



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **From Classrooms to Cupboards: MCFOODS Announces School Spring Food Drive Tallies**

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY** – This week, the contents of classroom donations boxes will be filling bare cupboards, as the Middlesex County food bank has officially concluded its annual Spring School Food Drive.

Each year, the drive is a source of tens-of-thousands of pounds of supplies, providing much relief to region's struggling and underprivileged.

“Community activism, like this, should start at a young age,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Carol Barrett Bellante. “This is when you truly believe you are capable of changing the world, and in some respects, these students have, by improving the lives of the less fortunate around them.”

In total, 129 area schools participated in the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services' 2015 drive, collectively donating 41.2 tons.

That also means that the tallies are in and organizers are naming names – at least as it pertains to the top collectors, which included:

- Colonia High School in Woodbridge collected approximately 5,000 pounds of nonperishable items in only its second year of participation.
- Middlesex County Academy for Sciences, Math and Technology, a smaller Edison-based school, garnered 4,000 pounds of donations.
- A.C. Redshaw Elementary School in New Brunswick rounded up 2,050 pounds of food and supplies.

“It was a great effort by these students, staff, parents and communities, and we can't thank them enough,” said Jennifer Apostol, project manager with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, the entity that oversees the MCFOODS operation. “Unfortunately, from this year to last, we were nearly 10-tons lighter on donations.”

Attributing declining numbers to a rash of bad weather and the recent extension of standardized testing times, MCFOODS' leadership must now shift their attention to independent drives.

“We can only hope to make up for our shortfall with these smaller drives, which are often hosted by community groups and businesses,” Apostol said. “There are tons of ways to start your own food drive, and we're willing to help every step of the way, from organizing to transporting.”

For more information on the many facets of MCFOODS, interested parties may contact Apostol at 609-655-5141 or at [ja@mciauth.com](mailto:ja@mciauth.com) or by logging onto [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com).

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