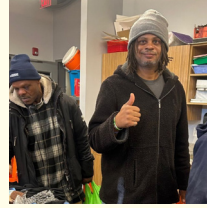


Serving More Meals Than Ever Before

TASK's 2024 Community Impact Report



MORE THAN 600,000 MEALS SERVED
TASK's meal service reached historic highs in 2024!



OVER 6,500 hats, gloves, scarves, hoodies, ponchos, handwarmers and clothing vouchers handed out



OVER 11,500 MEALS distributed weekly at more than 40 sites in NJ and PA



14,349 HYGIENE KITS (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) distributed



93,950 SENIOR MEALS



865 TOYS and other gifts brought holiday cheer to children and adults



31,500+ MEALS TO CHILDREN



OVER 1,250 FAMILIES received Thanksgiving-at-home baskets or freshly prepared holiday meals



TASK's mobile soup kitchen is currently serving **OVER 730 MEALS EACH WEEK** at six sites in the city of Trenton



23,331 HOURS of volunteer help in TASK's Escher Street dining room



TASK couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers! Our entire operation relies on a strong network of big-hearted people who come to TASK in the spirit of giving back. Our volunteers serve meals, distribute to-go food, support donation drives and assemble utensil packets and brown bag lunches for those in need. The kindness shown by our incredible community is why our diners call TASK an "oasis" and "a second home."

To learn more about volunteering, visit trentonsoupkitchen.org/get-involved



Your Kindness Makes Hope Possible



People come to TASK because they are hungry, but they stay because our meals offer hope and the possibility of a new beginning. Besides meals, TASK helps individuals obtain ID, secure jobs and housing, advance their education and build self-esteem through workshops in art, music and writing.

TASK's case management, education and employment programs are foundational initiatives that offer vital support to help lift our neighbors out of hunger and poverty. Ours is a holistic model of care and collaboration that has helped many to achieve self-sufficiency. Thanks to your generous support, 2024 has been a year of transformative impact.

Case Management, Education and Employment Programs

- Some **4,847 individuals** took advantage of TASK's programs and services in 2024.
- Our case management team spent hundreds of hours helping **1,395 people** with a broad array of social services.
- Case managers connected nearly **150 people with housing referrals**. TASK also helped 29 patrons find behavioral health or addiction recovery assistance.
- TASK remains the lead agency providing identification services in Mercer County. In 2024, TASK helped 979 people get the documents they needed to secure **1,269 pieces of ID**. Without proper identification, individuals can't get a job, apply for housing, enroll in school or obtain basic benefits such as healthcare and food assistance.
- TASK held **27 hiring drives** that drew **233 job-seekers**.
- More than **70 individuals landed jobs** in 2024 with TASK's assistance.
- Some **54 businesses** partnered with TASK's workforce development team, including Amazon, Grounds For Sculpture, NJ Transit, UPS, Capital Health, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton and the City of Trenton.
- **792 hours of volunteer tutoring** helped 45 students move closer to their dream of obtaining a GED or other educational goals.

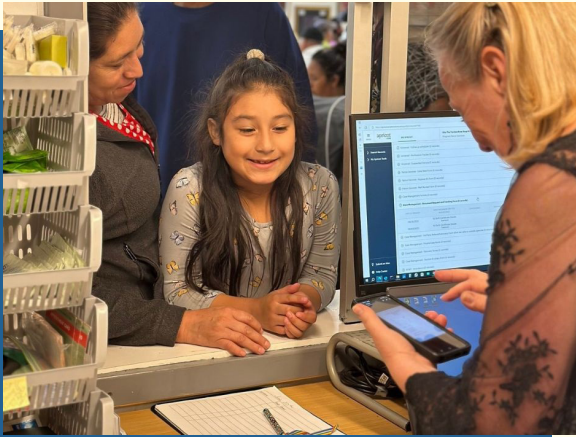




A Culinary Academy for a Fresh Start

Emilio's Culinary Academy offers more than just cooking lessons—it's the pathway to a future in the culinary arts. This free 10-week program, designed for nontraditional students facing challenges like housing instability or past trauma, provides hands-on training in a professional kitchen. Students gain industry certifications, culinary and soft skills and receive wrap-around support, including case management and assistance with transportation and housing. With daily stipends and workforce training, TASK ensures students graduate with the skills and resources needed for a stable career.

- 29 graduates total, including 14 in 2024.
- Local business partners include: Constellation Culinary Group, Princeton University, Sodexo, 1911 Smokehouse BBQ and Cooper's Riverview.



Patron Services: Providing Practical Support & Compassionate Care

Our Patron Services window distributes essentials like hygiene kits, reading glasses and socks, along with coats, gloves, blankets and handwarmers to help people stay warm in winter. We offer mail collection services for diners experiencing homelessness. We provide a quiet space for folks to make phone calls. We even celebrate birthdays! TASK goes the extra mile to ensure our guests are valued and cared for. These small acts of kindness contribute to a stronger sense of belonging and self-worth, helping individuals weather difficult times and feel more connected to their community.

- 717 birthday cakes gifted in 2024 to TASK diners – big and small!

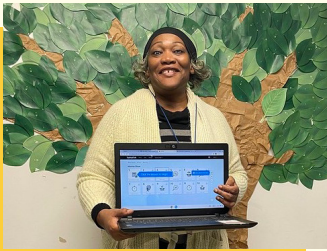


A Community Service Hub @ Escher Street

TASK's Escher Street dining room boasts a separate room for community partners who offer a wide range of services including tax rebate workshops, voter registration, vaccine clinics and wellness information from various healthcare and social service partners. Diners can also sign up for free cell phones and tablets.

TASK's Programs Help People Thrive, Not Just Survive

TASK's diverse programs and services are thoughtfully designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals in the greater Trenton area. We offer a variety of opportunities for personal growth, creative exploration and the development of meaningful connections. From arts and digital literacy initiatives to cultural enrichment activities, TASK creates a supportive environment that brings people together and nurtures a sense of belonging. Our goal is to empower individuals to build a better tomorrow by fostering a stronger, more connected community.



Closing the Digital Divide: Empowering Lives with Technology

For many of our neighbors in need, the inability to use basic technology is a barrier to essential opportunities—whether it's applying for jobs, completing schoolwork or accessing vital services. TASK's Digital Literacy Program provides hands-on classes that teach everything from basic computer skills to advanced software training. By equipping individuals with the skills they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world, TASK helps open doors to greater opportunities in education, employment and personal development.

- Some 52 students participated in TASK's digital literacy program.
- Seven cohort-based programs were offered in 2024.
- 30 students received laptops upon graduation.



Cultural Enrichment Opportunities @ TASK

- **Grounds For Sculpture** – invitation to attend "Night Forms" exhibit
 - **Isles** – provided transportation to Grounds For Sculpture
 - **Passage Theatre** – invitation to attend a performance of *Alma*
 - **McCarter Theatre** – invitation to attend a dress rehearsal of *A Christmas Carol*
 - **The Rick Fiori Jazz Quartet**, through funding provided by the New York Jazz Foundation, performed for the TASK dining room 8 times – getting toes tapping and heads bopping to classic tunes ranging from Duke Ellington to Miles Davis.
- Each year, TASK organizes **special field trips** for our community. Last June, 52 participants, including select soup kitchen staff, took a trip to Washington, D.C., where they explored one of four museums: the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. TASK kitchen staff prepared special takeout lunches, and everyone had a wonderful time!

Previous adventures have included touring a Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibit in NYC, along with excursions to the Pine Barrens, Bass River State Forest and Howell Living History Farm.

Igniting Transformation Through the Arts



Creative expression heals and inspires. At TASK, our arts programs offer unique opportunities for self-discovery and growth. Through visual arts, writing and music programs, individuals find a safe space to explore creativity and build confidence. Whether in jam sessions, art workshops, writing groups or on “open mic” nights, participants transform their experiences into art and gain recognition for their talents.

- 81 individuals participate in our weekly arts programs.

Arts Program Partners



- **Capital City Farm** (hosted multiple creative writing sessions)
- **Princeton Academy of Art** (advanced drawing class)
- **Grounds For Sculpture** (intensive ceramics course, gallery space and free admission to special exhibitions)
- **Trenton Community A-TEAM (TCAT)**, a nonprofit organization, collaborates with TASK to offer help and find exhibition opportunities for artists who wish to sell their work.

2024 Highlights



Summer exhibition at Grounds For Sculpture, June 29-August 25, 2024, “*Philotechnic Transformations*,” featured paintings by TASK artists.

2024 Trenton Film Festival: a short documentary about TASK’s arts and other programs called, “A Meal Can Change a Life,” won an “audience favorite” award at the May 18, 2024 screening in the Mill Hill Playhouse.

Scan QR Code to view TASK’s short doc, “A Meal Can Change a Life.”



TASK’s house band, the FunkTASKtiks, performed at TASK’s annual community BBQ, Artwork’s Art All Day event and on National Night Out in Cadwalader Park.