
A Fresh Perspective

1 message

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The MEND Monthly Newsletter

Dear Robin and Daniel,

Spring is a season of growth and renewal - and both are happening on the daily at MEND!

Recently, the small but mighty staff of four grew to six, with the additions of Donnell Randleman (Driver/Warehouse Assistant) and Lisa Duggan (Development and Communications Manager).

- Donnell previously worked as a car transporter for Hertz and a delivery driver for Door Dash, and will assist with all Fresh Food Hub deliveries and operations.
- Lisa is the former Program Director at GlassRoots, and will use her nonprofit and communications experience to help communicate impact (first up - check out this new newsletter!), increase visibility, and expand support for MEND programming.

Thanks to you, innovative and responsive programming continues to grow and evolve, as well, as pantries try new initiatives and MEND on the Move adds new partners.

Read on to see how your support makes an impact - season after season, and to learn more about opportunities to get involved when and how it works best for you!

Robin Peacock
Executive Director



Donnell Randleman



Lisa Duggan, r., with daughter, Alice

::: Pantry Partnerships :::



Congratulations to member pantry **United Community Corporation** on the debut of the UCC Cafe Mobile Food Pantry and the installation of their second community refrigerator!

The UCC Cafe is a converted food truck that will serve free prepared and packaged meals directly to those facing food insecurity. Meals are cooked at a kitchen on 19th Avenue and delivered directly by the truck to the community. The UCC Cafe will cater to senior clients and shelter guests, and will be made available to partners and others in need of assistance.



South 8th Street is the second location for UCC's community refrigerator project. It is accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Since debuting the project in January, UCC community refrigerators have helped 5,600 people.

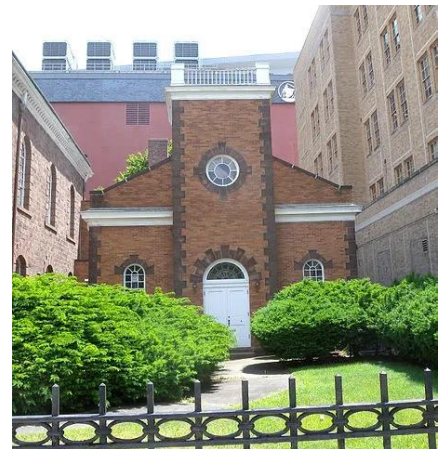
Your support helps provide needed food and equipment for the UCC Cafe, and regularly stocks their community refrigerators!

::: MEND on The Move :::

Welcome to **Newark Day Center** - the newest MEND on the Move community partner! This brings the number of community partners for this program to twelve, including four original partners enrolled in the pilot since May of 2021.

Newark Day Center (formerly The Newark Female Charitable Organization) is the oldest social services agency in New Jersey. It is also the third oldest in the nation. The agency has a rich history, having tirelessly served the Greater Newark community for over 200 years.

Through this partnership, up to 120 families enrolled in the Center's Early Childhood Education program will participate in monthly mobile markets on site.



Newark Day Center located in the Central Ward.

::: You're Our Bread & Butter! :::

*This work would not be possible without YOU! This new monthly feature, **Our Bread & Butter**, is dedicated with gratitude to the over 2,500 supporters of MEND. Each month, you'll see the impact of your generosity and learn about more ways to help.*

MEND by the Numbers

Your contribution makes an impact every day for the families & children served by MEND partners.

22

Number of food pantries in MEND's network

397,646

Number of people served by MEND pantries in 2021

258,283

Total pounds of fresh food provided to pantries

36%

Percentage of people served who are children

10 Days of 10Ks Returns: July 8-17, 2022

Every step makes a difference! Run 1 day, all 10 - or anything in between! Help fight hunger by participating in this fun (and a little bit crazy) event - now in its 5th year!



Not a runner? No worries! Athletes of all abilities are welcome (and if you'd prefer to simply donate and cheer, that works, too!).

Join Team Green Bean!



The Green Bean Gala: October 7, 2022

Don't worry - you didn't miss it! The Green Bean Gala will take place at The Woodland in Maplewood on Friday, October 7, and it promises to be as fun and impactful as ever. Hope to see you there!

Buy Tickets

Sponsor the Gala

::: The State of Hunger :::



MEND hosts Advisory Board Zoom meetings twice a month to welcome guest speakers on topics selected by pantry managers, and to allow pantry managers to speak directly about issues and concerns affecting their communities.

Throughout the pandemic, thanks to your generosity, MEND supported its member pantries as they found new ways to meet the growing food needs of the communities they served. At times, the numbers of people turning to them increased **fourfold**. Now, three plus months into 2022, the pantry leaders report that, unfortunately, the need has not diminished.

Sister Linda Klaiss, MEND board member and manager of the Pierre Toussaint Food Pantry in Newark, told us that they ran out of food in one weekly distribution in February: *"Even those cold Saturday mornings we had over 200 people. Now we have over 250."*

The sustained need is national, with the recent economic inflation cited as a chief factor driving more Americans to food banks, as reported by [The Washington Post](#). Increases in gas and food prices are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations.

- Pantry manager Don Cornell from Bloomfield Church-on-the Green Food Pantry said, *"This is no longer directly related to the pandemic. There are other reasons. It's a different kind of demand."*
- *"We have over 400 people each distribution. We ran out of food the last two times,"* reported Eileen Mahoney, pantry manager at Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry in South Orange.
- Tasha White, pantry manager at New Hope Baptist Church Food Pantry in East Orange said, *"I expect our numbers to go up with the upcoming spring and summer months."*
- And, as one person who called looking for food explained to Alicia Harrison, MEND's Program Manager, *"I have a quarter tank of gas in my truck, and I can't fill it until my next paycheck."*

There is no easy answer to this latest hardship. MEND continues to convene the pantry leaders and advocate for policies to improve the lives of patrons, while also working collaboratively with other nonprofits to ensure increased fresh food access and food security. Thank you for your continued support of these efforts!

::: Volunteer Opportunities :::

Have some time over the next few weeks? Check out the latest volunteer opportunities and sign up for a slot (or more!) that works for you!

[Sign Up to Volunteer!](#)



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