



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2016

East Brunswick Athletes Team Up for MCFOODS Drive

EAST BRUNSWICK – Two East Brunswick High School teams traded in their pom-poms and pigskins for donation bags last week to help Middlesex County’s food bank during its usual summertime lull.

At the onset of the season, the high school football team was more than 20 players shy of last year’s roster, leaving less manpower for its annual food drive, now in its fourth year.

But as circumstances would have it, the high school’s cheerleaders came to the rescue, helping canvass the local neighborhoods for supplies and nonperishable food items.

“With fewer players, it was a challenge; but we all tried our best,” said East Brunswick High School head football coach Bob Molarz. “We started this under Sean O’Sullivan (a 2015 graduate). He made us aware of the necessity to stock these shelves in the summertime.”

The two teams’ efforts generated approximately 2,600 pounds of donations, partly due to the work of East Brunswick Sophomore Tim Gudzak, who took the lead in O’Sullivan’s stead.

“This was our first team effort...the first time the Cheer Boosters came together with the Quarter Back Club,” said East Brunswick High School Cheer Booster Club Secretary Odalys Vacca.

Representatives from the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services, or MCFOODS, breathed a sigh of relief as they picked up a stockpile of bins, chock full of pantry goods, near a locker room entrance last week.

With the number of agencies that MCFOODS serves climbing each year, topping off in the 90s in 2016, East Brunswick’s reserves come at a time of increasing need and declining collections.

“Just the day prior we had sorted through the last of our surplus food,” said Jennifer Apostol, project manager with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, the entity that oversees the operation. “I continue to remind the public each year that the usual trickle of donations dries up over the summer, when people are away on vacation, and the number of drives dwindles.”

When the school year ends, so too do the daily subsidized meals many school districts provide children, resulting in many underprivileged families scrounging for food, she added.

“In a sense, you have children helping children,” said Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Carol Bellante, liaison to the MCIA. “You don’t have to change the world to make a difference. Sometimes you just have to change the course of someone’s day, and we can certainly be assured these student athletes in East Brunswick accomplished that here.”

For more information on MCFOODS, log onto www.mciauth.com, call 609-655-5141 or follow the food bank on Facebook at Mcfoods Network on Twitter @MCFOODSNetwork or on Instagram at mcfoods_network.

MEDIA CONTACT: Public Information Officer Maria Prato, 609-655-5141, mp@mciauth.com.