
Springing Forward

1 message

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New Pantry Added

MEND is excited to welcome a new pantry: Franciscan Charities, Inc., a nonprofit organization that operates the St. Ann's Soup Kitchen in Newark.

Throughout the pandemic, St. Ann's has distributed grab-and-go meals, as well as snack bags and other items. They plan to re-open their dining hall when it is safe to do so.

[Learn More about Franciscan Charities](#)

Table to Table Partnership

Table to Table has begun delivering pallets of fresh food every Thursday! When the food arrives, MEND counts and sorts it, matches it with the pantries based on their food needs and operating schedules, and coordinates the delivery and pickup. Having the Hub allows MEND to expand its partnerships to benefit all of the pantries, while also solving the fresh food storage challenges.



Table to Table is a community-based food rescue program that collects perishable food that would otherwise be wasted, and delivers it to organizations that serve the hungry in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Passaic counties.

[Learn More about Table to Table](#)



MEND on the Move!

As we continue to add and support member pantries, the pandemic has also led to more requests for food from those who are not able to get to the pantries for a variety of reasons (e.g., young children home for virtual learning, homebound seniors and the disabled, incompatible work hours, etc.).

To better respond to the food needs of all those in our community, MEND will begin partnering with other local nonprofits to source, pack and deliver food for clients they identify as needing this important resource. More details coming soon!



Virtual Gala Success!

Thank you to all who joined and supported this year's virtual Green Bean Gala!

You helped raise over \$83,000 to help alleviate hunger and increase access to fresh and healthy food locally!

If you missed it, or if you just want to watch the pantry manager interviews one more time because they are so darn compelling, check them out, below! For more video content, check out our [vimeo page](#).



Follow 10 Days of 10Ks on Facebook

Support 10 Days of 10Ks



Get Ready to Get Sweaty!

The annual 10 Days of 10Ks event returns this summer from July 9th through July 18th!

Every Step Makes a Difference, and every route has a 5K option! Pick a challenge that is personally meaningful to you - run or walk one day of a 5K, multiple days of 5Ks or 10Ks, or up to all 10 Days of 10Ks.

The suggested minimum donation is \$10, and each gift of \$30 or more gets you a very cool, very bright running shirt which is sure to keep you visible while also showing off your Team Green Bean spirit!

P.S. - Did you know that Jessica Lituchy was recently recognized as the Jamie R. Anthony, Jr., Impact Award winner for her creation of this annual event? Named after our first Board Chair, this award recognizes community members who have had a positive impact on the organization. Jessica will be the first to say it was a team effort, but we can't let this newsletter pass without a nod to her impact! She also just launched the **SOMA Fox Running Club** with Stephanie Shiau, and selected MEND as the organization's charity partner! Check out their upcoming **One Hour Fox Run** on April 17th!



NEW JERSEY
PANDEMIC
RELIEF FUND

Read the Announcement

NJPRF Awards \$50K

The New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to MEND as part of its continued efforts to provide support for those most impacted by the health and economic crises in NJ. This award follows a \$25,000 grant to support the Fresh Food Hub in July of 2020, and will be used to directly support pantry needs, as well as to help expand our programming.

Learn More about the NJPRF

We are honored to be part of a group of 139 organizations selected by the NJPRF "with a lens of racial equity and inclusiveness. [The organizations selected] serve our most vulnerable communities across every county, and have demonstrated track records in providing pandemic relief at both the state and local level, possessing the infrastructure to deploy services effectively to large numbers of individuals and families."

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who sponsored The Green Bean Gala!

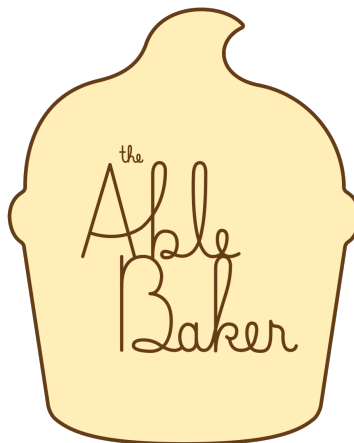
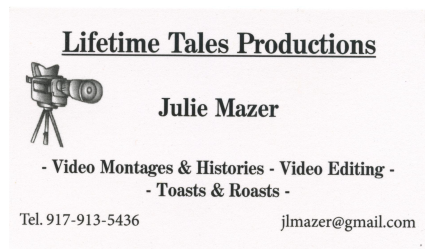


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**South Orange-Maplewood
Education Association**



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