

Notes From The Network

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2024! I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful holiday season. Here at IFPN we are embracing the new year and are very excited about the opportunities we have ahead of us. These opportunities will help us to continue to make great strides and advance toward our vision of a healthy Morris County that is truly food secure.

I begin with some sad news. In August, we lost long-term volunteer and President Emeritus, Russ Hall. Russ was a passionate advocate for those experiencing hunger and homelessness. He was an icon in the Morris County non-profit community and will truly be missed by all those who worked with him on our Board, on the Morris County Continuum of Care, and with the Housing Alliance. His dedication to serving those in need in our community was truly inspirational. Our hearts go out to his daughter Joann and his wife Bev, also a former volunteer.

In 2023, we reached another new milestone in our fight against hunger, distributing 2.1 million pounds of food during more than 39,000 household visits. This is the equivalent of 1.9 million healthy meals! Close to 6,000 senior visits/deliveries were made by our home delivery volunteers, the volunteers and employees from the Morris County Nutrition Program, and by IFPN staff and volunteers in our mobile pantry. These senior deliveries were made monthly to ten senior housing sites located across the county. We also delivered 145,000 pounds of fresh produce, milk and eggs to our ten pantry partner sites, and another 78,000 pounds of food to the County College of Morris, Drew University, Our Promise, JWBS, Head Start, Zufall Clinic and the many other community partners that work with us to ensure

nutritious food is available and accessible to all who need it.

The transition back to full, in-person shopping at our two Client Choice pantries has been a truly empowering experience for our neighbors and volunteers, and we are enjoying our restored sense of community. Having a warm, welcoming environment where our clients feel safe is key to helping us establish trust and open dialogue. These conversations enable better understanding of our clients' needs and identify opportunities to connect them to additional resources.

The new space has also received a lot of attention! We have hosted numerous visits from other pantries, food banks and state agencies wanting to learn how we conduct the healthy choices distribution model. Through our FEAST partners, the Community Food Bank and the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate, we are sharing best practices and collaborating with others to explore the many opportunities that can help enhance our "More Than Food Model".

In conjunction with our opening, our volunteer coordinator, Jayne, has been extremely busy recruiting and training new volunteers. We are excited to share with you that our volunteer team is back to pre-pandemic levels, with 317 dedicated volunteers contributing an astonishing 26,000 hours of their time over 2023. They are truly the heart and soul of our organization, and their unwavering commitment is awe-inspiring. *It is also your support and contributions of food and funds that make all this possible.* You are truly making an impact in our community and we are beyond grateful for your continued partnership.



Current Food Needs*

- ▶ **Parmlat, Other Shelf Stable Milk, Dry Milk** (1 qt. size)
- ▶ **Soups** (hearty, low sodium & condensed)
- ▶ **Side Dishes** (Rice-A-Roni, Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, rice (brown & white), macaroni & cheese, etc.)
- ▶ **Beans** (dry & canned, pinto, red, white, black, pork & beans; No green beans)
- ▶ **Pasta** (1 Lb. size preferred; including whole wheat)
- ▶ **Tomato Products** (sauce, crushed, whole, diced, puree, paste)
- ▶ **Peanut Butter** (15 - 18 oz. preferred)
- ▶ **Cereal** (low sugar preferred)
- ▶ **Baby Food: Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3**
- ▶ **Boost, Boost Glucose Control, Ensure, Glucerna**

* When shopping consider low-salt, low-sugar and gluten-free items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **Friday, April 19: Annual Spring Gala**
Birchwood Manor, Whippany. Details on page 3.
- ▶ **Saturday, May 11: Annual NALC Food Drive**—watch your mailboxes for more information.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 16: Annual Public Board Meeting and Giving Tree Unveiling**

Visit us at www.mcifp.org.



IFPN Happenings

Celebrating The Pantry!

On Monday October 16th the IFPN returned to **Notre Dame of Mt Carmel Parish Hall** to host its 25th annual volunteer recognition event, **Celebrate the Pantry**. The members of **Notre Dame's Food Rescue Ministry** really helped to make the night extra special by providing kitchen support and serving all the delicious dishes our volunteers shared. A huge thank you to the Church and Ministry!

This year we honored 60 volunteers who have achieved milestone volunteer hour awards. We also honored **Delbarton School** as our group Golden Apple recipient. Delbarton has been a huge supporter of the pantry, both through their donations, and their service. Each year their Thanksgiving food drive brings in thousands of pounds of much needed food for the holidays. Throughout the school term Delbarton also sends students to volunteer in various tasks, and they always do them with a smile and a great attitude. We are so grateful!

Our individual Golden Apple award for **Volunteer of the Year**



was given to **Mike Fazio** (pictured left with his award). Mike has been volunteering with IFPN since 2020 and he has become a daily sight in the warehouse. Mike can be found helping with mobile pantry food deliveries, food drive pickups, restocking our satellite location all while still helping with restock and distribution in our main marketplace.

Mike is always willing to step up and fill in wherever help is needed, and we were thrilled to be able to honor him with the Golden Apple award. Thank you Mike and to all our volunteers for your continued effort in helping us achieve our mission each day.

Volunteer Opportunities: Thanks to the expansion of our Client Choice Marketplace and due to the increase in number of new clients, we are currently recruiting volunteers to help during all distribution sessions, but we are particularly shorthanded on **Saturday mornings 10:00am - 12:00 noon** and **Tuesday evenings 6:00pm - 8:00pm**. Also, new programs bring new opportunities. With the return of our nutrition education program and the increase of our gleaning programs from local supermarkets, new opportunities for volunteers are on the horizon. **Interested? Visit www.mcifp.org/get-involved/volunteer** and download an application to get started!

Food Drive Honor Roll

Thank you to all the schools and scout groups who are making a huge difference for our neighbors in need. While we can't list them all, the honor roll for Sept.- Dec. 2023 includes (in pounds, 500+): **Delbarton School**, Morristown, 7,617; **Peck School**, Morristown, \$2,710 & 1,700; **Calais School**, Whippany, 1,623; **Academy Street School**, Dover, 1,588; **Rockaway Valley School**, Boonton, 1,394; **Cub Scout Pack 233**, Morris Plains, 1,378; **Madison High School**, Madison, 883; **Mountain View School**, Mendham, 868; **Red Oaks School**, Morristown, 860; **Oratory Prep School**, Summit, 678 & \$200; **Montville Board of Education**, Montville, 665; **Hanover Board of Education**, Whippany, 641; **Primrose School**, Morristown, 590; **Whippany Park High School**, Whippany, 587; **Frank J. Smith School**, East Hanover, 533; **Primrose School**, Florham Park, 525; **Acorn Academy**, Madison, 507.

Staff News



The IFPN is thrilled to bring on board **Allison (Ali) Geary** (left) and **Diane Celleri** (right) who will be sharing oversight of our Nutrition Education program. Diane has a BS degree in Food and Nutrition and is currently enrolled in a graduate program for Community Nutrition, she also holds a certificate in

Food Safety. Ali has a Master's in Health and Education and BS degrees in Foods and Nutrition, and Kinesiology. Our nutrition education program, sponsored in part by **Atlantic Health**, has been extremely successful in helping our neighbors improve their diets and overall health. Thanks to this program, 85% of surveyed clients, have reported eating healthier. Additionally, our in-person food tastings and cooking demonstrations resumed in December and clients are thrilled.



In October 2023, **Angela Pino** (left) joined our staff as our receptionist, office coordinator and administrative assistant working with our client services team.

Kiley Powell (right), our Education Coordinator, is assuming an expanded role within



the IFPN and will now coordinate all Food Drives in addition to being our community relations liaison.

Recently, **Fernando Gasparoto**, joined our operations staff to oversee inventory at our satellite pantry and volunteers/logistics of our Food Rescue Program, which has doubled in the past year. And lastly, we bid a fond farewell to our Director of Operations, **Jon Schenk**, who retired in November 2023.

IFPN Golf Outing Drives Out Hunger!

The **2023 Annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing** was held on October 2nd at the Mt. Tabor Country Club. All 36 golfers had a



great day and the weather was perfect for a day of golf. Participants enjoyed lunch prepared by Wegmans, cocktails, and dinner provided by Mangiano's Restaurant, plus an 18-hole scramble. While unfortunately no one won the \$5,000 Hole in One contest, prizes were awarded to the top 3 individuals and teams, those closest to the pins on certain holes, and the longest

drives. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and generous sponsors for their support: **Platinum:** ADP, Britcher Leone, and Celebrity Motor Cars; **Cart:** Dixon Energy; **Gold:** GAF; **Tea:** Chrysalis Parma, Lidl and Mount Freedom Printing. We look forward to seeing you again at our next outing!

Pantry Events



Together
Towards
Tomorrow

Birchwood Manor
Whippany, NJ
April 19, 2024
6:30pm to 10:30pm

Come Celebrate with the IFPN at our Annual Spring Gala As We Honor:

Wegmans

Outstanding Partnership Award Recipient

Hank and Jacke Schram

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Award Recipient

Gary's Wine and Marketplace

Community Impact Award Recipient

To purchase Gala tickets, digital program journal ads, 50/50 raffle tickets (see insert as well), Gala sponsorships, make a donation, or to donate a prize for the silent or live auctions, please scan our QR code or visit <http://onecau.se/together2024>



We look forward to celebrating with you on Friday April 19!

Thanksgiving Turkeys Trot to the Finish!



The 2023 Read Feed Run Annual Turkey Trot was held on Thanksgiving morning, with proceeds benefitting **Interfaith Food Pantry Network (IFPN)** and **Literacy Volunteers of Morris County (LVMC)**. It was a cool but sunny morning at Ginty Field in Morris Township, perfect conditions for the over 3,100

individuals who registered to run the 5K, jog or walk the 1-Mile Fun Run or sprint the Kids Trot - burning calories before settling in for their Thanksgiving meals. Atlantic Sports Health led a great warm-up for the participants and then off they went, raising approximately \$50,000 for the IFPN and LVMC each. We couldn't be more appreciative of these funds which will be used to help combat both food insecurity and illiteracy throughout Morris County.

A heartfelt thank you is given to **Atlantic Sports Health**, the official Health Care Sponsor of the Trot, as well as Gold Sponsors **Dixon Energy** and **PBF Energy** for their continuing support of Read Feed Run. We must also make special mention of the generosity of Bronze sponsors **Atlantic Cardiology Group**, **Celebrity Motor Car Company**, **Deloitte**, and **Wegmans**. We are so grateful for all our sponsors and their generous contributions.

A big shout out also goes to all the wonderful volunteers plus the **Morris Township Police Department**, **Morris County Sheriff's Department** and the **Minute Men Ambulance Corp** who ensured the event ran smoothly and safely.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Another Thanksgiving for the Record Books!

We are very grateful for the incredible outpouring of support from the community. We were able to distribute a new record of 2,224 turkeys and holiday bags, plus a variety of healthy, fresh produce to families in need throughout our community. There were so many who made this possible through generous donations of food and funds, coordination of food and turkey drives and amazing volunteer efforts! Though we don't have the space to thank *everyone* here, we do want to mention a few who made a significant impact including our grocery partners **Wegmans** and **Albertsons** (including **Acme** and **Kings supermarkets**), the **Community Food Bank of NJ**, **Morris County Council of Educators Association**, **Lexus of Route 10**, **Delbarton School**, **Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**, **St. Virgil Church**, and **Morris Plains Presbyterian Church**. Special shout-outs to our volunteer labor force including **Langan**, **GAF** (photo right), **Willis Towers Watson**, **McCann Managed Markets**, **BASF**, **Thrive Morris Gives**, **Leadership Morris Alumni**, **Barclays**, **Bayer**, **Mondelez**, **Price Waterhouse Coopers**, and **Marsh**. A special thank you to the **Junior League of Morristown** and **Matt James of Daddy Matty's BBQ** fame, for preparing dinners for our home delivery clients!



Wine Raffle Success! The 2023 IFPN Wine Raffle was the most successful yet, raising **\$17,000!** All proceeds will be used to help provide healthy food to Morris County residents facing food insecurity. **Thank you** to all ticket purchasers who bought chances to win the Grand Prize of 50 bottles of premium red and white wine and champagne, expertly selected by the staff at **Gary's Wine & Marketplace** in Madison, NJ. The Second Place Prize winner won 25 bottles of wine and champagne, and three-Third Place winners took home 10 bottles of wine and champagne. **Congratulations to all the lucky winners!**

Board of Trustees

Meets 7:00pm on third Wednesday of the month

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Jessica Revolorio, client services associate
Jim Silence, mobile program & warehouse support
Steve Stockert, warehouse support
Jayne Wenner, volunteer coordinator

Our Mission

- ▶ To improve the health and well being of Morris County residents in need by providing access to food, nutrition education and related resources.
- ▶ To provide hands on opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors.
- ▶ To educate the public about the issues of hunger in our area.

Hours

Food Drop-off, Tours & Visitors - Warehouse

2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm

Special arrangements by request

Food Distribution - Main Pantry/Warehouse

2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains

The First Four Weeks of the Month Only

Monday through Thursday 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12noon

Food Distribution - Satellite Pantry

190 Speedwell Ave., Morristown

Tuesday 9:30am - 12noon

Wednesday 9:30am - 12noon

Thursday 9:30am - 12noon

Thursday Night 5:00pm - 7:00pm

2023 Statistics

Total volunteer hours donated	26,228
Total staff/group volunteers	317/1,147
Total lbs. food distributed	2,158,841
Total lbs. fresh produce	856,494
Total household visits	39,202
Mobile Pantry Partners	37

Ways to Give

Double Your Donation... Did you know many employers will match donations to non-profit organizations? Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program. A partial list can be found at <https://mcifp.org/donate/donate-funds/>.

Why Planned Giving? Planned giving helps to ensure that the IFPN will meet the needs of our community well into the future and leaves your lasting legacy of caring. Planned gifts take many forms: Bequests, Stock Transfers, IRA Rollover Contributions, Life Insurance, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities. For further info visit <http://mcifp.org/donate/>.
Special Note: When you opt to make a planned gift to the IFPN, we suggest that you seek the counsel of your personal financial advisor, attorney, accountant, banker or insurance professional prior to making the gift.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic delivery of our newsletter, or to be removed from our mailing list. Call 973-538-8049 or email interfaithfoodpantry@mcifp.org

TOO MUCH MAIL? 

Return Service Requested

2 Executive Drive
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

