



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity receives \$10,000 sponsorship from King's Food Markets

ORANGE, New Jersey – July 23, 2021 – Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity (MEND) is excited to announce that they will continue a partnership with Kings Food Markets after receiving a generous \$10,000 sponsorship for the Green Bean bus. This initiative will continue to support hunger relief through four scheduled food drives at select Kings Food Markets locations.

Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity (MEND) is a nonprofit organization which supports and strengthens a network of over 20 food pantries located throughout Essex County, NJ, and focuses on increasing access to fresh and healthy food. MEND leverages its infrastructure – including a warehouse, cold storage equipment, and transportation resources – and a growing team of volunteers, to collectively source, store and transport fresh and nutritious foods often requested by member pantries and community partners for their patrons.

Both Kings Food Markets and MEND have recognized the importance of ensuring that fresh food is made available to all people which is a huge motivator for this partnership.

Kings Food Markets has played an essential part in MEND's growth through the years with various sponsorships including their continued support of the Green Bean bus.

“Kings Food Markets is proud to support the communities we serve. By partnering with top-notch organizations like MEND we know we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are facing food insecurity issues,” said Jim Perkins, President of Kings Food Markets.

The four food drives are scheduled for Friday, July 23rd, August 20th, October 15th, and November 19th at Kings in Short Hills. MEND will utilize the Green Bean bus to raise awareness throughout the community and to collect nutritious food for MEND's pantry network.

“Our renewed partnership with Kings Food Markets will help MEND continue to add pantries to its network, increase the amount of fresh food available to patrons, and raise awareness of MEND's mission. Kings has consistently played a crucial role in the growth of MEND as an organization and the MEND team is elated to continue this partnership because of the great value it will bring for both organizations” said Robin Peacock, MEND's Executive Director.

About MEND:

MEND pantries are located in Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington, Maplewood, Montclair, Newark, Orange, South Orange, and West Orange.

To increase fresh food access for those who cannot visit the pantries, MEND also distributes food through select nonprofit partners using innovative and adaptive food distribution models, such as free farmer's markets and at-home delivery.

Beyond food, MEND also provides funding, volunteers, and a collaborative forum for member pantries to share ideas and resources - all with the overarching mission of alleviating hunger, addressing the root causes of food insecurity, and improving the health and well-being of everyone in our community.

To learn more about MEND, visit www.mendnj.org, or call 862.250.5216.

About Kings Food Markets:

For more than 80 years Kings Food Markets has been rated one of the finest food stores to serve New Jersey, Long Island and Connecticut. Born and bred in New Jersey – Kings continues to support our local communities and economy through the people we hire, causes we care about, and products we source. Our unique selection serves to inspire the home cook and elevate the everyday since 1936. We are committed to locally grown produce, prime cut meats, the freshest fish, imported cheeses, international products, and chef-prepared foods. We only offer the highest quality so you can entertain and cook with confidence. For more information, visit www.kingsfoodmarkets.com.

Kings Food Markets is a part of the Mid-Atlantic Division of Albertsons Companies (NYSE: ACI). Locally great and nationally strong, Albertsons Companies is one of the largest food and drug retailers in the United States, with both a strong local presence and national scale.