

Subject: MEND February Update

From: "Robin Peacock" <robin@mendnj.org>

Date: Tue, Feb 20, 2018 10:45 am

To: "Robin Peacock" <robin@mendnj.org>

MEND Email Newsletter

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Feeling the Love: Volunteer Efforts Help MEND Pantries

*MEND welcomes
more community
support, as number of
patrons visiting food
pantries continues to
grow*

MEND's 2017 Impact

MEND's 17 food pantries provided supplemental food packages to over 115,000 people in 2017, up from

109,000 in 2016.

- 37% of those who received food were children.
- The numbers rose steadily from January through November, with a slight drop in December.
- MEND's busiest food pantries were Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges (open 4 Wednesdays a month), which served 28,924 people, and Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry (South Orange) (open every Saturday), which served 15,583 people.

MEND's 2017 Impact





Tuscan Food Drive

Tuscan Elementary School in Maplewood recently held a "100 Days" food drive (tied to the 100th day of school), challenging each classroom to bring in 100 items.

The food drive, now in its 10th year, was begun by Tuscan teacher and MEND volunteer, Claire Sinclair. This year's drive yielded over 1,600 donated food items for the Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joes food pantries.

Tuscan collected only the food most needed by the pantries, helping to fulfill the pantries' goal of providing healthy, nutritious food. Each grade was asked to bring in a different item.

Most Needed Food Items



Washington School Food Drive

Students from The Washington School in Millburn hosted a "Soup-er Bowl" food drive for MEND.

Designed to coincide with the Super Bowl on February 4th, students donated non-perishable soups and protein items to whichever team they thought would win, during the week leading up to the big game. The students predicted correctly – the Eagles won the food drive count by a margin of 257 donated items to 150 donated items for the Patriots.

After meeting with MEND Executive Director Robin Peacock and learning more about hunger in Essex County, the students sorted and packed the food into boxes, and helped load it into “The Green Bean,” MEND’s new food collection vehicle and mobile pantry, which will be making its official debut in the summer of 2018.





Host a Food Drive

MEND pantries regularly purchase food to supplement their inventory each month, especially as more people come to them for help.

Many of our food pantries access free and reduced-price food through the Community FoodBank of NJ, and all are experts at taking advantage of sales at local grocery stores to stretch their limited funding. Still, with modest budgets, volunteers and transportation resources, it can be difficult for the pantries to fill their shelves.

You can help! Are you involved with scouts, a youth group, a school, or a local business that would like to help "food-raise" for MEND? [Let us know](#), and we'll help you organize a food drive to support our network. You can also participate in our #GiveHealthy virtual food drive.



Host a Traditional Food Drive

#GiveHealthy Food Drive

Glen Ridge Congregational Church: MEND Pantry Partner

Glen Ridge Congregational Church has long supported MEND.

The church hosts a monthly food drive (with a grocery cart decorated by the youth group that serves as a visual

reminder to church members!), and donates the collected items to the Bloomfield Church-on-the-Green Food Pantry.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church has also participated in MEND's Help-A-Family Program, by shopping for, wrapping, and delivering gifts to families in need over the holidays. In 2017, Glen Ridge partnered with the First Hopewell Baptist Church Food Panty in Newark for this program.

The church also generously donates funds to MEND to support our efforts.





Support MEND's Upcoming Gratitude Celebration Dinner!

We'd love to see you at the 2018 Annual Gratitude Celebration at The Woodland (60 Woodland Road, Maplewood) on March 8th at 7:00 p.m. This dinner event will raise funds to support our interfaith food pantry network, and recognize the [Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills](#) and [New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) with Community Partner Awards.

Can't make it that night? You can still support the cause! Consider donating a ticket, so that more of our volunteers can join us at the event. Auction donations, ads and event sponsorships are also welcome!



MEND

Hunger Relief Network

Together, we feed our community.

Annual Gratitude Celebration

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

**Junior League
of the Oranges
and Short Hills** & **NJ Academy of
Nutrition and
Dietetics**

MARCH 8, 2018

THE WOODLAND
60 WOODLAND ROAD, MAPLEWOOD, NJ
7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

\$125 IN ADVANCE/\$150 AT DOOR OR
BE A "FRIEND OF MEND" FOR \$175

PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.MENDNJ.ORG/MEND-GALA

Support this Event!

Green Bean Update

The Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills is working with MEND to get The Green Bean outfitted and on the road! Once the bus conversion is complete, The Green Bean will serve as a food collection vehicle and mobile food pantry.

Can't wait to see it? The Green Bean will be making an appearance at the upcoming [JLOSH Kids for Kids event](#), scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at The

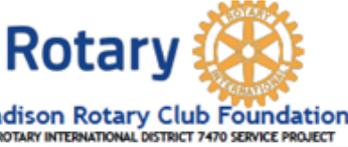
Bauer Center at Taylor Park in Milburn.
This event promotes volunteerism
among children through several hands-
on and educational community
engagement activities. Bring the
family!



Madison Rotary's End Hunger 3.6 Volunteer Event to Benefit MEND

Madison Rotary Club Foundation is organizing a community volunteer event on Saturday, March 10th, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Drew University in Madison, NJ. Volunteers will package meals for local hunger organizations, including MEND. Children and large groups are welcome, and volunteers should [sign up online](#). Shifts are from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Interested in helping to transport the packaged food from the event to a MEND pantry? Email info@mendnj.org for details.



Rotary 
Madison Rotary Club Foundation
A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7470 SERVICE PROJECT



END HUNGER 3.6

PLEASE HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Every 3.6 seconds, someone in the world dies of starvation.
In New Jersey, over one million people are living below the poverty line.
One in five children is hungry and relying on food stamps for meals.

DONATE  VOLUNTEER

To give and/or sign-up online, please visit:
www.madisonrotarynj.org

9AM - 3PM • Saturday, March 10, 2018
Simon Forum, Drew University, Madison

Help package 250,000 nutritious non-perishable meals @ 28¢ per meal to feed the hungry in NJ

RECIPIENT PARTNERS INCLUDE:
New Jersey Salvation Army, Market Street Mission, MEND, and other hunger-based charities

For further information:
ELLSWORTH HAVENS, End Hunger 3.6 Chair
ellsworthhavens@icloud.com
JEANNE TSUKAMOTO,
District Membership Chair, 973-410-0723

Donation checks may also be mailed to Madison Rotary Club Foundation, P.O. Box 211, Madison, NJ 07940.
The Madison Rotary Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

***"Never believe that a few caring people
can't change the world. For, indeed,
that's all who ever have." - Margaret
Mead***



MEND

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