
Creating Community-led Change!

1 message

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To: Robin Peacock <robin@mendnj.org>

Wed, May 24, 2023 at 9:57 AM



The MEND Newsletter - May 2023



Robin,

Over the past many months, one word has been at the forefront of our conversations: community.

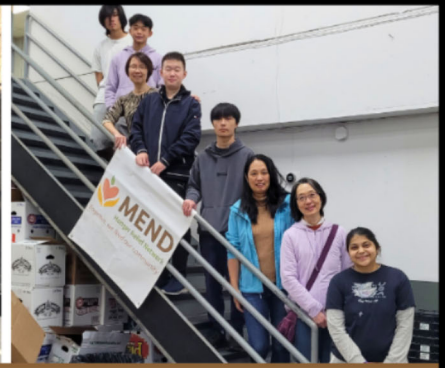
Thank you for valuing and prioritizing your community. Your support has led to innovations in hunger relief as can be seen in the latest [2022 MEND Impact Report](#) - as well as in the incredible [pro-bono efforts from](#)

[Morgan Stanley's rising stars](#), who recently evaluated and recommended the most impactful path for future programming growth.

And yet, your community still needs you. To learn more about current community needs - as well as ways to help, please save the date for MEND's Virtual Town Hall on Thursday, June 22nd, along with future fundraising opportunities ([10 Days of 10Ks in July](#), and [The Green Bean Gala in October](#)).

You are essential to this work, and we are honored to have you by our side as a partner, supporter, and advocate.

In gratitude,
Robin Peacock
Executive Director



 **MEND**
Hunger Relief Network
Together, we feed our community.

**2022
Impact
Report**



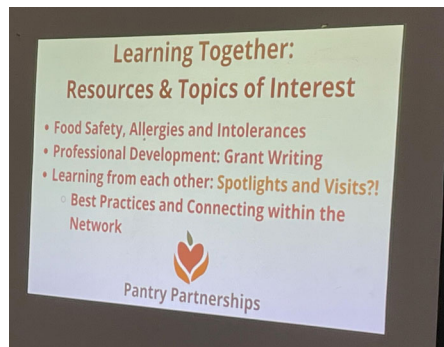
Read the 2022 Impact Report!

::: MEND Network News :::

Learning Together

The April Advisory Board meeting was a joyful occasion, bringing together pantry managers from across the network in-person for the second time this year.

Staff members presented an update of the pantry network demographics, and also announced the "Pantry Visit Challenge" - where pantry leaders visit peer pantries in the network, with the aim of sharing processes and best practices.



"First and foremost, thank you for your support. I feel like a hero when I pick up the eggs and produce on Wednesday mornings. It is so appreciated and valued, a really beautiful addition. Something about that fresh produce that warms peoples' hearts."

MEND Pantry Manager

Pantry Survey Results

More people need more help. That's what pantry managers have been reporting since the beginning of the year, and responses to the latest survey of pantry partners show that the need has not diminished - no doubt due in part to the decrease in SNAP benefits.

Despite the increased need, pantry managers remain grateful for the consistent supply of fresh produce, which has been a healthy advantage for their clients.

Thank you for your continued support of this work!



“Demand continues to increase, so I either have to limit distributions somehow or find more volunteers and more food.”

MEND Pantry Manager



“We saw an 11% increase... since the beginning of the year. We are grateful to MEND for continuing to provide 450 dozen fresh eggs each month despite the skyrocketing costs. Our clients are happy to receive this versatile and nutritious food staple. Thank you!”

MEND Pantry Manager



[Read the Announcement!](#)

Team MEND wins Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge!

We are so grateful to the talented members of Team MEND at Morgan Stanley, who delivered the winning strategy in this year's Strategy Challenge, the firm's flagship pro bono program!

MEND has gained invaluable insight and expert analysis that will allow us to grow programming and increase access to fresh and healthy food in Essex County, NJ, in the most impactful way!

UPCOMING EVENTS



June
22

Virtual Town Hall

Join with Executive Director Robin Peacock, MEND Trustees, and Community Partners to learn about current programming, future planning, and ways to help!

Visit mendnj.org/events for details.

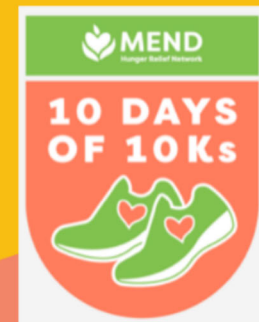


July
7-16

10 Days of 10Ks

Every Step Makes a Difference!
Now in our Sixth Year! Run or walk one day of a 5K, multiple days of 5Ks or 10Ks, or all 10 Days of 10Ks!

www.givebutter.com/10Days2023



Oct
07

Green Bean Gala

Join us for a special evening to support a growing network of food pantries and community partners working collaboratively to increase fresh food access and alleviate hunger in Essex County, NJ.

The Woodland, Maplewood (7-11pm)



Visit us online for more ways to get involved!



mendnj.org/events

MEND Adds Staff and Trustees



The MEND staff is growing, with the addition of **Lloyd Carnegie, Program Coordinator - Pantry Partnerships!**

Prior to joining MEND as an employee, Lloyd was a regular weekly volunteer who wore many hats: unloading vans, sorting and packing produce, and helping to distribute food. Before that, Lloyd spent 22 years in sales management for Keurig and Dr. Pepper.

Additionally, MEND is proud to welcome three new Trustees: **Chigozie Onyema, Samir Shah and Sunita Subramanian.**



Chigozie Onyema is an attorney and community organizer based in Newark, NJ, and a former Assistant Commissioner for the NJ Department of Community Affairs. He is deeply committed to equity and inclusion. His professional and organizing work seeks to broaden the scope of democracy to include everyone and deepen the concept to include every relationship. Chigozie earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law, his B.A. in Afro-American Studies from Howard University, and was recently named one of the Top 100 Policymakers in New Jersey by InsiderNJ.



Samir Shah is the Managing Partner of Stonebridge Advisors. He brings 20+ years of experience from leading financial organizations such as J.P. Morgan, McKinsey and Goldman Sachs. In his personal time, he is an aspiring mixologist and dedicated sports enthusiast. Samir currently resides in Montclair, NJ with his wife, two children, and their Havanese puppy.



Sunita Subramanian is an attorney working in-house with a medical device company, Getinge. Prior to working at Getinge, Sunita devoted almost fifteen years (including in her role as General Counsel and Head of Administration of United Way of New York City) to advising nonprofits of all sizes on matters relating to tax compliance, corporate governance, political advocacy, corporate combinations (including mergers), and legal compliance. She has supported initiatives aimed at improving lives of low-income communities, including food insecurity and hunger prevention.

Volunteers Wanted!

There are several open weekday shifts available for volunteers. Please sign up today and make a difference in the lives of your neighbors.

Current opportunities don't work with your schedule? Please keep checking, as volunteer needs continue to evolve, and the link is updated often!



Volunteer with MEND!

Bi-Lingual Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Spotlight



MEND

LINDA SILVER



"I love that MEND focuses on produce, eggs, and dairy -- fresh & healthy foods that are often difficult for people to obtain."

Linda has been volunteering her time to MEND for the past five years. Each week she comes to MEND's Hub, to sort fresh groceries donated by ShopRite and TraderJoe's, and prepare packages for delivery to patrons across the network. Linda learned about MEND through Impact100 Essex.

Follow MEND on your favorite social media platforms to stay updated between newsletters:



Our Contact Information

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**Platinum
Transparency
2023**

Candid.