



# Pivoting and Innovating to Meet Unprecedented Need of the Pandemic

## Connection

FOOD  
2019

188,000 lbs

\$353,000

2020

514,000 lbs

\$1,020,000



FAMILIES



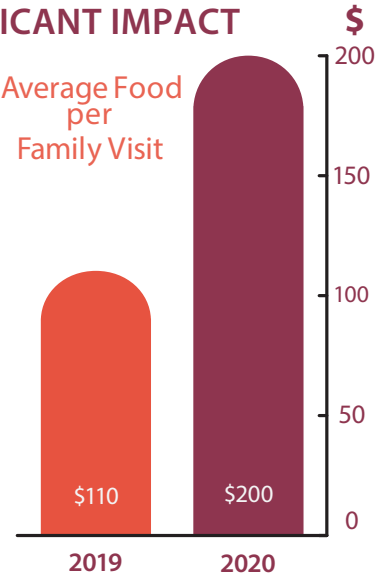
4,949 Families

17,053 Individuals

6,390 Children

## SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

= Average Food per Family Visit



## Stewardship

Only **1 Cent** of each dollar was spent on fundraising or administration

Multiplying your monetary donations!

donations **\$6** of groceries to families in need



\$1 cash donation



## Empathy



464

Thanksgiving Baskets

522

Christmas gifts for children

2200+

Feminine Hygiene Products for women and girls

266

School supplies provided for Children

30,000+

Cleaning products, masks, and personalcare

Over 400 Volunteers Engaged  
In 10,000+ hours of Transformational Service



We are proud of the way Feeding Hands staff, volunteers, and supporters stepped up to the challenge that was 2020. While many organizations in every sector shut down, Feeding Hands did not miss a beat in our mission to feed those who struggle in our communities. We adapted and innovated quickly to prepackage food and move our distribution from inside to curbside without missing a single day of scheduled distribution.

As we piled food on pallets at the curb, we saw firsthand the truth of expression, “There, but by the grace of God, go I.”

## Food to Meet Unprecedented Need

We were challenged by the Community Foodbank of New Jersey, our major supplier to provide more food to 70% for more families. We met the challenge by tripling the amount of food that we handled over 2019 and nearly doubling the average amount provided to each family. Larger families received up to \$350 of groceries per visit. As we piled food on pallets at the curb, the cars in line evidenced the wide impact of the pandemic. In luxury cars which, were previously a rarity at our pantry and cars which arrived with up to 5 families inside, we saw firsthand the truth of the expression, “There, but by the grace of God, go I.” We are all in this world together and no one is insulated from calamity, although for many, the risks are much higher. That is why Feeding Hands exists. To alleviate the stress of those calamities through the engagement of our community members in being part of the solution.

## Volunteers Step Up

The Covid risk and repercussions sent a significant number of our regular volunteers into seclusion at just the time we needed to expand the hands necessary to meet needs. With the help of local community organizations, we restaffed and expanded our family with hundreds of new volunteers who stepped up to lend their hands to our effort to feed. They found themselves blessed to be able to make a difference during a time when so much was out of their control. By the grace of God, and with strictly enforced safety measures, we know of no Covid infections originating from or necessitating the shutting down of our feeding efforts.

## Our Values Sustain Us Through Massive Change

We were able to accomplish this tremendous undertaking because of our commitment to our values... Empathy, Connection, and Stewardship. Our **empathy** meant we could not close, even temporarily, in the face of so much need and fear. We **connected** with the needs of our volunteers to protect their family and reached out to our existing network and to new organizations to fill gaps. We did not hesitate to quickly pivot because our financial **stewardship** and conservative spending plans meant that we had the reserves necessary to create an entirely new model of distribution...not once but twice as we went curbside from tents for seven months and then moved the entire operation to a new winter base as tents became unmanageable in the snow and cold. The foundation we laid in creating a strong organization meant we were there when people needed us most.

## Our Financial and Leadership Strength Set Stage for Crisis Response and Future Innovation

Our donors stepped up as we reached out to them to share what was happening. Their support, along with many new donors, put us in an even stronger financial and leadership position which will help us to innovate further in 2021. Our move of our main operation from Somerville to Raritan was only 1.9 miles but many of our regular guests, challenged by a lack of transportation could no longer reach us. We realized that we need to bring the food into new communities in a hub and spoke model rather than requiring them to come to us. This is our focus for 2021 and we hope you will accompany us on this journey to strengthen the food safety net for today's need and whatever the future may bring. We ask you to consider becoming a monthly donor to ensure a steady stream of funds to provide for a steady stream of those who are hungry. We appreciate you sharing your gifts and prayers with us as we work together to engage individuals, churches, and businesses in addressing the needs of poverty...even unexpected, temporary poverty like that which took us all by surprise in 2020.