



MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

101 INTERCHANGE PLAZA • CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY 08512

Telephone: (609) 655-5141 • Fax: (609) 655-4748

Website: www.mciauth.com • E-mail: mciaadmin@mciauth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Run for RAH Continues Impressive Donation Track Record with MCFOODS
MIDDLESEX COUNTY – Over the years, the Run for Rutgers Against Hunger Homecoming 5K and 1-mile walk has become one of the region’s more sure-footed food donation and fundraising drives.

This weekend’s charity event fully lived up to that reputation.

The Rutgers Alumni Association, which has spearheaded the event six years and running, reported more than 350 participants among Sunday’s registries, who are credited with some 2,300 pounds of collected food and upwards of \$10,000 raised.

For the second year in a row, Run for RAH organizers have named the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services as the sole recipient for both funds and food.

“In selecting MCFOODS, the Rutgers University Alumni Association wanted to be certain that the donations of our runners, walkers, and those who supported them in the race and walk assisted members of our community, and that the food collected was evenly disbursed in Middlesex County, the area surrounding our flagship campus,” said Maurice Griffin, chair of the Rutgers University Alumni Association. “Partnering with MCFOODS has offered us a great opportunity to directly support those in need in our own neighborhood.”

Michael Soroko, who manned an RU financial table prior to the race, was the first to cross the 5K’s finish line. The Emerald Financial Services Professional brought with him a team of colleagues.

“We all just came out here today to show our support and to make a difference,” Soroko said after completing the 3.1-mile run in a remarkable 16 minute and 4 seconds.

He was one of the many who opened their wallets and their cupboards for MCFOODS, a Middlesex County organization that services more than 90 regional food pantries, churches and social service agencies in weekly food disbursements.

“At a time when the demand for food is rapidly increasing and we are embarking on our holiday food drives, we couldn’t be more grateful to the Rutgers University Alumni Association, not to mention the Run for RAH participants for this generous show of support,” said Jennifer Apostol, a project manager with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, the entity tasked with the MCFOODS operation. “These runners and walkers are not only dedicated to living a healthier lifestyle, but dedicated to servicing the less fortunate in their community. That’s nothing short of commendable in my book.”

Rutgers against Hunger is a University-wide initiative aimed at increasing awareness, encouraging research, engaging activism and offering relief as it pertains to regional food shortages.

While monetary donations remained at an even-keel, Run for RAH more than doubled last year’s 900 pounds of food donations.

“There will be so many underprivileged families and individuals who will benefit from this drive,” said Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Carol Barrett Bellante, a liaison to the MCIA.

“We want to applaud you all for your efforts. It’s a good feeling to know that we here in Middlesex County take care of our less fortunate.”

MEDIA CONTACT: Jane Leal, 609-655-5141, jl@mciauth.com