



MEETING THE MOMENT

The Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors

INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS KNOWS ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, BUT THAT MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN MONMOUTH COUNTY STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER, AS:

- >> Children go to school hungry,
- >> Families are unsure where their next meal will come from,
- >> Seniors have to choose between food or medicine, and
- >> Families are unaware of nutrition and its importance for better health.

FOOD INSECURITY

In Monmouth County, more than



**44,000
PEOPLE**
face food insecurity.

(Source: Feeding America)

9,000
are children.



17% OF NJ SENIORS



are
food
insecure.

(Source: Meals on Wheels)

Building a just and equitable community demands action to improve access to healthy food, eradicate food deserts, and create educational programs that promote nutrition and healthy living.



Every day, more than **1,100 meals** are prepared and delivered by Interfaith Neighbors' Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in Monmouth County.


The state-of-the art kitchen to be built at our new Marmora Family Community & Education Center will mean more nutritious meals delivered to more seniors than ever before.

And Meals on Wheels means more than food for the body. It feeds the spirit with face-to-face visits that combat isolation, providing connections for seniors who face hardships including loneliness, declining health, disability and financial strain.

FOOD ACCESS


Access to healthy food is part of the challenge in underserved communities. So is being able to afford it. We know in our area of service, food insecure households are forced to make choices no families should face.

MORE THAN 3/4 OF FOOD INSECURE FAMILIES IN NJ ARE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PAYING FOR




FOOD


OR



HOUSING

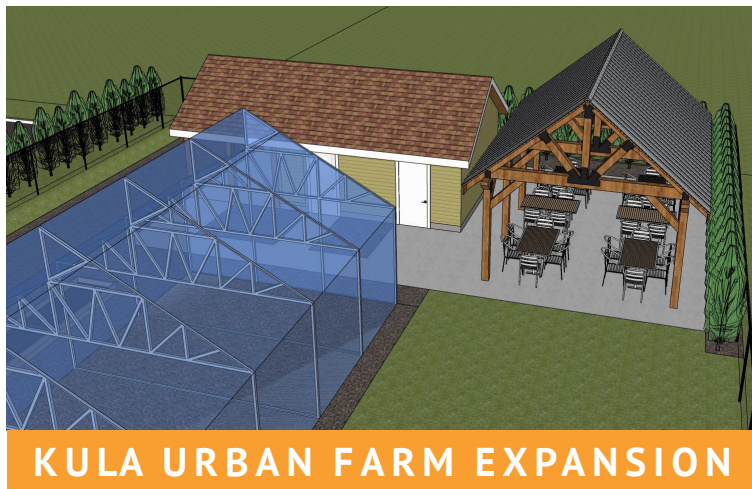



HEAT & UTILITIES



MEDICAL CARE

Choosing between paying for food or paying for housing, heat and utilities or medical care is a harsh reality for many food-insecure families in New Jersey. (Source: Fulfill)



We are addressing these issues literally from the ground up, by expanding our Kula Urban Farm, a social enterprise where healthy food is grown, strengthening the community's economy and improving lives. The Farm also provides on-site job training, educational programming and yields fresh produce that is sold to support operations, but provided free to those in need.

The next generation of the Kula Urban Farm will involve purchase of an adjacent vacant parcel of land, allowing us to: expand our hydroponic growing operations; expand seasonal farming beds; and build a three-season pavilion to host our community workshops and educational initiatives, including STEM programs for area youth. And, by renovating

and expanding an existing storage facility on the site, we'll be able to create a catering kitchen and add a restroom to grow our successful Farm to Table dinner events.

Healthy habits start with knowledge and empowerment. The expanded educational and health care programs from our Farm to the new Family Center are key to making sure MEETING THE MOMENT makes great strides in addressing issues that have plagued the community and its residents.

From our youngest children to our senior citizens, Interfaith Neighbors is committed to ensuring nutritious food is available and that the necessary information to make healthy choices – and access to those resources – are available for all.