
Happy Harvest Season!

1 message

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Farmer James, from [Fairgown Farm](#) (pictured with MEND staff members, Christine and Fausto) delivers fresh peaches sourced through a new food purchasing pilot with local farms!

July marks the start of harvest season, which means fresh food sourcing from local farms has begun!

Each week, a bounty of beautiful produce rolls in - some purchased (99% of MEND's purchasing is for produce + eggs!), some donated, some rescued, and even some from other nonprofits, like these fresh mangoes from [Interfaith Food Pantry Network in Morris Plains](#), who had extras to share!



Regardless of how it comes in, it is in demand and goes out quickly - as community need continues to rise.

Be sure to check out MEND's [Virtual Town Hall recording](#) to hear directly from local food pantry leaders and community partners about the incredible difference this food makes for your neighbors - and read on for the latest happenings (including the ever-exciting 10 Days of 10Ks event, which raised over \$100K(!), and MEND's upcoming move to the Fresh Food Hub 2.0!).

And, as always, please [reach out](#) if you'd like to connect!

Yours in Gratitude,
Robin Peacock
Executive Director

P.S. - Like a summer reading list? If so, check out this one from Food Tank.

Summer Reading List:
20 Food System Reads that Will Inspire You

MEND Network News



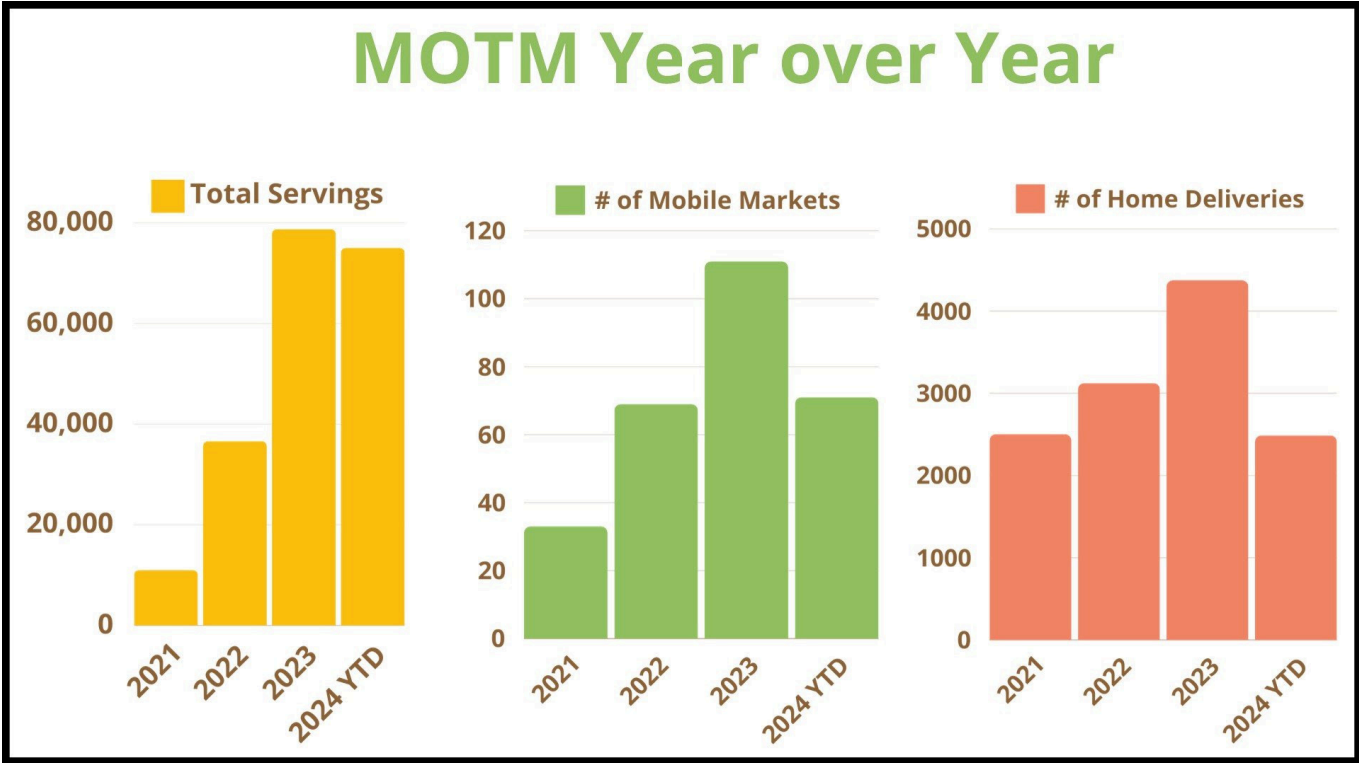
Mobile Market Summer Roundup

Summer means farmers markets and, thanks to you, MEND is able to continue to grow its MEND on the Move (MOTM) program and offer **14 mobile markets** in July and August!

Recently, residents at Zion Towers' mobile market chose from fresh corn, cabbage, grapes, bananas and New Jersey peaches.

Chesha Hodge, RDN, from [The Balanced Diet](#), joined to prepare a low-sodium egg scramble and potato hash for residents - with samples made onsite from MEND-provided produce!

This chart shows the growth of MEND on the Move since its inception. 2024 data is current through June 30, and indicates that we're on pace to meet or exceed last year's numbers.



[Read the Full MOTM Q2 Report](#)



Addressing College Hunger

Hend El-Buri, Director of Nutrition at Rutgers University-Newark and food pantry manager of Pantry+, recently spoke with Food Bank News about creating a quicker, more dignified experience for students who visit the food pantry.

[Read the Article](#)



UCC Adds Community Fridge

Congrats to longtime MEND partner [United Community Corporation \(UCC\)](#) on the [launch of their seventh free community fridge](#), located at the John W. Hyatt Court complex in Newark! MEND is proud to support all of UCC's community fridges with fresh food gleaned from local supermarkets.

Virtual Town Hall - Recording Available

Would you like to hear directly from community leaders about the trends they are seeing, and your impact on their work? Spend 54 minutes watching the replay of MEND's Virtual Town Hall!

[See the Slides](#)

7th Annual 10 Days of 10Ks Raises \$100K+!

A record 340+ people participated in MEND's Seventh Annual 10 Days of 10K fundraiser - including 14 folks who ran all 10 Days!

With a generous \$50K match from The Peek Family, participants rose to the occasion once again! Team Green Bean hit the full fundraising goal on Day 10, and raised just over \$100K for healthy hunger relief!



Special thanks to Jessica Lituchy for creating this inspirational event and for inviting the community along to join along in the fun!

MEND is On the Move!



MEND will soon move to a larger space, located just across the parking lot of our current home! "Fresh Food Hub 2.0" is double the size, and will allow for:

- increased food sourcing and storage;
- streamlining of operations;
- greater volunteer engagement and community building opportunities; and
- space for staff to work and collaborate!

Stay tuned for your invitation to take a tour, and for more info about how to support this effort!

Advocacy & Equity Highlights

Food & Health Equity Coalition (FHEC) of Essex County - Behind the Scenes!

The Food & Health Equity Coalition (of which MEND is the backbone organization) met in May to continue its work of reducing barriers to food and health equity across the county - and captured some of its most recent meeting in video!



Learn More

Shared Resource: Essex County's Inclusive Farmers Markets

This **2024 Inclusive Farmers Markets Guide in Essex County** represents a collaborative effort to share important information about where and how to use benefits such as SNAP, WIC, Good Food Bucks, and FMNP Vouchers at farmers markets throughout the County. It can be accessed via the [FHEC website](#).

Essex County, NJ Farmers' Markets

Belleville Farmers Market

100 Passaic Ave, Belleville, NJ 07109

Vendor: Montclair Community Farms

Dates: 6/30, 7/14, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6
10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR AND WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

Bloomfield Farmers' Market

Bloomfield Public Library 90 Broad St, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Vendor: City Green

June 4th -October 29th Tuesdays
3:30 PM- 6:30 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

East Orange Farmers' Market

44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, NJ 07018

Vendors: Ort Farms + Others

July- November every other Tuesday
12:00 PM- 6:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

Ironbound Community Farmers' Market / Down Bottom Farms

371 Ferry St, Newark, NJ 07105

June - October Tuesdays
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

La Casa De Don Pedro Market

El Patio, 39 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104

Vendor: Montclair Community Farms

Dates: 7/25, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24
3:00 PM-6:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED: SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

Maplewood Farmers' Market

1866 Springfield Ave. Maplewood, NJ 07040

Vendor: Stony Hill Farm

June 3rd - November 18th Mondays
2:00 PM-7:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED: WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS

Montclair Community Farms

108 Orange Rd, Montclair, NJ 07042

June 17th- October 28th Mondays,
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM & 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Montclair Mobile Markets

Pine Ridge

60 Glenridge Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

June 14th- November 1st, Fridays
12:00 PM-12:45 PM

First Montclair House

56 Walnut St, Montclair, NJ 07042

June 14th- November, 1st Fridays
1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Montclair Public Library

50 S Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

July 3rd- October 23rd every other
Wednesday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Montclair Public Library Branch

185 Bellevue Ave, Montclair, NJ 07043

June 26- October 30 every other
Wednesday, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

Nutley Farmers' Market

537 Franklin Ave, Nutley, NJ 07110

Vendors: Tree Licious Orchards & Asprocolas Acres

June 18th- October 29th Sundays
9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS

South Orange Downtown Farmers' Market

12 Sloan St, South Orange, NJ 07079

Vendors: Stony Hill Farm & Alstede Farms

June 5th- October 30th Wednesdays
2:00 PM- 7:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS

Steam Urban Artisan Farmers' Market

179 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP & GOOD FOOD BUCKS

The Beth Greenhouse Farmers' Market

201 Lyons Ave, Newark, NJ 07112

June - November Thursdays
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

BENEFITS ACCEPTED:

SNAP, WIC, SENIOR & WIC FMNP VOUCHERS, GFB

Questions/Updates?
info@fhecessex.org



Food & Health Equity
Coalition of Essex County



GFB = Good Food Bucks

Take Action: Support Child Nutrition Programs in NJ

Introduced by Sens. Casey (D-PA) and Fetterman (D-PA), the [School Hunger Elimination Act](#) (S. 4525) would increase federal funding for community eligibility schools and provide retroactive reimbursement for meals served to children who are certified for free or reduced-price meals.

The [Nutrition Red Tape Reduction Act](#) (S. 4523) would permanently lower the threshold for schools to participate in community eligibility to 25 percent identified student percentage.

For complete details and instructions on how to ask your Senators to co-sponsor the bills, visit the [Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\)](#).

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



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