

# PRESS RELEASE

## **GLOUCESTER COUNTY CARES ABOUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT FOOD BANK OF SOUTH JERSEY**

*Food donations collected during the fourth annual Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive will go to stocking the shelves at the Food Bank of South Jersey.*

**Pennsauken, NJ February 11th, 2009:** The fourth annual Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive is being held February 16th through February 20th. The food drive is a collaboration of the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders - Human Service Advisory Council, the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce, the People to People Foundation, and the United Way of Gloucester County. The Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive's goal this year is to exceed the 11,700 pounds of food that was collected last year during the drive.

This year, the Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive will have 91 drop off sites, seventeen more than last year, and 59 participating organizations, including 21 new participants. Ace Ford, Anpesil Distribution Services, Boscov's, C. H. Robinson, Clearview Regional High School, Colonial Bank, Monroe Township Public Schools, Harrison and Woolwich Townships are among the new organizations that will participate in the food drive this year.

Jere Hoffner, Executive Director of the United Way of Gloucester County, explained, "The United Way of Gloucester County is acutely aware of the Food Bank of South Jersey's on-going struggle to help those people suffering from food insecurity in South Jersey. There are a tremendous amount of donations made during the holiday season, but we also are aware of the huge drop off in donations after that time. People still have to eat in February, March and subsequent months following the holidays. We are holding the Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive now so that the drive doesn't coincide with any other programs and can help during a crucial time of the year when donations to the Food Bank of South Jersey are quite low."

The preferred food items that will be collected during the food drive include canned tuna, salmon and corned beef; all types of dried and cooked cereal; canned 100% fruit juices; canned, powdered and shelf-stable dairy products; all types of canned soups and vegetables; rice, pastas and spaghetti in one-pound boxes; elbow macaroni and macaroni and cheese dinners; pudding mixes and protein products, such as peanut butter, jellies, jams and dried beans. In addition, through an arrangement with the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, donations of wet (canned) pet food will also be accepted.

Val Traore, CEO of the Food Bank of South Jersey, noted, "The Food Bank of South Jersey is extremely grateful to be the recipient of the food donations made to the Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive. These food items will come at an important time when donations made during the holidays are quickly running out and our shelves are starting to look bare."

To learn more about the hunger-relief work the Food Bank of South Jersey is doing in Southern New Jersey, visit [www.foodbanksj.org](http://www.foodbanksj.org)

### **About the Food Bank of South Jersey**

The Food Bank of South Jersey is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit hunger-relief organization founded in 1985. Focused solely on the South Jersey region, the organization serves Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties. Now in its 23rd year of community service, the organization continues to serve as an agent for effective food rescue and charitable food distribution and has provided nearly 70 million pounds of food—the equivalent of 56 million meals—to thousands of families, seniors, individuals and children in need. The Food Bank of South Jersey is a member of the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization - America's Second Harvest®, the Nation's Food Bank Network™ as well as an affiliate of the United Way of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties.

### **About the United Way of Gloucester County**

The United Way is among the best-known charitable non-profit organizations in Gloucester County and throughout the United States. The United Way of Gloucester County is an independent 501(C)(3) non-profit organization whose activities are guided and managed by a forty-five member Board of Directors, representing the needs, resources and diversity of Gloucester County communities. Board members are appointed for varying terms of office to

maintain this representation as the circumstances of the county evolve. The United Way of Gloucester County is fully autonomous as are approximately 1,300 other United Ways across the United States. To learn more about the United Way of Gloucester County, please visit <http://www.uwgcnj.org/index.cfm>

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