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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Brunswick Leads the Charge for Food Donations

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – Just outside the East Brunswick High School’s locker room, a towering Tom Ellison loaded the final bin into the Middlesex County food bank’s truck, belting out a lengthy whistle.

“Oh boy, what’s 50 pounds times 120 bins?” the warehouse manager asked, uncharacteristically dwarfed by the wall of stacked collection bins that had accumulated behind him.

The answer was 6,000 pounds, nearly double what the East Brunswick Bears, the local high school football team, had collected for the food bank one year prior.

“East Brunswick is just a very caring community,” said Sean O’Sullivan, a senior who’s largely credited with spearheading the Bears’ summer food drive. “I think the team was much more on the ball, so everything went more smoothly.”

In the lull of summertime donations, the team had converged on their community days prior leaving collection bags in their stead. Players then returned for pick-up in their designated areas, where they were met with an overwhelming response from the public.

“We expected to do well – our goal was to beat last year’s amount,” said Bob Molarz, head coach of the East Brunswick team. “This time, we probably did a bit more of appealing to our younger players.”

While the football team led a valiant charge for food collection, it isn’t the only East Brunswick affiliate that has helped stock the shelves at the Middlesex County Food Outreach Organization Distribution Services (MCFOODS).

The East Brunswick’s recreation department drummed up around 2,050 pounds of food at its summer camp – an approximately 500 pound influx from 2013.

Furthermore, between the East Brunswick senior center and the library, routine pick-up stops for MCFOODS, another 200 pounds of collections were recently added to the food bank’s inventory.

“This is a great example of a community pulling together for the greater good,” said Middlesex County Freeholder Carol Barrett Bellante. “There will be a lot of families that will deeply benefit from their generosity, which we are all so grateful for.”

These collections came at a time when donations typically taper off and demands spike.

“Last week, we had 46 agencies come through – and the most we’ve ever done in a week is 49,” said Ellison, an employee with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, the entity overseeing the MCFOODS operation. “East Brunswick really came through for us.”

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