



Over Twenty-Five Years of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Notes From The Pantry

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are amazed and truly humbled by the cards and notes of gratitude, the kind emails from our community partners, and by your generosity during this time. While it has been a challenging few months, your support and encouragement truly keeps us energized and we can't thank you enough!

While we are still adjusting to our new normal, we have hit a rhythm and are accommodating about 2,600 families per month at our two food distribution centers. Being open 6 days per week and giving people a full month's worth of food during their visit enables us to welcome many more people while minimizing their need to stand in line or make repeated trips to different sites. We are able to serve everyone quickly and efficiently with wait times being 15 minutes or less.

This is possible thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers who have returned to jobs that look vastly different than the ones they left earlier this year. They are taking all the right safety precautions – temperature checks, sanitizing work areas, wearing masks and social distancing. Their willingness to come back under current circumstances demonstrates their dedication to helping their neighbors in need. They are truly inspirational!

Our Mobile Program continues to grow and we are so happy with what we have been able to achieve with our network of distribution partners, now in 13 towns across

the County. The number of households we serve together has doubled since February. Through 9 smaller food pantries and 14 senior centers more families are receiving fresh produce and milk. We are thankful for their help and encouragement and thrilled to be able to provide their clients with the extra food and fresh items they desire.



A note received from one of our partners said “words cannot begin to express my gratitude to you for all you are doing for the residents of Jefferson Chase. I was blown away on Monday when I saw the quantity of food that was delivered. The residents that were in need of groceries were especially grateful.”

To date, we have distributed more than a half-million pounds of food thanks to all those who ran food drives and contributed financially so we could purchase items when needed. We also received a number of capacity grants from **OdysseyRe**, **Barclays**, **Bayer** and **Margaret Darrin Charitable Trust**, to name a few, that gave us the flexibility to add temporary part-time support staff for new client intake, additional food distribution sessions and Mobile Program support. Please join me in welcoming **Zoe Garcia**, **Kemberly Viveros** and **Jim Sillence** to our current staff.

We have even brought back our Free Farmers Market Program, with tremendous thanks to our friends at **GAF** (see the article inside).

While the fall carries many uncertainties, we remain steadfast and are already preparing for a very busy Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Annual Gala and Golf Outing, but our Turkey Trot is on, though it will look quite different this year! Among all these challenges we remain very optimistic because of you. Your support and generosity has made such a difference for our neighbors in need. We are truly grateful for being in a community that comes together and cares for each other!

Warm regards,

Carolyn

Current Food Needs*

- ▶ Dry Milk (1 qt. pkg.), Evaporated Milk
- ▶ Soups (hearty varieties)
- ▶ Rice, white/brown
- ▶ Cereal (low sugar, high fiber)
- ▶ Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni/Pasta-Roni, Mac & Cheese
- ▶ Canned vegetables & beans (all types preferably not green beans)
- ▶ Canned Meats/Meals, Ravioli, Hash, Stew, Chili
- ▶ Peanut Butter & Jelly in plastic jars
- ▶ Boost, Boost Glucose Control, Ensure or Glucerna
- ▶ Baby Food-Stage 1, 2 & 3 Fruits, Vegetables, Meats & Meals

* When shopping consider low-salt, low-sugar and gluten-free items.



COVID-19: Pantry Happenings

Free Farmers Market Returns!

We are very happy to announce the return of our Free Farmers Markets. This program provides access to healthy, fresh produce for our clients in between their regular food distribution sessions. Our Morristown clients are receiving prepacked bags of produce twice per month at our Speedwell Avenue location.



To accommodate those that visit 2 Executive Drive or our Parsippany Market, (St. Peter the Apostle and the Town of Parsippany/Troy Hills), we have partnered with our friends at **GAF Roofing**. GAF is providing the space,

logistical support and volunteer labor for us to hold our market at their headquarters at 1 Campus Drive, Parsippany. The drive-through operation runs so smoothly that we can accommodate over 200 cars per hour. In June and July alone 1,800 households have been served. **Jim Schnepfer**, President of GAF, said *"We couldn't be more proud to offer our facility and resources to help those in need."* One of our interviewed clients stated *"The Interfaith Food Pantry and GAF really help my family and I. This program is a blessing to so many people!"* Follow our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok accounts to see the video footage!

Mobile Pantry Rides Again...

We recently added two new locations, **Roxbury Social Services** and **St. John's Episcopal Church** in Dover, to the expanding list of Pantry Partners served by our **Healthy Choices Mobile Program**. While a few locations are on hiatus due to the pandemic, we are still working closely with most of our



Volunteers at New Hope Food Pantry receive produce from the IFP Mobile Pantry.

Pantry Partners to ensure they have enough produce, dairy and in some cases dry goods to serve their local clients. We recently received a note from Carol and Everett, our good friends at **New Hope Food Pantry** in Oak Ridge stating *"How can we ever thank you enough for all you are doing for our food pantry families. The fresh fruits and vegetables program is wonderful and helps meet our goal of providing more fresh food for our families."* The IFP is grateful for all the work our partners are doing and that is thanks enough!

The Healthy Choices Mobile Pantry Program is a network of local food pantries and senior housing units that helps deliver nutritious food to families and individuals across Morris County to enhance offerings without duplicating services. **To find out more, visit www.mcifp.org**

Welcome Helen Hallberg to Our IFP Board

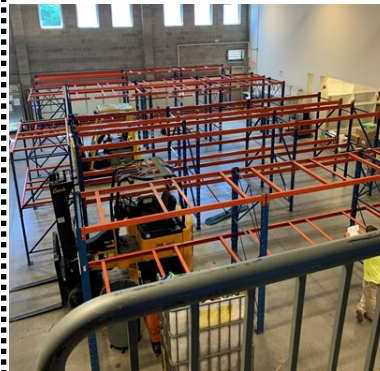


Helen is excited to join the **IFP Board of Trustees** and will serve on our Finance and Development Committees where she will help plan and work on upcoming events and initiatives.

She brings significant experience as a non-profit board member, having recently served on the JBWS Board, Executive Committee and as Treasurer for many years.

Helen is a CPA and retired Partner with Deloitte. She was with Deloitte for over 30 years as a Lead Client Service Partner and held National Office roles. When asked about why she wanted to join our Board, Helen commented: *"Now more than ever in these challenging times, it's so important for all of us to help our neighbors & our communities. I'm so proud to be a part of the IFP family & look forward to making a positive impact as part of our strong board & leadership team."* Helen resides in Morris Township with her husband, Doug, a Pantry volunteer since 2018, and their son, Matt. Welcome aboard Helen!

Warehouse Expansion Completed



We owe a great deal of thanks to our friends at **Highlander Equipment Company** for their incredible work on our warehouse. By reconfiguring our rack shelving and donating a narrow-aisle forklift, they helped us increase our pallet storage capacity by about 60%!

After donating the forklift and spending many hours training the warehouse staff on its operation, **sales rep Bryan Natale** drew up the plans and worked with our staff to finalize the configuration to work with our sorting, staging and stocking operations. In order to complete the restructuring with minimal impact on our regular operations, **Wegmans** donated a tractor trailer truck for us to store the food, and **St. Virgil's Church** served as our food collection site for the week. Our old friends from **Frazier Industrial Company** agreed to donate some additional racking, and the team from Highlander completed the entire project in just two days!

The additional space has allowed us to accommodate much more bulk food and has also enabled us to move and consolidate many of the pallets stored on the loading dock, making room to stage our Mobile Programs and Farmers Markets.



COVID-19: Pantry Happenings

Turkey Trot 2020—A Virtual Event



Now more than ever we are looking forward to sharing the goodwill and camaraderie the Trot brings to our community. The **Annual Turkey Trot** experience will be a little different than what we are accustomed to! This year's event, **Read, Feed & Run**, is a virtual fitness event held in collaboration with the **Literacy Volunteers of Morris County**. It launches on October 26 and culminates on Thanksgiving morning, November 26. There will be t-shirts, weekly con-

tests, relay challenges and motivational activities along the way. Just because we have gone virtual doesn't mean we're giving up the chance for you to earn that piece of pie!

Visit www.readfeedrun.com for more info and to register.

Giving and Giving Thanks - Thanksgiving 2020



The IFP is gearing up for its holiday basket distribution this year. Due to the dramatic increase in the number of families IFP is currently serving, we don't quite know how many turkey baskets and all the trimmings

we will need. We have 36% more Pantry clients, double the partner agencies, and many people opting to stay home, so it is likely we will see a significant increase in the number of turkeys and baskets needed for everyone. Therefore, your food and monetary donations will be greatly appreciated since many of our regular donors won't be around this year. Numerous corporate offices plan on staying closed throughout the fall, schools are focusing on how to deliver quality education including virtually and houses of worship, if open at all, are running on limited capacities.

Please consider holding a food drive, real or virtual, or start your own fundraising page. All the tools you need can be found on our website at www.mcifp.org. If planning on a drive or donating food please call our office at 973-538-8049, ext. 215 to let us know in advance.

Golf Outing Is Out But Our Wine Raffle Is In...



While we won't be holding the Golf Outing this year, the **Wine of the Week Raffle** endures. We have changed the raffle date to November 20 so you can enjoy your wine winnings throughout the holidays. This year's first prize is once again 52 bottles of wine,

carefully selected with input from **Gary Fisch of Gary's Wine and Marketplace**. We have also added craft beers and champagne to the prize winnings so you can have extra happy holidays! See the enclosed insert to purchase tickets or visit us at www.mcifp.org



Guests enjoying last year's Spring Gala.

Gala Canceled To 2021... Sadly, we are officially canceling IFP's 2020 Annual Spring Gala which typically brings in over \$250,000 for our many programs. We hope to gather at the **Birchwood Manor** in 2021 to honor **Impact 100 - Garden State** and celebrate IFP's 2020 suc-

cesses as a result of Impact 100's grant for our **Healthy Choices Mobile Pantry**. Their support enabled us to expand our program to people in need no matter where they reside in Morris County. Since the onset of the pandemic earlier this year, the number of visits made by our Mobile Pantry has doubled and the amount of food we've delivered has increased by 130%. When we are finally able to celebrate Impact 100 - Garden State's contribution to IFP, **Together We Make an Impact** will be even more meaningful than anyone could have anticipated.

Welcome Back Volunteers

After three long months of not being able to have volunteers lend a hand, in June we were able to welcome them back! Volunteer roles have changed, and although we cannot have as many in the building, our volunteers were eager to come back.

We are still seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Home Delivery – deliver food to homebound clients once a month. Great family opportunity!

Mobile Pantry – help IFP staff deliver food to senior housing units and smaller pantries. Must be able to push/lift 50+ lbs. and be comfortable riding in the IFP van with another person (must wear a mask at all times).

Food Distribution – distribute food to clients Monday – Thursday from 12:45pm – 3:00pm and on Saturday's from 9:45am – 12:00noon. Clients do not enter the building and bags are pre-packed. Must be able to stand for long periods of time and lift 25+ lbs.

Produce help – assist sorting through garden and farm produce on Wednesday mornings and afternoons.

Warehouse help – help unload deliveries at our 2 Executive Drive location twice a month; help unload food at our 190 Speedwell Avenue location on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 3:00pm – 4:00 pm. Must be able to lift 50+ lbs and work outside with a mask on.

Substitutes – we need "on call" volunteers for the above positions as well as food sorters, bag packers and inventory restockers. Substituting is ideal if looking for occasional work!

If interested complete our volunteer application located on our website at www.mcifp.org/volunteerinformation/ and return to Allison Sillence, Volunteer Manager asillence@mcifp.org.

Please Note: All volunteers entering the building must wear a mask at all times and have their temperature checked.



Volunteer **Paul Woodford** helps with produce.

Board of Trustees

Meets 7:00pm on third Wednesday of the month

Tim Lockwood, president **Bruce Seidmon**, vice president
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Nathan Umbriac, secretary **Russ Hall**, president emeritus
Tom Bontempo **Ann Corwin** **Helen Hallberg**
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David Bean, assistant food & facilities manager
Sandra Benedict, director of development
Joanne Rinaldi Brashier, grants manager
***Tess Clarkin**, community garden coordinator
***Katy Galton**, nutrition educator
***Diana Garcia**, client services associate
***Zoe Garcia**, client services assistant
Liliana Herrera, client services manager
Denise Hurtado-Valdez, client services associate
***Bob Johnson**, warehouse support
***Liz Lavery**, office assistant
Meg Manbretti, office manager
Patrick Mitchell, mobile program coordinator
***Julia Murtha**, special events coordinator
German Ortiz, client services assistant & office coordinator
***Wendy Potkay**, business manager
***Kiley Powell**, education coordinator
Jessica Revolorio, client services associate
Val Schuszler, mobile support and food drive coordinator
Allison Silence, volunteer manager
***Jim Silence**, mobile program & warehouse support
***Kemberly Viveros**, client services assistant
Bill Zackoff, food and facilities manager

* part time

Our Mission

- To improve the health and well being of Morris County residents in need by providing access to food, nutrition education and related resources.
- To provide hands on opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors.
- To educate the public about the issues of hunger in our area.

Hours

Food Drop-off, Tours & Visitors - Warehouse

2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Special arrangements by request

Food Distribution - Main Pantry/Warehouse

2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains

The First Four Weeks of the Month Only

Monday through Thursday 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday 6pm - 8pm

Saturday 10am - 12noon

Food Distribution - Satellite Pantry

190 Speedwell Ave., Morristown

Tuesday 9:30am - 12 noon

Wednesday 9:30am - 12 noon

Thursday 9:30am - 12 noon

Calendar

October/November

10/26 to 11/26 Annual Turkey Trot—Virtual

11/20 Holiday Wine Raffle Drawing

For details please visit www.mcifp.org

January to June Statistics

Lbs. of food distributed	640,736
Household Visits	11,434
New Households	1,164
Mobile Network Partners	25

Why Planned Giving?

Planned giving ensures that the IFP will meet the needs of our community well into the future and leaves your lasting legacy of caring. Planned gifts may take many forms: **Bequests, Stock Transfers, IRA Rollover Contributions, Life Insurance, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities.**

For more information on these and other giving options, visit <http://mcifp.org/donate/>. **Please Note:** When you opt to make a planned gift to the IFP, we suggest that you seek the counsel of your personal financial advisor, attorney, accountant, banker or insurance professional prior to making the gift.

Return Service Requested

Interfaith Food Pantry
2 Executive Drive
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Please let us know if you prefer electronic delivery of our newsletter, or to be removed from our mailing list. Call 973-538-8049 or email interfaithfoodpantry@mcifp.org

TOO MUCH MAIL?