

**The pandemic brought its WORST.
YOU brought your BEST.**



Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Community Impact Report

Here's How YOU Helped Fight Hunger During The Pandemic

OVER HALF A MILLION HOT MEALS

We served 10,000 meals a week at the height of the pandemic – a 70 percent rise in production! Our superpower? TASK's amazing kitchen staff whose output surged despite the loss of volunteer help.

22 COMMUNITY MEAL SITES RECEIVED FOOD

NEARLY 400,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED TO LOCAL PANTRIES

DRIVE-THRU EMERGENCY FOOD EVENTS

TASK partnered with RISE to host three mass food distributions that benefitted thousands.

600 SENIOR MEALS PREPARED DAILY

Throughout the pandemic, TASK prepared meals to help keep homebound seniors safe from COVID-19.

3,500 LOCAL RESTAURANT MEALS PURCHASED EACH WEEK

TASK put funds donated BY the community to work FOR the community by purchasing meals from pandemic-strapped restaurants in Mercer County. Sustain and Serve NJ grant funds helped TASK expand this program.

Some of the Lives You've Touched



"I'm going to be 81 and I never thought I'd be in this situation. It's really something with everyone helping everyone else."

Veteran who attended TASK/RISE event



"I'm a single mother. I have two teenage kids. The money that I had for food I can now use to buy something for my kids, so I'm very thankful!"

Mother who attended TASK/RISE event



"I'm grateful to TASK because I'm not working right now. It helps that I don't have to buy food so I can pay my rent. Everyone is always nice to me."

Dining Room patron, Escher Street



"It's been a very difficult, terrible year. In the beginning of the pandemic, we had to lay off half of our people, but because of the Sustain & Serve NJ program, we called them back to work. We practically devote the operation to serve TASK."

Ricardo and Carlos Ramos, Mexican Mariachi Grill in Hamilton

How Far Did Your Gift Reach?

Last year, thanks to an extraordinary outpouring of support from donors like you, TASK rapidly scaled up meal service to meet a historic hunger crisis that is widely expected to outlast the pandemic.

TASK now delivers takeout-style hot meals to **22 community partner sites** across Mercer County and even into Pennsylvania.



ENDING HUNGER STARTS WITH EVERYDAY HEROES LIKE YOU

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen knows that food alone won't solve the hunger crisis. That's why we've created pathways to empower our patrons through self-sufficiency programs that improve the quality of life for those we serve.



TASK feeds body, mind and soul

The pandemic may have temporarily suspended sit-down meal service in our Escher Street dining room, but that didn't stop our mission-driven program staff from finding new ways to enhance the well being of our soup kitchen patrons. We distributed 25,000+ facemasks, hosted three vaccination clinics and met virtually with thousands of patrons to help them find housing, get IDs, look for jobs and further their dreams of gaining a high school diploma. Our trauma-informed art, music and creative writing programs continued to provide a sense of community via Zoom and outdoors when the weather permitted. We handed out countless hygiene bags filled with essentials like soap, toothpaste and water, and partnered with the Rescue Mission of Trenton to open a warming center during the harshest months of winter. In July, we began a phased reopening of our dining room and launched a new peer recovery program to support patrons struggling with addiction.



The Crisis Is Not Over!

Right now, 1 in every 12 New Jersey residents, including 400,000 children, don't have enough to eat. This fall, we are renovating our kitchen to expand our capacity to address the hunger crisis in our community and ensure that anyone who needs a free meal can get one from TASK - no questions asked.



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Your Support Has Never Mattered More

If you are in the position to help, please consider making a donation to TASK today.

Visit www.trentonsoupkitchen.org
to learn more.

TASK
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