddenly, Michael lost his job through no fault of his own. He went back to his apartment only to find that he had an eviction notice because his landlord had rented the apartment illegally. He had to move but with no job and a dog he had no place to go. He couldn't go home to his parents and he had no friends in the area because he just moved here. His only option was to sleep in his truck. Every day he looked for a job. He would wash up in a gas station restroom.

Michael found us by accident. He called early one morning after spending a week in his truck. He was hungry, needed a little help and a sympathetic ear. We were able to provide him with food that didn't require a heating source, a bag of dog food, information for other agencies that might be able to help him with housing, and even some toiletries.

When Michael left the food bank he left with a smile on his face and knowing that we were there, and will continue to be there, for him.

Stretch Your Donation

The best way to help is to donate money. We don't need to warehouse it—the bank does that for us. We belong to the "Costco of food banks" which allows us to maximize your donations. We can buy what we need, when we need it. It is delivered so we don't need to send our old vans. We don't need to check expiration dates because money doesn't expire. We don't have to worry about having enough of one product and not enough of another because we control the inventory.



Don't get us wrong; we love any donation you give us but if you want to give something that we can really use—make a financial donation.

Don't worry that we aren't spending it on food because 98% of our budget goes directly back to programming. Our one program is to feed our neighbors in need.

**The Best Way to Help?
Make a financial donation.**