

BERGEN COUNTY OFFICE OF
FOOD SECURITY



Hunger Action Month in Review

SEPTEMBER
2024

JAMES J. TEDESCO

Bergen County Executive

**BERGEN COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Melissa H. DeBartolo, Esq., *Director*

Hunger Action Month

September 1st marked the beginning of Hunger Action Month. This month was dedicated to raising awareness and putting an end to hunger across the country.

Senior Center Visits

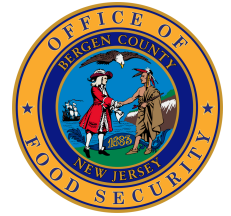
September was also Senior Center Month! Bergen County's Division of Senior Services is proud to administer 10 senior centers. The Office of Food Security visited each one to talk to guests about Food Security in Bergen County, and how to get involved with their local pantries.



Bergen County's Annual Senior Festival

The Office of Food security attended the Annual Senior Festival at Van Saun County Park. Hundreds of Seniors from across Bergen County attended and received resources and information about food security in Bergen County.

Hunger Action Month



Updates to Bergenfightshunger.org

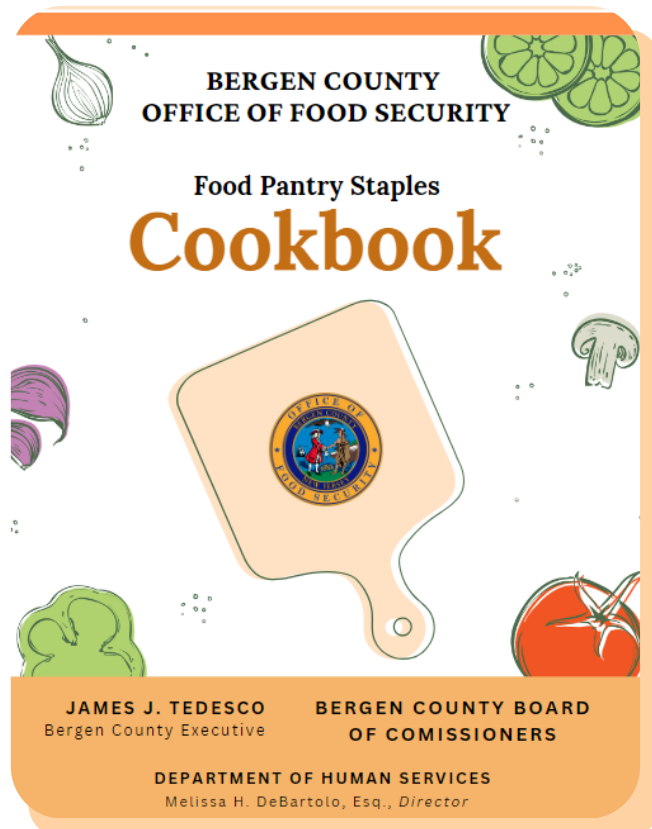
Check out updates on our website - bergenfightshunger.org! Explore our new tab "What is a Good Donation?" which includes insights directly from pantry directors & volunteers, as well as an interactive map of all of the food pantries in Bergen County that have refrigeration or freezer capacity.

You can now also get connected with any Pantry's social media on our Food Pantry Finder tool.

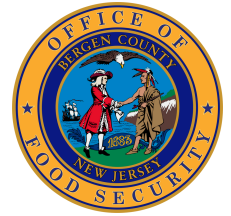


Food Pantry Staples CookBook

In early 2022, we asked the culinary students from Bergen Technical Schools to come up with recipes using ingredients commonly found in food pantries. With the help of the Office of Food Security's interns, 30 of these recipes have been turned into a cook book! This can be a resource for people to think outside of the box when it comes to preparing the food they receive from pantries. Find the full PDF on our website, under "CookBook"!



Hunger Action Month



Passaic County Food Security Summit

Passaic County had their first Food Security Summit and unveiled their new Mobile Food Pantry. This day was also the first meeting of a pantry-led Emergency Food Provider Coalition to share resources, data and best practices.



CFA's 9/11 Day of Service

Center for Food Action had their 12th Annual 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Weekend Snack Pack Event. CFA's Weekend Snack Pack Program provides healthy, kid-friendly, and easy to prepare snack foods to children at risk of hunger.

Meal Recovery Coalition

The Office of Food Security went to Rutgers University to attend the launch of the Meal Recovery Coalition to reduce food waste. We are honored to work with other organizations and county coalitions to help our environment while securing more food for those in need.



Hunger Action Month



Wear Orange Day

We painted Bergen County orange for hunger awareness! Thank you to all who participated in our Inaugural Office of Food Security "Wear Orange Day" raising awareness about food insecurity and how to support local pantries in Bergen County!



Bergen County Commissioners Hunger Action Month Recognition



The County was honored to recognize local food pantries at September's Commissioner Work Session. Thank you to all of our Hunger Heroes who are on the frontlines every day, feeding the people of Bergen County and working to build food security in our communities.



Hunger Action Month

Unity Pantry of Garfield Ribbon Cutting

The Unity Pantry of Garfield had its grand opening! The County of Bergen was proud to play an integral role in seeing this become a reality. The Unity Partnership, led by Greater Bergen Community Action, will have other healthcare agencies on site - meaning guests can receive support for their overall wellness and be put on the path to receiving holistic care.



Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival



The Office of Food security attended the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival at the beautiful Overpeck County Park. In addition to providing information and resources to the public, the Office of Food Security received donations that were then distributed to nearby food pantries.

Hunger Action Month



Junior Commissioner Food Drives

The Office of Food Security met with the 2024-5 Class of Junior Commissioners on the Status of Women. They were encouraged to use the Food Pantry Finder on our website to select their local food pantry and organize food drives at their high schools to help their communities.



Shopping on a SNAP Budget

Commissioner Tracy Zur and the Office of Food Security took on the challenge of shopping on the average weekly benefit for a family of four - which is \$179. Watch the full video on our instagram, @bergencountyofs

Hunger Action Month



Lecture at Ramapo College of NJ

Commissioner Tracy Zur and OFS Project Coordinator Patrick Fallon went to the Ramapo College of NJ to speak with students about food insecurity in Bergen County, and how they can be a part of creating solutions.

Stomp Out Hunger

Elmwood Park had their “Stomp Out Hunger” event. A rainy day didn’t stop Hunger Heroes from showing up and supporting their community. Thank you to those at The People’s Pantry and the New Elmwood Park Chamber of Commerce for having us and bringing awareness to food insecurity.

