



Celebrating Year One of The Green Bean

Building Connections
with Member Pantries

Upcoming Opportunities and
Events



Brinton Brosius and team install shelving in the bus (April 2018). Photo credit: [Joy Yagid](#).



[Congregation B'nai Jeshurun](#) hosts "Stuff the Bean" food drive at annual Mitzvah Day (April 2019).

The Green Bean Turns One!

This time last year, in collaboration with [The Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills](#), and with help from [Brinton Brosius, Inc.](#), we transformed The Green Bean from a regular old school bus into the beauty that she is today!

Here's all that you helped us accomplish in our pilot year:

- 13 Green Bean Distributions provided 10,667 pounds (over 42,000 servings!) of fresh produce to patrons who visited MEND pantries
- 17 "Stuff the Bean" Community Food Drives provided 11,299 pounds of requested non-perishable foods to stock our member pantries' shelves
- Children at seven elementary schools and summer camps "toured" the Green

Bean, and learned more about local hunger and how they can help

- Over 50 new volunteers signed up to help with Green Bean events
- 250 people attended our first annual Green Bean Gala, and raised over \$90,000 to support our hunger relief programming



THE GREEN BEAN

Thank you for coming along for the ride, and supporting our efforts to increase access to healthy food in underserved communities throughout Essex County! [Follow The Green Bean on Instagram](#) and [like MEND on Facebook](#) for updates as we continue to grow this program.

Watch a video of the bus transformation!

Pantry Connections

At monthly meetings of our food pantry managers, participants come together with their peers to identify and discuss challenges, ideas and opportunities. Based on these discussions, we then identify and build

relationships with local organizations to help support the pantries' work.

Recently, we welcomed speakers from the following organizations:

- [Fair Food Network](#): Double Up Bucks (fresh produce program)
- [Hunger Free NJ](#) (anti-hunger advocacy)
- [Make the Road NJ](#) (immigration rights and advocacy)
- [Moms Helping Moms Foundation](#) (diaper need)

New Pantry Joins MEND

This month, we welcomed the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (135 Elmwood Ave., East Orange) as the 20th member our food pantry network!

Elmwood United is open to patrons on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings of each month, and provides a free community dinner through its Cafe 5000 program on the 4th Sunday of each month.



The MEND Advisory Board is made up of representatives from member pantries and other anti-hunger advocates.



A poster for the Double Up Bucks Program hangs in the window at Hillside Shop Rite.



Gretchen Brown and Sandra Jackson, volunteers from Elmwood United Food Pantry

Volunteer Opportunities

This month, our volunteers:

- Shopped for fresh produce for Green Bean distribution events,

- Collected and transported donated food to member pantries, and
- Packed and distributed food to patrons at pantries in Newark and West Orange.

What's Next?

We head to the following pantries to provide extra support:

- First SDA Montclair - 4/28
- Pierre Toussaint (Newark) - 5/25
- Roseville (Newark) - 6/10
- more to come... including summer and fall U-Pick Harvest Days at [America's Grow-a-Row](#)





[Volunteer Now!](#)

Fun Ways to Support MEND

You never cease to amaze us with your creative and enthusiastic support! We have been invited to participate in, and benefit from, these upcoming community events:

- The South Orange Village Center Alliance is hosting its 4th Annual Food Stroll & Pub Crawl this Sunday, April 28th, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. With the purchase of a wristband, you'll get to sample delectable bites from local eateries and taverns. You will also have access to pub crawl drink specials and merchant specials.
- The SOMA Treasure Hunt, a two-town-wide yard sale, will take place on Saturday, May 18th, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Participating households will be listed on the

SOMA treasure map, and will have clues for customers that lead to freebies at local businesses, snacks in town, and more!

Stop by and say hello!

10 Days of 10Ks Returns

We are doing it again! Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual 10 Days of 10Ks event, scheduled for July 12th - 21st. We will have coordinated daily group runs (walkers welcome) mapped out on a 5K loop for athletes of all levels. You may participate however works best for you: just one day, all 10, or anything in between.

A \$10 suggested donation allows you to participate in all 10 runs (but no pressure!). New for 2019: bright green technical t-shirts (while supplies last) for people who donate \$30 or more.



Learn More: Taste of South Orange



Learn More: SOMA Treasure Hunt



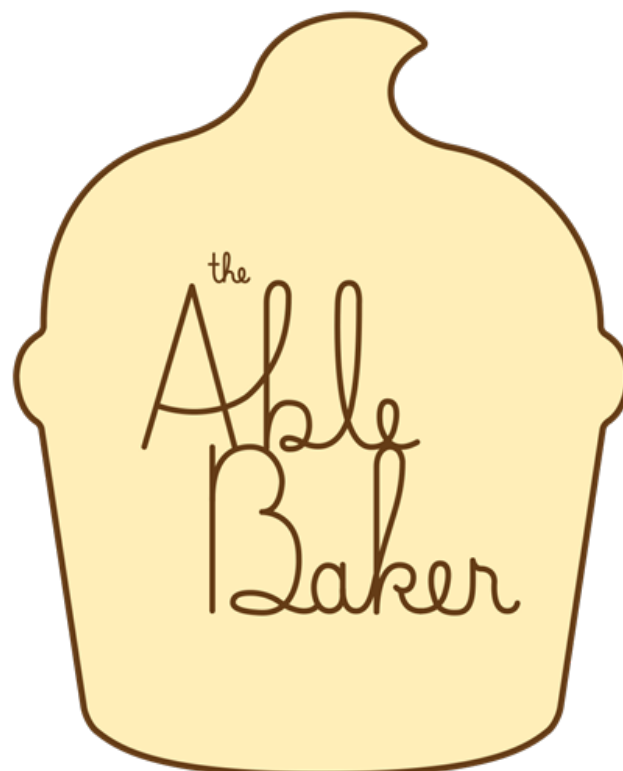
Learn More: 10 Days of 10Ks

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