

THE FOOD BRIGADE INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although less than 3 years old, The Food Brigade achieved a number of major milestones in 2022:

- We fed 28,197 New Jersey residents in need, including 9,380 children and 3,830 seniors.
- We distributed over 270 tons of food.
- We gave out nearly 14,000 packaged meals, all prepared by local restaurants & caterers.
- We distributed \$26,400 worth of supermarket gift cards.
- We launched a "virtual pantry": an online storefront for our homebound clients to place custom orders which are delivered to them. They don't ever need to physically visit a food pantry to receive help!
- We instituted new programs for the distribution of diapers and period supplies.

The expansion of our operations continues in 2023, in terms of both the number of people served and our geographic reach. Our organization has grown from weekly drive-through food distributions, to now operating three "client choice" food distribution centers - two in Bergen County and one in Hudson County - utilizing a total of over 100 volunteers each week. We remain steadfast and determined as we continue our mission to ensure that no child or adult in New Jersey goes hungry.

KAREN DEMARCO

The Food Brigade Inc., President

OUR ORGANIZATION & ITS MISSION

The Food Brigade Inc. is a registered tax-exempt charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN 85-3278219, and a registered charity with the NJ Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs, Charities Registration Section, Charity Registration #CH4394200. We are a Partner Agency of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, Table to Table, and Feed the Children; a Local Distribution Agency ("LDA") for United States Department of Agriculture food under TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and for New Jersey Department of Agriculture food under SFPP (the State Food Purchase Program). The Food Brigade Inc. provides service without regard to race, color, religion, age, handicap, sex, or national origin. The Food Brigade Inc. does not require any money, property, or service from anyone in exchange for food or any other goods and/or services. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The mission of The Food Brigade is to ensure that no child or adult in New Jersey goes hungry.

Our primary service is to provide food, in the form of both fresh & packaged foods and prepared meals, to families and individuals in need.

We accomplish our mission by building and operating a network of providers and volunteers who assist in the acquisition, transport, preparation, distribution, and delivery of food and meals to those in need.

Our focus is on reaching those who "fall through the cracks" in existing services.

Our guiding principle is compassion for our fellow man.



OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

CLIENT CHOICE MARKETS

We operate weekly "client choice" pantry marketplaces, where our recipients can enjoy the autonomy of selecting their own food items from our available inventory, including fresh produce as well as frozen, refrigerated, canned, and packaged items.

"VIRTUAL PANTRY" - ONLINE ORDERING

We believe in operating as a 21-century food pantry, and in emphasizing innovation. So we operate a "virtual pantry": an online storefront where our homebound clients place custom orders for themselves from our available inventory. The orders are then delivered to their homes by our volunteers (our "Road Warriors").

PREPARED MEALS

We provide home-cooked meals to families in need due to disaster (loss of employment, catastrophic illness or injury, etc.). We also conduct periodic distributions of packaged, restaurant-prepared meals.

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

Periodically, we distribute gift cards for use at local supermarkets.

DIAPERS AND PERIOD PRODUCTS

The Food Brigade operates programs for the monthly distribution of diapers (both infant and adult) and period products.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY & CHICKEN DISTRIBUTION



OUR IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



TOTAL PEOPLE FED: 28,197

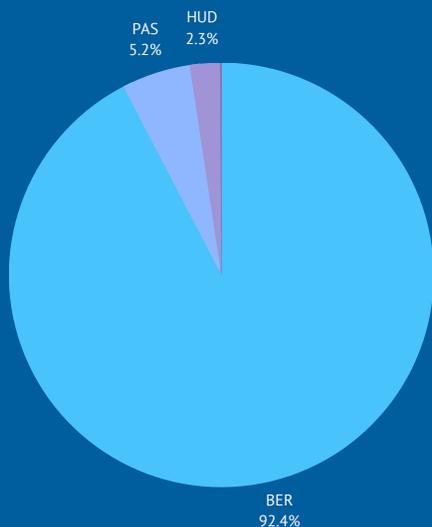


CHILDREN FED: 9,380



SENIORS FED: 3,803

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED: 8,638



BERGEN COUNTY: 7,978 HOUSEHOLDS

PASSAIC COUNTY: 453 HOUSEHOLDS

HUDSON COUNTY: 198 HOUSEHOLDS

ESSEX COUNTY: 8 HOUSEHOLDS

UNION COUNTY: 1 HOUSEHOLD

OUR IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

**FOOD DISTRIBUTED:
545,335 POUNDS (272 TONS)**



MEALS DISTRIBUTED: 13,985



**SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS
DISTRIBUTED: \$26,400**



VOLUNTEER HOURS: 9,992



N.J. COMMUNITIES SERVED: 64



IN OUR CLIENTS' WORDS...

"The Food Brigade has been a very big help for me and my two kids. It's been a very hard two years financially, and very hard providing my kids enough food to eat. Since The Food Brigade, my kids and I have been able to have enough food, and nutritious food, to eat. I'm able to sleep at night because I know every week my kids will have enough food to eat." (N.Z., Saddle Brook)

"The Food Brigade comes to my home every week, and everyone is so nice. I'm a disabled senior citizen, on a fixed monthly income. My disability check pays for rent, electricity, phone, and other bills, and I have very little money left for food. The Food Brigade is an important part of my life." (G.M., Tenafly)

"I am writing on behalf of a veteran in Maywood. He is a proud man who refuses to accept any help. He either pays his bills and rent, or gets behind on his bills so he can purchase food. I reached out to the Food Brigade and explained his situation, and with them this proud American is now able to eat and pay his bills." (M.J., Bergen County)

"My children and I receive food from The Food Brigade every Wednesday. This help has kept food on the table for my children to eat every week. My youngest child has autism and it's hard for me to find a flexible job since my child always needs me." (A.J., Garfield)

"I am a single mom, and The Food Brigade has helped me so much. I struggle to work full time due to limited ability to babysit my child. My main priority is keeping my child fed and clean. The Food Brigade had helped me with groceries when I cannot afford them, and diapers for my infant. I am very grateful for their assistance for myself and many others." (C.Y., Passaic)

"I am a retired disabled grandma raising four children due to the circumstances of life. The Food Brigade organization provides my family weekly food supply that assists my family and other family in need." (R.M., Teaneck)

"I am housebound and not able to go to the market. The kind people of this organization have brought me food for many months. Receiving the dinners and bag of produce has been an answer to prayers." (K.J., Elmwood Park)

"The Food Brigade has helped me and my family tremendously. When me and my wife both lost our jobs, with children to raise, The Food Brigade was our number one supporter and continues to support my family now that I am the only one working and going to school." (L.F., Maywood)

"I'm a senior citizen with several medical problems, which make it impossible for me to get around without assistance. I walk with a walker, I have macular degeneration (both eyes) and can't drive. The Food Brigade delivers much needed food to me weekly. I don't know how I'd be able to get decent food without their assistance and kindness." (S.M., Teaneck)

"My husband is going blind and cannot work. Times are tough and we count on the weekly help from The Food Brigade. Food costs, gas and daily living is on a rise and buying groceries each week is becoming way too expensive for my family. If we do not receive food weekly from The Food Brigade, I will not have enough money to buy enough food to feed my family. Their help to my family is such a financial relief and they help us out more than you could ever imagine." (M.S., Oradell)

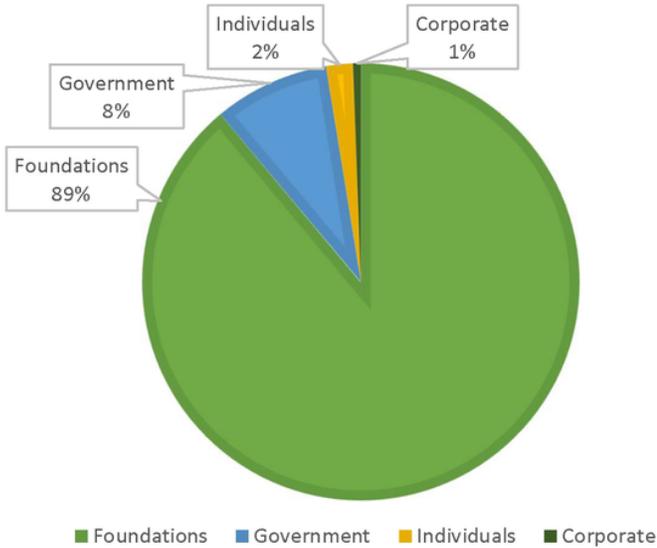
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

- In March, The Food Brigade delivered two truckloads of personal hygiene products for the Ukrainian humanitarian relief effort.
- The Food Brigade was selected to receive two grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), totaling \$201,200.00.
- In April, The Food Brigade's Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a sweeping *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy*.
- In May, The Food Brigade entered into a partnership with DoorDash for the delivery of food to local residents in need. This enabled us to expand our delivery radius to as far as 10 miles from our Dumont facility, including deliveries to Passaic County residents.
- In June, we launched our "virtual pantry", offering Instacart-style ordering to our clients. President Karen DeMarco commented, "We wanted to increase our client's sense of autonomy and self-determination, while at the same time promoting privacy and dignity in the food-requesting process."
- In July, our President was chosen as a recipient of the *Daily Point of Light Award* by the Points of Light Foundation (founded by President George H.W. Bush) for her volunteer service work with The Food Brigade.
- In August, The Food Brigade announced plans to open its second food distribution center, located in Union City.
- In October, our President was named to the Points of Light Foundation's 2022 Inspiration Honor Roll.
- In November, The Food Brigade was selected to become a local partner agency of Feed the Children, the international hunger-relief organization.
- The Food Brigade's President was featured on the website of the New Jersey Governor's Volunteerism Awards, observing "It is hard to imagine that any one individual has done more for the hungry in New Jersey, or has helped feed more residents on such a massive scale, than Karen DeMarco."

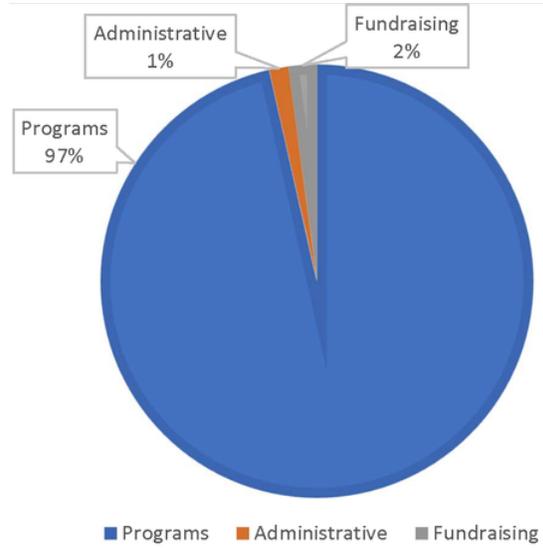


REVENUE & EXPENSES

2022 REVENUE



2022 EXPENSES



SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS







Mailing Address:

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Food Distribution Center:

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