



RENEW THE PROMISE OF HOPE

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2022

We Will Not Miss A Meal! Food, Pantry and Clothing Services Relocate

Lunch Break has temporarily relocated meal service and clothing operations to St. Anthony's Church on Herbert Street in Red Bank during the \$12 million Capital Campaign construction expansion of its headquarters at 121 Drs. James Parker Blvd. The Client Choice Pantry has relocated to the current Lunch Break dining room, returning to its former model of in-person, twice-monthly grocery shopping, until moving to a nearby warehouse space in 2023. Building construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023.

"We appreciate our community members' cooperation in adjusting to the relocation of critical resources during the construction and completion of our new resource center. Lunch Break will continue to provide updates on social media and our website throughout construction, so that our neighbors will be reassured that all vital services will be available without interruption," said Director of Operations Kevin McGee.

In an effort to never miss a meal, food- and financially insecure community members seeking **breakfast and lunch service will be directed to St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center, 16 Herbert Street, Red Bank.** Hours of operation: dining room will be open from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday, with breakfast served from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for walk-ins only. **Grab-and-go service** will be available. Traditional **Christmas brunch** will be served at St. Anthony's. **Friday Community Dinner and Saturday breakfast** will be temporarily suspended until 2023. For updates please refer to lunchbreaknj on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, as well as our website www.lunchbreak.org.

"We appreciate the support from our community partner St. Anthony of Padua. We thank Father Al Tamayo and his staff for their help in facilitating the move for our meal service and Clara's Closet," said Executive Director Gwendolyn Love.

The Client Choice Pantry has relocated to the current Lunch Break dining room at 121 Drs. James Parker Blvd., Red Bank, returning to its former model of in-person, twice-monthly grocery shopping. Pantry donations will be accepted at this location, from **10 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays.** The pantry will relocate its services beginning January 2023. Further notification will be posted to social media.

Clara's Closet clothing boutique has relocated to St. Anthony of Padua Church in Red Bank. Monthly Clothing Giveaways will resume after the move. Updates on clothing donations will be posted to social media and www.lunchbreak.org.



Lunch Break has never missed a meal and thanks to Father Al Tamayo and the good people at St. Anthony's Church, we will continue to serve the needs of our community in our temporary home.

— Culinary Director Tyrone Burr

While we look forward to the completion of our beautiful new facility and the improved operations it will provide, we appreciate our community's generosity and cooperation as we transition services during construction. We will ensure operations continue to run as efficiently as before and welcome feedback from our community.

— Director of Operations Kevin McGee

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, Lunch Break has returned to the model of in-person, weekly Client Choice pantry shopping. This allows our clients greater access to choosing the fresh produce and groceries which suit their family's needs. We also intend to provide convenient grab-and-go bags for clients who may not have the time for pantry shopping. We simply ask shoppers to bring their own tote bags and masks as a requirement. In January the pantry will be relocating. There will be more information to follow regarding this location and the pantry operations.

Lunch Break is thrilled to once again welcome our clients to Client Choice pantry. Happy shopping!

— Beth Sherrard, Pantry Supervisor

From the President



Our dining room and food pantry had an impactful 2022, having provided more than 72,000 nutritious hot meals; more

Lunch Break looks back on 2022 with deep gratitude. Your continuing generosity has made it possible not only to provide life's basic necessities and temporary housing to thousands of people, but to help individuals and families gain a foothold on a new life of self-reliance.

Your kind, sustaining support has resulted in the updating and expansion of our main facility in Red Bank, allowing Lunch Break to serve more nourishing meals and to accept more people into our vital Life Skills and youth programs.

than 16,000 Client Choice pantry pickups, and countless holiday meal packages along with gift cards and toys. We're so very grateful to our thousands of volunteers and all our generous donors for making that success possible.

Our fight to break the generational cycle of poverty in our region continues, and we count on your faith, your volunteerism and your kind donations to help carry that on.

The new year looks bright as we prepare to celebrate Lunch Break's 40th anniversary and hit the ground running when our revamped and expanded facility opens in autumn 2023.

None of it would have been possible without you! A deep, heartfelt thanks, and wishing you all Happy, Safe, Healthy and Blessed Holidays!

With gratitude,
Juanita Lewis
Board President

Renew the Promise of Hope Capital Campaign \$12 Million Goal Reached — Thank You!

We are proud to announce that together we have reached our \$12 million goal for the Renew the Promise of Hope Capital Campaign and have begun construction on the Lunch Break building expansion.

This was a victory for our community and a victory for humanity. Our success is always measured in inspiring hope — and touching the hearts and minds of those who will continue to pass through our doors.

We are humbled and grateful by the overwhelming community

support for our campaign. Funds raised will enable us to expand our services and programs and offer a more beautiful, updated community center, with modern safety and efficiency conveniences, more warehouse and public meeting/gathering spaces and room to do what we do best — providing help for today and hope for tomorrow. Thank you!

The project is scheduled to be completed by late fall 2023. Please check our social media @lunchbreaknj for updates.



Welcome New Board Members



From left: Board member Andy Kirkpatrick and his wife Sheri; Board member Rebecca Reilly; Board member Abe Littenberg and his wife Linda.

Andy Kirkpatrick

Andy Kirkpatrick became involved with Lunch Break through the Life Skills Center, hoping to help people in his community using the high-level communication skills he had honed in his career as an executive coach with the federal government.

Working on resumes and preparing clients for job interviews, he realized that his most vital task was to flip his clients' own narratives about themselves and their work lives.

"What started out as 'Oh, I really haven't done anything' turned into 'Yeah, you know, I DID do that, and that was really great!'" Andy said. "Once that perspective was shifted, it was like a heavy weight was lifted from their shoulders, and they were able to proudly return to the workforce."

Making that personal connection with his clients made all the difference. As Andy says: "allowing them the grace to rediscover their gifts and strengths that have been there the whole time."

Abe Littenberg

Abe and Linda Littenberg, heads of a robust local family and longtime early-childhood educational advocates, are stalwart Lunch Break volunteers, delivering meals to people in need every week.

After graduating engineering school as a young man, Abe joined the family business, Guttenplan's, and with his cousin transformed the Long Branch bakery into a booming frozen dough supplier that serves restaurants, supermarkets and small bakeries nationwide. Abe and Linda have been ardent Lunch Break volunteers and donors for more than two decades.

"We love Lunch Break. It is a joy to work with such warm, generous, and smart individuals. The value of what they do is a testament to the breadth of the programs offered and their commitment to successful outcomes."

Rebecca Reilly

After many years of attending Lunch Break fundraising events and hearing inspirational stories from clients whose lives were so positively impacted by our wonderful programs, Rebecca wanted to take a more active role in supporting our mission.

"I consider it an honor and privilege to serve on Lunch Break's Board of Trustees and I am excited to work with the dedicated staff to help transform lives and break the cycle of poverty in our community."

Maiia's Mission

The Russian invasion of Ukraine caused Maiia Dvorkina to leave home for the United States this past spring. Saying goodbye to those she loved dearly was difficult to say the least.

After fleeing Kiev, Maiia arrived to the welcoming arms of relatives in Red Bank and, now, Lunch Break. She has been a volunteer in the kitchen, pantry, and Clara's Closet, and said she enjoys the camaraderie at Lunch Break, as well as helping others in need. "It keeps me going!" Maiia said.

Wishing Maiia's friends and family much peace and safety in these unstable times.



Create a Legacy with Planned Giving

Consider adding Lunch Break to your will or planned giving arrangements and create your own legacy for helping to feed the future. To find out how the bequest you make today will help secure a future for thousands of the most vulnerable children, seniors, veterans, single parents, and families for years to come, contact Jill Gwydir at jgwydir@lunchbreak.org.

For further information regarding planned giving and tax benefits, please visit <https://lunchbreak.org/donate/> or scan the QR code.



2022 Fall Gala “Renew the Promise of Hope”

Our recent 2022 Fall Gala “Renew the Promise of Hope” at the Park Loft at Fort Monmouth was a window into the heart and soul of Lunch Break, with compelling testimonials from clients such as Christina Lane and Amanda Yuhas, each of whom was facing homelessness, financial burdens and other challenging circumstances. They both were offered hope for a better tomorrow after receiving temporary housing, guidance and life skills, and financial and employment counseling from Lunch Break’s Life Skills and Family Promise of Monmouth County programs.

We thank honorees Dr. Thomas and Bonnie Johnson, Jeremy Grunin, 66 Automall Sansone Jr., Eat Clean Bro, and our supporters for their commitment to Lunch Break’s mission to end the cycle of hunger and poverty in Monmouth County and beyond. Thank you to Suzanne Vreeland for the beautiful photos!



Volunteers Taking Action Against Hunger

Autumn brings Hunger Action Awareness and it’s also the time when Lunch Break, the Red Bank social and food services resource center, recognizes and honors the work of its dedicated Board, volunteers and staff, as well as the incredible support of the local community, for their efforts in helping to carry out the center’s vital mission.

Lunch Break relies on its network of more than 2,000 volunteers, some of whom served heroically since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, to support the organization’s varied food and service programs for those in Monmouth County living at or below the poverty line.

“Lunch Break is fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers, Board members, staff and supporters, many of whom have served their community for at least a decade. We are proud to honor their commitment to our mission, as well as the compassion they have demonstrated for their food- and financially-insecure community members. Without them, there would be no Lunch Break,” said Executive Director

Gwendolyn Love.

In 2021, Lunch Break continued to see an unprecedented demand for groceries, with more than 19,000 food pickups and 12,400 meals delivered to homebound recipients. As of January 2022, there have been 16,000-plus food pickups. Same holds true for grab-and-go meals — Continental breakfast and lunch served six days a week and Community Dinner on Friday — with more than 89,000 grab-and-go meals served. Since January 2022, upwards of 72,000 meals have been provided for food-insecure community members.



Family Promise, Keeping Our Families Sheltered

Our Family Promise of Monmouth County (FPMC) program has seen an unprecedented demand in clients needing family, life skills and financial services during 2022 because of Monmouth County's lack of affordable housing.

To afford a two-bedroom apartment in the county, a person must earn \$29.96 per hour (the state housing wage), or \$62,320 annually. The minimum wage in New Jersey is \$13 an hour. Therefore, someone earning a minimum wage would have to work 2.3 full-time, minimum-wage jobs to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Subsequently, FPMC has experienced an unprecedented demand for housing, receiving more than 280 applications

to date, compared to 238 applications in 2021. By the fourth quarter of 2022, Family Promise anticipates receiving approximately 325 applications, a 37.1 percent increase from 2021. To date, FPMC has sheltered more than 56 families, representing 168 community members, including infants and children.

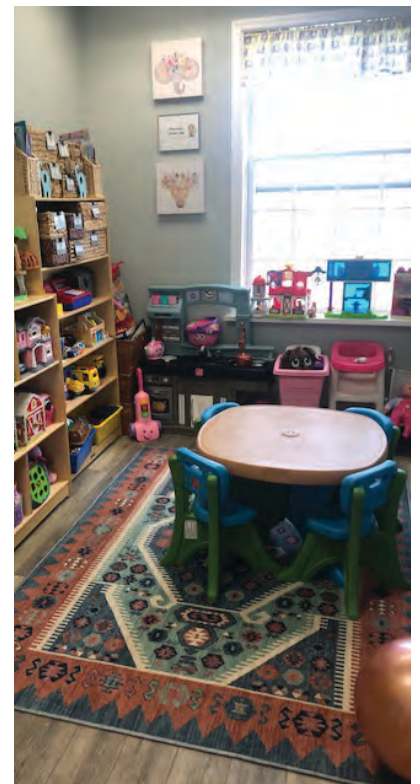
We appreciate our generous community's support as we endeavor to ensure more people receive basic needs — food, clothing and shelter — as well as the option for life skills training and employment and financial counseling, as we work together to break the cycle of hunger, poverty and homelessness in Monmouth County and beyond.



NJ HAS THE 7TH HIGHEST RENTS IN THE NATION

And community members are in need of more help to afford rent. By the fourth quarter of 2022, Family Promise of Monmouth County Program anticipates receiving approximately 325 applications, a 37.1 percent increase from 2021. To date, FPMC has sheltered more than 56 families, representing 168 community members, including infants and children.

Lunch Break & Family Promise of Monmouth County are helping to fill the gap from homeless to home owner. No one deserves to be without a home! Join us in breaking the cycle of poverty. Be an advocate for change!



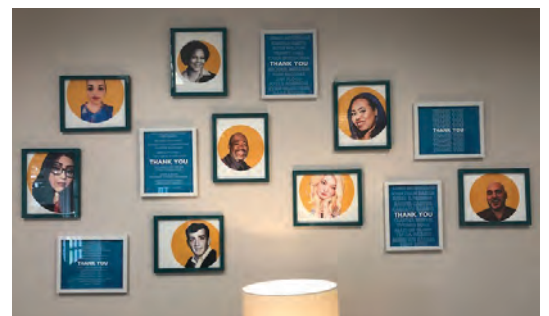
Volunteer Spotlight

Janet Kranis - Homebound Coordinator & Driver

Janet coordinates the home-bound driver's weekly schedule and delivers lunch to our homebound clients. This lovely lady with the beautiful smile has been a Lunch Break volunteer since 2014.

Why do you Break?

"I break to add a ray of sunshine to their lives, and they add the same to mine."



Ranney School students assemble bicycles to donate to our programs.

Welcome to Team Lunch Break

Please welcome our newest Lunch Break family member Intake Navigator Judith Pandi. Judith comes to us with many years of experience in the non-profit sector, namely in the San Diego, Calif., area. Judith recently moved to the East Coast to be near her baby granddaughter and namesake Theo "Jude." She loves her new home in New Jersey — especially the beautiful trees!



Thank you for Sponsoring A Family Holiday Meal Drive

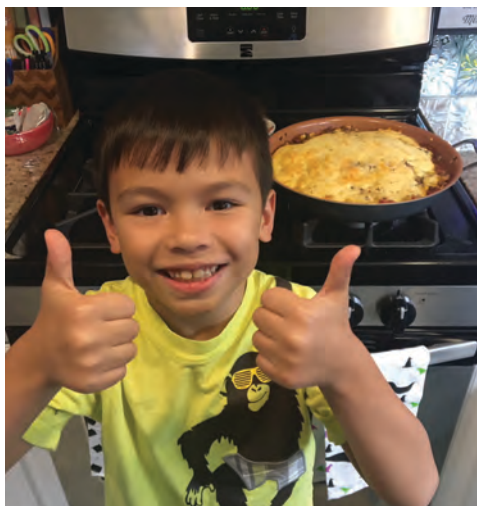
Each holiday season, Lunch Break provides holiday meals for families and individuals struggling with financial instability, unemployment, underemployment and homelessness, as well as for the senior citizens and veterans on fixed incomes, those with disabilities and our homebound residents. This year's goal was to have enough holiday meal fixings for more than 1,000 families, and thanks to our generous community, we were able to meet this goal! We appreciate the support of this vital program!



Tamale Pie is a Family Favorite

Judging by our junior chef's reaction, this quick, one-dish Tamale Pie Skillet Supper was a delicious meal for a busy weeknight. The Children's Cooking Class decided to make this

recipe during a recent virtual session, and our young chef's mother proclaimed his tamale pie was the family's favorite! For the recipe: <https://lunchbreak.org/youth-programs/>



Alliance For Success Update!

Alliance For Success students are making strides, thanks to our community partners! We're excited to share the good news! For information on our Alliance For Success Program for junior and senior high school students, please contact Manager of Youth Services Marcel Quinones, mquinones@lunchbreak.org, (732) 747-8577, Ext. 3011.



AFS Participant Receives Academic Scholarships

Cheers to Red Bank Regional High School student and Alliance For Success (AFS) Program participant Johanna Lopez for receiving several college acceptance letters and scholarship offers!

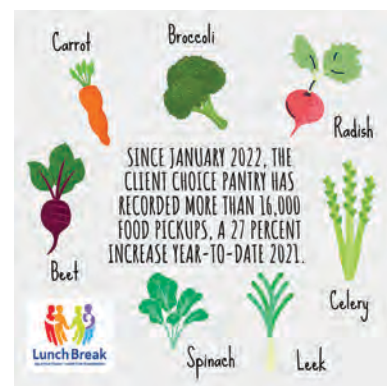


Johanna, among the original AFS members, was referred to the program by her guidance counselor, who recognized her academic potential. Johanna credits her AFS mentor Deborah Reinhard and Youth Program Manager Marcel Quinones with providing incredible emotional support through the college application process.

"Mrs. Reinhard and Marcel were the first people I wanted to share the news with! I am so grateful," Johanna tells us. Good luck to Johanna on her decision! We look forward to following this young lady's academic progress!

Harvest of Hope

We can accomplish so much when we work together to break the cycle of poverty and hunger. Since January 2022, together we provided more than 72,000 meals and enough groceries for more than 16,000 food pickups — that's hundreds of your food- and financially-insecure neighbors. You care and we accomplish. It's that simple. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.





121 Drs. James Parker Blvd.
P.O. Box 2215
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Website: www.lunchbreak.org
Email: info@lunchbreak.org
Telephone: 732-747-8577
Fax: 732-383-8032

Break the Cycle of Poverty with a Gift Today

Scan the QR Code to donate now.



*Thank you for your support:
we couldn't do what we do without you!*

Lots of Holiday Surprises for Our Children

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Toy and Gift Card Drive. Your kindness will bring some peace of mind to our financially-insecure families who, because of your generosity, will be

able to provide presents for their children. You bring so much joy and hope to our families this season!



Non Profit Rate Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 108
Red Bank, NJ
07701



Like us



Follow us (LunchbreakNJ)



Follow us (LunchbreakNJ)