



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

OUR MISSION

TASK feeds those who are hungry in the Trenton Area and offers programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life.



DEAR FRIEND OF TASK,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I present to you TASK’s annual report. Your generosity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed TASK to continue to provide food and vital services to our neighbors.

Versatility, collaboration, and support have always been part of TASK’s work. So, when the COVID-19 pandemic exponentially increased demand for food in a matter of weeks, the soup kitchen was able to make changes to meet the demand. Our dedicated staff consistently use their creativity, commitment and caring to adapt to ongoing changes in this landscape.

VERSATILITY... TASK has always provided meals-to-go. Whether they were set aside for patrons who missed the regular meal service or packaged for delivery to community partners feeding people closer to where they live, the TASK meal-to-go has been a staple. This existing infrastructure helped TASK make a quick transition from in-house, sit-down dining to a take-out model that has continued patron access to the same nutritious meals they enjoyed before the crisis.

COLLABORATION... The same to-go meals routinely distributed for years to our community meal sites (formerly known as satellites), have made their way to new neighborhoods through collaborations. These partnerships – some old, some new – have extended food access specifically to more children, families, and elderly.

SUPPORT... TASK has always been willing to pitch in and help its partner organizations as it did this summer with donations of provisions to food banks and pantries experiencing pandemic-generated shortages. This effort not only provided TASK with a way to feed people outside its norm of a cooked meal, it supported a group effort to meet immediate and emerging needs in a variety of communities, including households facing food insecurity for the first time.

The impact of COVID-19 and national social unrest, both highlighting racial inequalities, was a call for TASK to add...

ADVOCACY... While TASK has always been at the forefront of fighting hunger and every day works to individually lessen inequality and provide opportunities, it was time to take our advocacy to another level. An Advocacy TASK Force was formed in June; now Board of Trustee members and staff meet regularly to discuss what TASK can do to increase awareness of inequities and break down barriers that hold our patrons back from self sufficiency and an improved quality of life.

All of us do not know exactly what will happen in the coming months, but I know that, together, we can continue to turn hunger into hope. We can’t do it without you!

Joyce E. Campbell
Executive Director

A NEW CHALLENGE

TACKLING HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY IN THE TRENTON AREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BROUGHT NEW CHALLENGES INCLUDING ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR FOOD.

NJ is Projected to See a Greater Increase in Food Insecurity than the US Average or Neighboring States.



This represents a projected increase of more than 425,000 in New Jersey– including 165,000 children.

4 in 10 individuals
being served by food banks are
new to charitable food assistance.

TASK is serving
90%
more meals than last year.

Food Insecurity in Mercer
is expected to grow

50%

OUR COVID RESPONSE



250,000
Meals prepared
and served



Feeding 600
vulnerable seniors
each day



Over 20
community meal sites
received food



100,000 Pounds
of food distributed
through local pantries



25,000+
Face Masks
distributed



500 patrons
received case
management support



SERVING MEALS

In March, TASK suspended the use of its dining hall and transitioned from an in-house, sit-down meal service to a take-out style service that has provided meals wrapped airtight to ensure safe and sanitary distribution.

To keep pace with growing meal counts, we added a meal packaging machine, food processors, warmers and insulated carriers to increase efficiency.

Working with existing and new community partners, we expanded our reach in a time of emergency to a variety of neighborhoods that included households that were vulnerable to hunger pre-pandemic and those facing food insecurity for the first time.

We also donated 100,000 lbs. of supplemental food to support community partners and address pandemic-generated shortages at area food banks and pantries.

SERVING PEOPLE

TASK’s quality life and self-sufficiency programs found creative ways to maintain relationships with students and patrons while eliminating new barriers brought on by the pandemic.

While food continues to be served from the front door, TASK’s patron service team has continued to distribute essentials such as soap, water, and facemasks.

TASK’s Adult Education and Work Preparedness program leveraged technology and moved online providing students with computers, software, and internet access to help them stay on course with job searches and academic and personal pursuits.

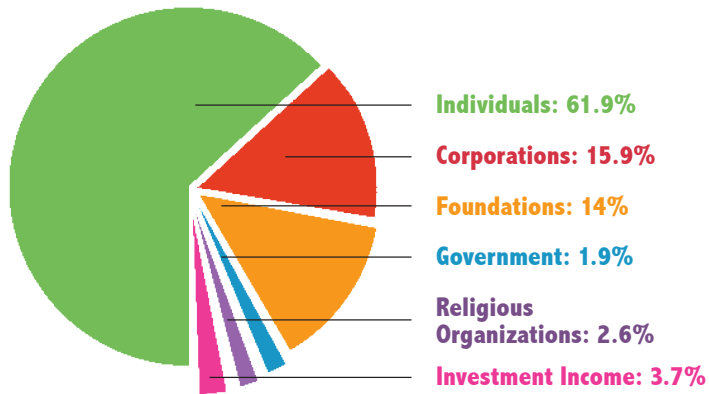
Our on-staff case managers have purchased a few cell phones for our patrons to borrow to connect them with medical care and other social services during the pandemic.

SERVING COMMUNITY

TASK has never faced a crisis of this magnitude or scale and recent events have forced us to confront the reality that the economic burden of the pandemic is not one that is equally shared. Advocacy is essential to the success of our mission. That is why we have added our voice to stir awareness to causes such as the 2020 Census, inequality on several levels, and anything that directly affect the people we have committed to serve.

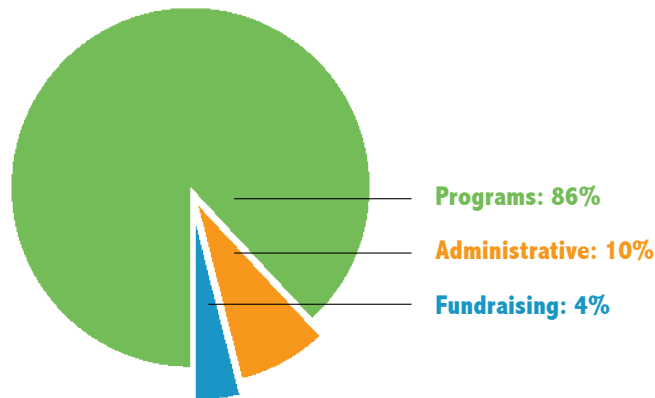
..... SERVING MEALS ON YOUR BEHALF

INCOME*



TASK relies on individual donations to put food on the table and help folks get back on their feet. Your support allows TASK to feed everyone who comes to the soup kitchen. Committed to carefully managing all donations, for the past eighteen years, TASK has received the highest four-star rating by charity navigator, the leading independent evaluator of charitable organizations in the United States.

EXPENSES*



*Financials are based on most recent available audit. Our full audited financials are available at trentonsoupkitchen.org.



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