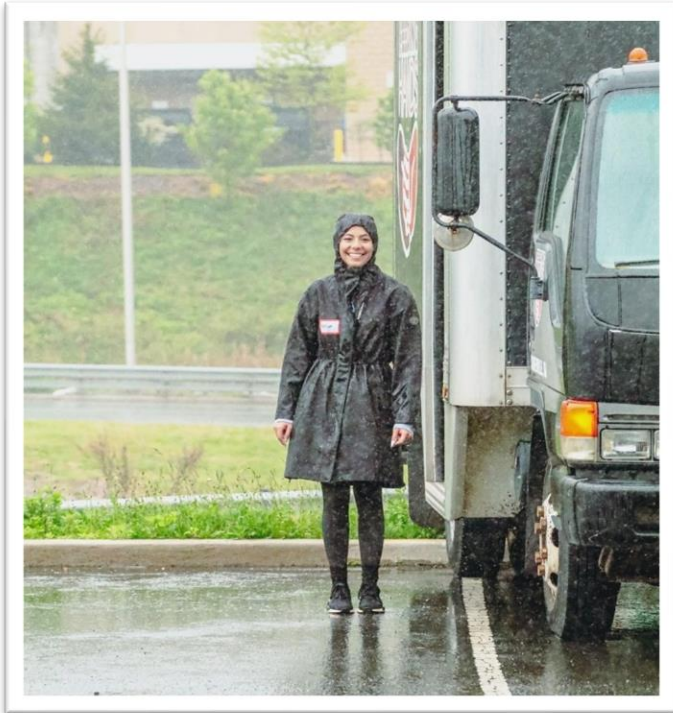




# STRONGER FROM THE STORM



Once again, Feeding Hands rose to meet historic challenges during 2021. As we continued to meet the elevated food needs of families who lost employment, health, and the death of family members to the pandemic, two of our own facilities were lost to the massive flood event that was Hurricane Ida. Despite having lost all our food and supplies in our main distribution location in Raritan and our satellite location in Manville, we never lost sight of our mission to feed our community. Once again, we adapted and innovated to ensure that our existing guests, and the new families impacted by the flood were fed each week no matter our own challenges.

**5+** Feet of Ida flood water destroys main distribution point in Raritan with Manville pantry taking in 7 feet of water.

**4** Different distribution locations for our main pantry after we became “homeless” from the flood.

**3** Pantries distributing from Raritan/Bridgewater, Manville, and Edison.

**2** As in “too many” smiles, tears, words of appreciation from grateful guests.

**1** Amazing team of volunteers, donors, and staff feeding families and changing lives!

**0** Missed days distributing food.

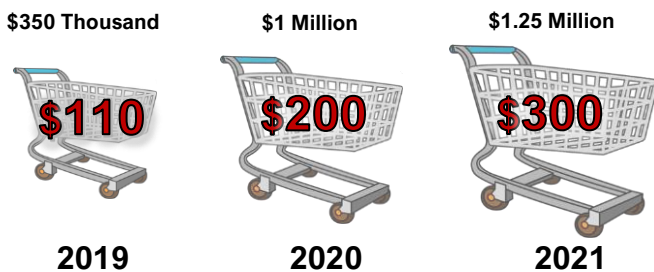
## DISPLACED BUT NOT BROKEN

Our staff and volunteers, some of whom had also endured flood waters in their homes, came without hesitation to assist us in cleaning out tens of tons of debris so we could close our facility. We then worked with other community organizations to distribute from their locations until we could find new space. Raritan Food Pantry and Finderne Rescue Squad provided access so we could distribute food for four weeks in September. The leaders in our Manville location distributed from our trucks out of a parking lot for five months to provide for those in their hard-hit community. We did not miss a single scheduled distribution despite our disaster. Word spread locally and in broadcast media of our resilience in the face of losses, and existing donor partners and new supporters provided both financial and food support to help us recover and meet the need.



Feeding Hands main distribution center after Hurricane Ida

### Total Food Distributed



\*Average Value of Food Provided at Each Family Visit\*

# UNPRECEDENTED IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED

By the time 2021 ended, our small staff of 4 (2 full-time equivalents) and more than 400 volunteers, had distributed a record \$1.25 million of food to assist some of the most vulnerable in our community. We heard from flood and virus ravaged residents that the groceries, the prayers, and the empathy with which we responded strengthened them during their most trying of days. Our core value of Empathy was strengthened by our own experience enduring organizational homelessness as we cared for others who were left in similar personal circumstances.



When Lois, our Executive Director reached the pantry after flood water receded, a Bible was plastered against the inside of the glass door, open to 2 Timothy; the only verse in the Bible that mentions the name Lois. There she found encouragement in the words...

*"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois... I know that faith continues strong in you."*

2 Timothy 1:5

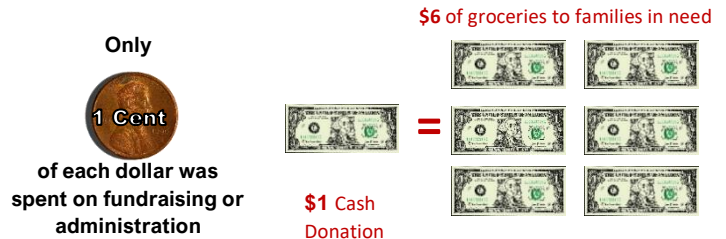


After Hurricane Ida, our volunteers did not miss a beat-even when it meant distributing food from the street!

## READY FOR THE FUTURE

The challenges we have endured have created an even stronger, more resilient organization. We have moved so many times during the past year and a half, we amazed even ourselves. We were able to move our entire facility with its tons of food and equipment and set up in less than seven hours. Internet and support services are transferred. Teams contact all our guests and suppliers to inform them of our new address for their next pick up or delivery appointment. And we are ready to roll once again. That is teamwork!

### Multiplying your Monetary Donations!



We still do not have a permanent location from which to call our home. Real estate in the Somerville, Bridgewater area that is central to our guests and appropriate to our needs and finances is proving extremely difficult to find despite the doubling of our lease budget, but we know God will provide. We ask you to consider how you might support us as we work together to provide a safety net for members of our community who find themselves in need.

Donate by mail at: 601 Route 206 Suite 26-217, Hillsborough, NJ  
Or online at [www.FeedingHandsPantry.org](http://www.FeedingHandsPantry.org)