EVERYBODY DESERVES TO EAT WELL

Our guests’ needs guide everything we do. It’s important to us that we know that our food and services are the very best we can provide. As our Lead Cook, Amir Dawud, recently put it, “everyone deserves to eat well.” In late spring, nourish.NJ staff conducted optional surveys from guests to gather data regarding guest needs, preferences, and demographics. Many guests were eager to give feedback to our team.

Three longtime friends frequently visit our Sussex Avenue location, and it is clear that they look out for one another. Two of the men were immediately willing to contribute to our survey, voicing how much they like the food options at nourish.NJ. The third friend stood apart from the group and appeared withdrawn and hesitant to participate. A staff member approached him and asked if he would also share his opinion. “Everything is beautiful!”, shouted the guest, and the staff member wrote the enthusiastic statement down. When he saw that his opinion was recorded—that his opinion mattered—he proceeded to answer every single question. He really loves the food options too! People want to be heard. At nourish.NJ, we listen.

Thank you to the sponsors, supporters, and volunteers who joined us at Share the Bounty on May 11th to support nourish.NJ’s Campaign to Expand our Reach. We were overjoyed to gather in person at Rockaway River Country Club and unveil plans for our expansion. Thanks to our Share the Bounty donors and attendees, we raised $175,000. With continued future support, we will be able to assist countless numbers of guests with the resources they can use to enrich and transform their lives.

For 20 years my family and I have been proud to be involved with nourish.NJ as volunteers and donors, and we have seen firsthand how the organization has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. It’s a testament to everyone involved that when faced with changing their whole operating model to address COVID-19, nourish.NJ did so without hesitation and without missing a day of providing services. It always amazes me how adaptable the organization is, and how much good is able to get done with such a small staff and a huge number of volunteers.

My family and I know the need for nourish.NJ’s services will keep expanding over the next few years in order to meet the needs of so many, and we’ve decided to continue to increase our financial commitment to the organization, its work, and our community in 2021 and beyond.

In the months and years to come, nourish.NJ will need your support more than ever. Seeing my contributions of time and money fill a need on a local level is a gift. If you’re lucky enough that you can give, consider giving to an organization with a history dealing with crises. nourish.NJ has the vision to address what is happening now, and to also look ahead to find solutions for the future.

When I think of nourish.NJ, three words come to mind: Love, Community, Efficiency.

The Hoffman Family
Our Expansion

Since the start of 2022, the number of people that nourish.NJ serves has increased by nearly 30%. With the price of food continuing to rise, we know that this is just the beginning of an unprecedented demand for services and food. Thanks to the foresight of our Board of Directors, nourish.NJ was already making plans to grow our reach through geographic and programmatic expansion throughout Morris County. We will continue to offer our full range of food and outreach services at our Sussex Avenue location in Morristown and…

at our new 6,000 square foot building that we purchased in Victory Gardens!

Victory Gardens is one of the most densely populated and impoverished municipalities in New Jersey, so we are confident that the community will thrive with nourish.NJ’s services easily accessible to them.

Renovations are underway! Once occupied, we will reach thousands more people each week as we:

- Prepare and distribute twice as many meals to people in need in our large, state of the art, commercial kitchen
- Launch an in-house vocational training program to help guests get back to work or get better jobs
- Expand our Housing Programs to help hundreds more people stay in their homes or find new housing
- Offer 1:1 mental health counseling in both English and Spanish, free of charge, for anyone who needs it

To accomplish our vast expansion plans, we need your help!

Please consider making an additional donation to help nourish.NJ expand our reach. Your generosity will help the thousands of people in Morris County struggling to feed their families, pay their rent, and make a livable income. With your help, we can continue to meet the needs of our guests today, and prepare for the increase yet to come.

**$10,000.00**
- Cover all of our food purchase costs for a week - That’s nearly 1,600 freshly prepared takeaway meals, plus fresh produce, milk and eggs for more than 750 households (FFM 5x/week with about 150 people)
- Send one person through our 12-week vocational training program, where they’ll gain the skills and connections to get a great job.

**$5,000.00**
- Prevent two families from being evicted. There are 500 pending eviction cases in Morris County. Sometimes, all it takes to prevent eviction is helping guests with their rent for a month or two

**$3,000.00**
- Free Farmers Market for 150 households - Cover the cost of all food and staff - We currently run 5 of these each week! (150 households is an average. The senior market is about 50 households, and we’ve had 210 households in Victory Gardens!)

**$1,000.00**
- Prescription medication costs for someone without any insurance (30% of our guests are uninsured, unable to either obtain insurance through an employer or qualify for government benefits)

**$500.00**
- Computer for a participant in our Vocational Training Program

**$100.00**
- Appointment with a mental health specialist for someone with no insurance experiencing a mental health crisis

Thank you in advance for your support. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the lives of our guests and the wellbeing of our communities.