

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



neighbors helping neighbors

Our mission is to support the food needs of our local community in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023 The Franklin Food Bank focused on broadening our reach to meet the diverse and growing needs of our neighbors. In order for us to deliver on our promise of transformative outcomes, we needed to build new bridges connecting us to mission-aligned resources in industries ranging from social services and education, to healthcare and commerce. Determined to activate a cross-functional movement and produce significant and lasting change in advocacy, operations and cooperative economics, we joined or launched coalitions at the local, county, regional, and state levels.

Our commitment to continuous learning, improvement, and collaboration helped to establish a set of strategic partnerships, each enabling us to provide an increased level of access to nutritious food for our neighbors as well as many agency partner organizations working alongside us on the front lines of food security. Furthermore, the expansion of our program offerings, both in the traditional models of food access, as well as in the more dynamic spaces of integrated wraparound services, was in direct response to the overwhelming evidence that it takes more than food to address hunger as well as the data gathered from our neighbors, who themselves requested even more holistic versions of our health and wellness program offerings. We can say with confidence (and evidence) that our hard and heart working staff and volunteers met this goal in a trauma-informed atmosphere of dignity and respect.

2023 was certainly a year of much success, but there were also some challenges that we needed to overcome. As the number of families requesting our support increased, we experienced how difficult it was to deliver best-in-class programs in a facility that has neither the space nor the amenities to truly serve our neighbors in the height of comfort and accessibility. Similarly, an evolving, post-Covid philanthropic landscape led to much uncertainty and inconsistency in both private and public funding. With all that being said, we're a gritty, resourceful, and creative bunch, and proudly delivered a wide variety of program offerings that successfully mitigated our infrastructure challenges, strategically positioned us to land the necessary funding to support our expanded client-base, and attracted the highest level of commitment and talent to help round-out our staffing and volunteer needs.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 will be a very important year in the evolution of The Franklin Food Bank and the broader food security movement.

The installation of the Office of the Food Security Advocate in Trenton is the first of its kind in the nation and was developed in part to directly support the work of front-line food pantries. The partnership that we've established with this office, buttressed by our growing knowledge of how to effectively design and execute programs that directly influence the social determinants of health, will strengthen our focus this year on deepening our impact.

The cultural mosaic of families that we serve in Franklin Township is now matched by the racial and ethnic diversity of our staff, volunteers, and board of trustees - an intentional move which helps to ensure that our programs and partnerships reflect, represent, and respond to the thousands of neighbors in need that we have the privilege of supporting.

By elevating and activating the voices of our neighbors and supporters, we're poised to be one of the premier food security agencies in New Jersey offering a wide variety of food based programs such as our pantries, drive-thru distributions and student backpacks, as well as our wraparound services including mobile health clinics, nutrition workshops and classes, SNAP benefits enrollment and a variety of other offerings. We have the flexibility and resilience required to not only survive during difficult times, but to thrive in the face of certain political, economic, social, and environmental uncertainty throughout 2024 and beyond.

One Love,



Derek Smith
Executive Director



OUR IMPACT

Because our data helps to tell our story




2.8
Million Pounds
of Food Distributed
to Families
Age Range 0 - 99 Years

15 NJ Towns
Served
with
**Beyond
Borders
Partners**



3 New
**Beyond
Food
Programs**

- Cancer Screenings
- SNAP Assistance
- Nutrition Education



1,068,145
**Pounds of
Fresh Produce**
Distributed

30,000+
Total
Visits



14,000+
Volunteer **Hours**



17,270
Visits
To
Our
Market



10,611
Children
Served in Our
Market



12,177
Visits
Drive-Through
Distribution



OUR OUTCOMES

Because when we listen, we help to create change that matters

99%

of families are **satisfied** with the **quality of food** in the market



Outcomes Alongside Outputs



The Franklin Food Bank is increasingly identifying more valuable outcomes to measure our success.

No longer can we ignore the data surrounding food insecurity as one of the social determinants of health.

Ultimately the more we can help our neighbors in a meaningful way to establish self sufficiency the greater an impact we've made.

94%

of families reported that because of the Franklin Food Bank, they are **better able to afford...**



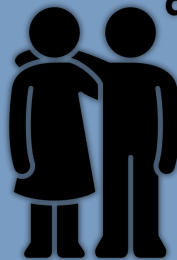
Rent
Utilities
Clothing
Education
Medication
Transportation

100%

of volunteers would recommend their experience at the Franklin Food Bank to a friend or family member and feel they make a **REAL** impact on our clients

95%

of families **agree or strongly agree** that they are treated with dignity and respect



96%

of our volunteers feel valued by our organization



OUR FOOD PROGRAMS

Client Choice

Dignity and respect in action

Franklin Families can shop in our market as needed, up to twice per month, in this thoughtful program designed to provide individualized grocery needs. The market is open five days a week, including two evenings and a weekend option to accommodate working families.

Our bustling, cheerful market we lovingly call “Bodega Joe’s” features an impressive variety of food items, including fresh produce, plenty of refrigerated and frozen foods and even non-food products like health and beauty aids, detergents, pet food, and diapers. The presence of well organized and fresh food is only part of this atmosphere. There is a cozy, friendly vibe flowing through our market with music playing constantly, familiar and smiling faces and helping hands.



17,270
Visits to our
Market

Community Distribution

Easy access to healthy food

This monthly drive-thru produce distribution is held on the first Wednesday of each month and open to anyone able to come - by car, foot or bicycle!

Community Distribution is our answer to providing food to our wider community. This program is held in partnership with the Franklin Township Police Department’s Community Relations Bureau and the Greater Somerset County YMCA. In a continued effort to remain responsive to the need in our community, we hold pop-up distributions through the year in various locations including at our own building.



12,474
Visits through
Distribution

Beyond Borders

Broadening our reach together

A “food bank” is an organization that serves other organizations. A “food pantry” is an organization that serves people. We do both. Many of the more than 40 agency partners working alongside us on the front lines of food insecurity have experienced trouble sourcing enough high quality foods to meet the needs of their program participants. Beyond Borders partner agencies are able to source bulk groceries from our food bank based on their individualized agency needs. In this way the impact of our hybrid food bank/food pantry is felt much farther than the borders of Franklin Township.



268,571
Pounds Donated
to Partners

Backpack Program

Supporting the next generation

Franklin Township students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch Program assistance qualify for participation in this program where, every week, we provide healthy breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items to accommodate the entire family for the weekend. This program is delivered in partnership with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Greater Somerset County YMCA.



3 Schools Served

BEYOND FOOD PROGRAMS

Nutrition Education

Leading healthier lifestyles

One Friday each month, we flip our market into a teaching kitchen and welcome bilingual educators from Zufall Health to offer an educational nutrition lecture and discussion complete with a healthy, hands-on cooking demonstration, in which participants are encouraged to join because *everybody* knows *something* about food!

All students enjoy a hearty plate of delicious samples and leave with a large bag of fresh produce, recipes, informational flyers and complimentary kitchen tools!



SNAP Benefits Enrollment

Solving the public benefits puzzle

Each month we welcome bilingual experts from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey to help clients navigate the nebulous and arduous process of applying for or renewing their government benefits such as SNAP assistance.

Participants are automatically eligible for follow-up appointments including phone calls to make sure everything is processed correctly and to answer any questions that linger after their initial intake.



Health Screening

Providing access to better health

Monthly, on a Thursday, we welcome the Rutgers Cancer Institute's mobile health unit through a partnership with ScreenNJ to perform cancer and health screenings for both insured and uninsured clients.

Unfortunately, diseases like cancer affect food insecure populations at a higher rate and also have a higher rate of mortality. Individuals experiencing food insecurity are less likely to have medical insurance, dental insurance or the funding to address or discover health issues - sometimes until it's too late.



*"It takes more than food to solve hunger."
- Katie S. Martin, Author, Advocate,
Educator*

OUR FOOD



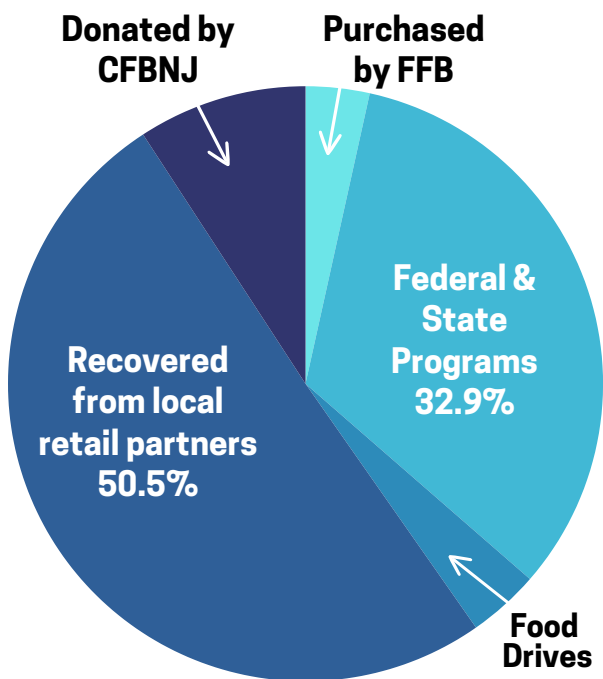
Where Does Our Food Come From?

Just over half of all the food we distribute comes to us through our food recovery program, which is among the strongest in the entire state of New Jersey. Many food pantries of a similar size invest a tremendous amount of funding into purchasing food - up to \$750,000 every year. At the Franklin Food Bank, we have a much smaller budget for food purchasing, choosing instead to invest in jobs for our drivers, equipment like our van and box truck and infrastructure like our warehouse and market refrigeration. *The result is that we are helping to prevent a tremendous amount of food waste, thereby improving the local and global environment.*

Five days a week we are out gathering food donated from approximately 30 local retailers. You name it, we go there. This tactical choice enables us to deepen our relationship with local retailers and corporations. More importantly, we are able to increase and optimize both the variety and the quality of the foods on our shelves. From brand name cereal to fresh local produce, you'll find it here. **Many families who have shopped at food pantries before are used to finding a large quantity of government items with government marketing and packaging.** The refreshing presence of brand name, quality items on our shelves adds to the overall atmosphere of dignity, respect and choice (the secret sauce of the Franklin Food Bank) which helps us to continuously chip away at the stigma of needing help with groceries.



Breakdown of Food Sources



Our second largest food source is the government. In the United States there is funding for food banks, otherwise known as Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs), to purchase food from government approved vendors who generate mass quantities of “emergency food”. Our EFO is the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ). Through CFBNJ, we are able to participate in programs sponsored by Feeding America, the USDA and the State of New Jersey.

By design, less than 10% of our food is either purchased or collected from the community through food drives. However, this still accounts for approximately 275,000 pounds of food and \$100,000 in funding! The Franklin Food Bank is always innovating creative pathways for the community to continue *being responsive to our needs*, such as running Virtual Food Drives or Single-Item Food Drives - both of which allow for our closest supporters to enhance and increase the impact of their giving.



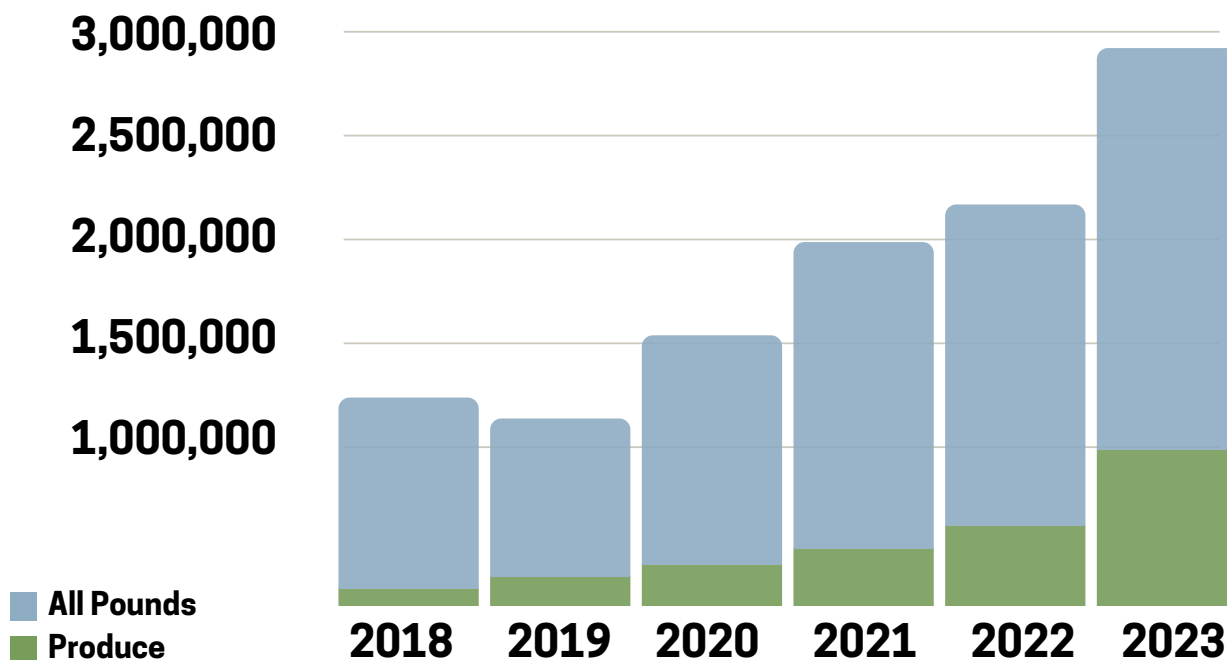
RECOVERY PROGRAM



Stop&Shop



Pounds of Food & Pounds of Produce



While moving nearly 3 million pounds of food through our 4,500 square foot warehouse is tremendous, Nutrition continues to be our guiding light. The more we can increase access to **not just fresh food but also fresh produce, the healthier Franklin can be.** We intend to continue providing hands on cooking demonstrations in our Nutrition classes and will always make sure that fresh produce is abundant throughout all of our programs.



OUR FRANKLIN FOOD



BANK COMMUNITY



DONOR LIST

Individuals and Families

Alan Poritz
Amelia Hahofer
Andrew Dalessandro
Andrew Timm
Anna Mercatili
Annette Murray
Antoinette Falk
Art Hernandez
Arthur and Wilma Gelfand
Arthur McFadden
Asim Hussain
Aziz Shaikh
Barbara Johnston
Barry and Elizabeth Gilmore
Barry Westgate
Beth Tanner
Bharti Shah
Carlius and Tina Anderson
Charles Dancsecs
Cynthia L Sullivan-Goldenberg
Cynthia Tiritilli
Darlene Repollet
David and Linda Madison
David DiGiovanni
David W McEnerney
Deborah Miller
Denise Spratford
Dennis Aguirre
Dolores Christmas
Donald Kuna
Edward Kurtiak
Emir Halepovic
Eric Friel
Felipe Rodriguez
Frances Curtis
Frederic Roze and Olga Rusakova
Fredrica Rapoport
Garvin Whitfield II
Georgia Blum
Gina Paris
Grace Cassese
Harriet Warner
Helmut Wittreich

In Honor of Dr. Mark Weiner
In Honor of Dr. Rebecca Steckel
James August
James Dempsey
James Esposito
James Reuter
James Silkensen
James Tuttle
Janet Bonanno
Janet Folta
Janet Lonney
Jason Adler
Jeff Boschwitz
Jeff Hentz
Jeffrey and Judy Milanaik
Jill Magidson
Jimmy Lee
Joan Borden
John Galat
John Scharba
John Vingara
Jopsephine Ngong-Tawe
Karen Rouse
Kate Woolley
Ken and Rochelle Rosenbaum
Kenneth Russell
Linda Misuraca
Linda Reynolds
Lisa Frey and Mark Fortin
Loraine Tai and John Chang
Lorna and Rob Flynn
Louie Nikolaidis and Rachel Horowitz
Luann New
Marsha Smith
Mary Torchen
Melinda and Jay Posipanko
Michael Barlow
Michael Dolan
Michael Gordin
Michael Spero
Michael Stewart
Moeen Khan
Morgan Murphy
Nancy Teringer
Natasha Norville
Patricia Dolphin
Peter Harvey

Peter Mercatili
Purna Saggurti
Rebecca Witt
Robert and Lauren Goodman
Robert Maguire
Ronald Lubin
Ross Brooks
Samantha Williams
Sami Shaban
Scott Miller
Shannon Pak
Srihari Rajagopalan
Susan Nowelsky
The Consiglio Family
The DeMarsico Family
The Harmone Family
The Johnson Family
The Kacsmar Family
The Park Family
The Squires Family
The Trub Family
Tristan and Karla Wallack
Vaidehi Patel
Vasanti and Mahesh Muchhala



DONOR LIST

Corporations, Foundations, Houses of Worship, Community Organizations, Schools and Government Agencies

American Construction Management
AVE Somerset / Korman Communities
Borrus Goldin Foley Vignuolo Hyman & Stahl
Bound Brook Moose Lodge No 988
Budd Van Lines
Canal Walk Homeowners Association
Carteret Die Casting Corporation
Catalent Pharma Solutions
Charles Schwab
Citizens Bank Philanthropic Foundation, Inc
CME Associates
Columbia Bank Foundation
Community Baptist Church of Somerset
Community Food Bank of NJ
Community Foundation of NJ
Core Giving
County of Somerset
David Tepper Charitable Foundation
Diageo
Dombal Vogel Foundation
Elizabeth Avenue School
Financial Resources FCU
Franklin Family Eye Care
Franklin Twp Education Association
Gleason Funeral Home
Harlingen Reformed Church
Integrity Consulting Group
Interactive Services Inc Photon Household
Investors Foundation
James and Melanie McNamara Family Foundation Inc
Johnson & Johnson
Joy Systems
Joy Systems
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Kurry and Naan
Leaf Haus
Link Logistics
Little Words Project
L'Oreal
Macafee School
Magyar Bank
Masjid E Ali
Melillo Consulting Inc.
Merck Foundation
Micro Systems

Middlebush Reformed Church
Muslim Foundation
New Brunswick Lions Club
P.E.A.R.L.S
Performance Practice Management
Piazza Orsillo
Praise Presbyterian Church
Roadtex
Six Mile Run Reformed Church
Somerset Run Women's Club
SSP Architects
St Barbara Ladies Philiptochos
St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church
Starbucks Foundation
Stateside Restaurant Group LLC
The Amboy Foundation
The Arbor
The Arnold Schwartz Foundation
The Compassionate Exchange
The DiLeo Family Foundation
The Law Office of Craig Rothenberg
The Pig & Parrot Hoboken
The Wawa Foundation
Thorlabs Inc.
UBS
Unity Bank
William Grant & Sons



We are incredibly grateful to our listed supporters for giving us the chance to help so many in need. The gifts offered to the food bank make such a difference in the level of work we are able to do in addressing - really addressing - food insecurity as the multi-faceted problem it continues to be.

We are also grateful to the more than 2,500 households, corporations, foundations, schools, community organizations and houses of worship that are not listed on this Annual Report. We could not continue this important work without you. We are committed to forging ahead, trailblazing and making you proud.

Franklin Food Bank



OUR TEAM & FAMILY



Because they are us and we are them



Allie O'Brien
Development Director



Bill Grippo
Community Engagement Coordinator



Carol Golembiewski
Client Services Assistant



Cassandra Smith
Volunteer Coordinator



Christine Bacchus
Warehouse Assistant



Dauna Jendrek
External Affairs Manager



Derek Smith
Executive Director



Kevin Camon
Warehouse Assistant & Driver



Kevin Foster
Warehouse Manager



Linda McGuinness
Administrative Assistant



Marvin Easter
Operations Director



Nicole Greco
Grants Writer



Rich Poremba
Warehouse Assistant



Ryan Weiss
Client Services Supervisor



Terri Seeney-Majette
Programs Director



Yadira Paz
Client Services Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Board of Trustees Year ended December 31, 2023

Officers

President
Barry Gilmore
Vice President
Tristan Wallack
Treasurer
John Galat
Secretary
Lisa Frey

Trustees

Ronald Consiglio
Lorna Flynn
Melinda Posipanko
Kevin McGuinness
Priscilla Tippet

Executive Director

Derek Smith



STRATEGIC GOALS & 2024 FOCUS

2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan: Agility and Resilience

- 1 Create and strengthen an exemplary working environment in which talented and engaged employees and volunteers are fully enabled to achieve our strategy and mission.
- 2 Create, implement and support a next generation Strategic Development Plan that creates the financial underpinning necessary to achieve our strategic goals.
- 3 Identify all of our neighbors who suffer from food insecurity.
- 4 Offer multiple ways of client engagement that meets clients "where they are" (a.k.a. hybrid distribution).
- 5 Be intentional about ensuring nutritional food is easily accessible to those we serve.
- 6 Optimize our methods, tools and processes to assure effective and efficient Supply Chain, Client Services and Development operations.

2024 FOCUS: DEEPEN OUR IMPACT

Outcome Measurement



Traditional food security metrics (how many pounds were distributed, families served, miles traveled, etc.) only tell part of the story. The outcomes such as health and improvements in a family's financial status are part of the bigger picture. We are evaluating and improving our measurement tools so that they can better speak to food security as a social determinant of health and, more importantly, help us to ensure the impact of our programs are meeting the needs of our neighbors in ways that are responsive and sustainable.

Franklin Cares



We have been seeing almost constant, exponential annual growth in the numbers of families we serve, to the point where we are bursting at our concrete seams. It's time for the Franklin Food Bank to find a new home. This year we will identify and secure a new location for the Franklin Food Bank and launch the capital campaign to secure the funding needed to support building towards our future.

Upgraded Equipment



In order to make the very most of our existing space, we will be implementing upgrades to our overall infrastructure, systems and equipment to maximize our efficiency.

Strategic Partnerships



Throughout 2023 we joined or launched multiple coalitions at the municipal, regional, county and statewide levels to promote collective advocacy, cooperative economics, and the sharing of best systems and practices. In 2024 we will continue to leverage these relationships for even more opportunities and impact.



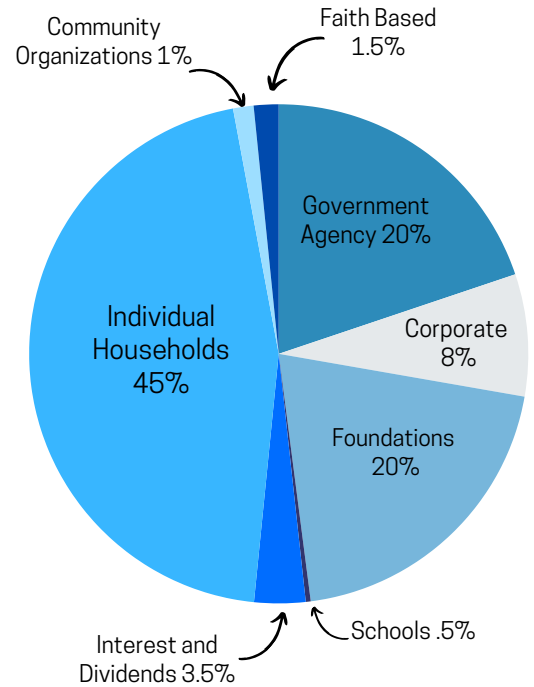
FINANCIALS

Audited Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2023

SUPPORT

Corporate Contribution	\$110,747	8%
Foundations	\$282,895	20%
Individual Households	\$636,843	45%
Government Agency	\$277,757	20%
Faith Based	\$22,487	1.5%
Community Organizations	\$18,606	1%
Schools	\$4,449	.5%
Interest and Dividends	\$46,419	3.5%

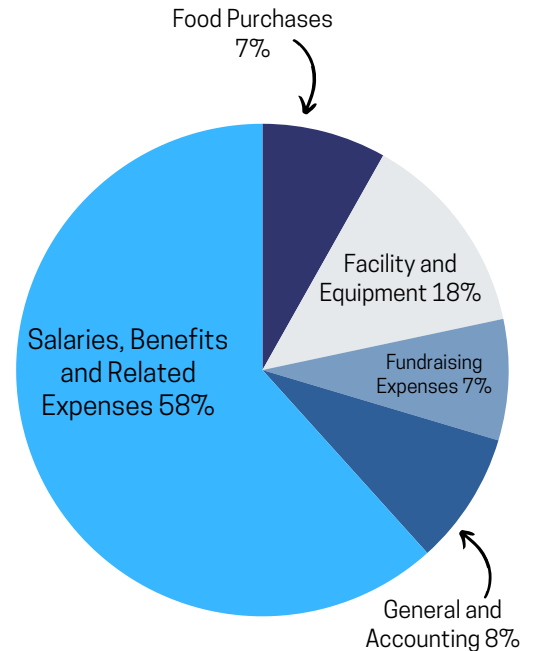


IN KIND

In-Kind Food Donations	\$6,889,555
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EXPENSES

Salaries, Benefits and Related Expenses	\$815,629	62%
Facility and Equipment	\$178,605	14%
General and Accounting	\$115,228	9%
Fundraising Expenses	\$105,065	7%
Food Purchases	\$107,935	8%



TOTALS

Income	\$1,400,203
In-Kind Food Donations	\$6,889,555
Expenses	\$1,322,461



We thank everyone who makes our mission possible, in supporting the food needs of our local community in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.





**FRANKLIN
FOOD BANK**
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Food Bank Location: 224 Churchill Avenue, Somerset, NJ
Mailing Address: PO Box 333 Somerset, NJ 08875-0333
Land Line Phone Number: 732-246-0009
General Email: Franklinfoodbank@gmail.com
IRS ruling year: 1983 | EIN: 22-2406472