



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCFOODS Makes a Drive for Sponsors

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – On Monday afternoon, ten 50-pound bins of surplus food were all that remained at the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services' East Brunswick site.

That's according to the County Food Bank's Warehouse Manager Tom Ellison.

"We can't give enough thanks to the individuals, businesses and organizations that continually help bring in food for the needy and underprivileged resident of our County," said Jennifer Apostol, a project manager with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, which oversees MCFOODS. "But we're losing more and more independent food drives and it's difficult to overlook."

Twice each week, more than 40 representatives from pantries, soup kitchens, churches and social service agencies across the County file into MCFOODS warehouse for scheduled distributions.

On average, they collectively leave with a total of 30,000 pounds of food for the thousands of clients that they routinely serve.

In recent weeks, dwindling donations have reduced that number to around 20,000 pounds, forcing MCFOODS to stretch their resources thin.

"There are no communities immune from poverty and hunger," Apostol said.

Organizers are calling on everyone from businesses owners to school and church leaders to community groups and sports teams to sponsor a food drive.

While MCFOODS provides collection bins, flyers and pick-up and delivery, Apostol understands that not everyone has the capabilities to take on this challenge.

But for those individuals, there are alternatives, she says.

Apostol notes several permanent library drop-off sites that are scattered throughout the County, including those in East Brunswick, Edison, Metuchen, Milltown, Monroe, Perth Amboy, Piscataway, Plainsboro, South Amboy and Woodbridge.

Another avenue for giving might be donating to locally-sponsored MCFOODS drives.

One to keep in mind is the upcoming East Brunswick High School's 33rd Annual Marching Band Competition and Food Drive, which will take place on Oct. 24 at the Jay Doyle Football Field, 380 Cranbury Road.

Another highly successful collection is the Fall Harvest Food Drive, in which Monroe's senior communities have pooled their nonperishables for more than a decade to help feed the hungry.

"In helping others, we in part are helping ourselves," said Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Carol Bellante. "In giving back, we stress the importance of civic engagement to our children, we boost our own morale and we make our communities a better place in which to live."

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