

Food Bank Network of Somerset County 2025 Annual Report



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Industrial Park)
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www.somersetfoodbank.org
732-560-1813



**The Food Bank
Network of
Somerset County**

FOOD BANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Mission Statement:

The mission of The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is to distribute food and to provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in our community in a manner recognizing and advancing self-worth and human dignity.



When a Community Comes Together, Hunger Loses

Every day in Somerset County, families are making impossible choices.

A parent stands in the grocery aisle, calculating whether dinner can stretch another night.

A senior skips meals to afford medication.

A child tries to concentrate in class while wondering if there will be food to eat this weekend.

Hunger doesn't always look like an empty cupboard. Often, it looks like a neighbor who works full-time, a grandparent on a fixed income, or a child whose potential is quietly slipping away.

At **The Food Bank Network of Somerset County**, we exist to make sure hunger does not define anyone's future. For more than four decades, we have been the backbone of hunger relief in our community—connecting food, resources, and hope to tens of thousands of people each year through a trusted network of local partners. But the truth is: **we cannot do this work alone.**



2025 Annual Report

In 2025, as budget cuts and a 40-day government shutdown deepened food insecurity across Somerset County, the Food Bank Network responded without pause.

- Expanded our satellite pantry network
- Increased client visits from 32,236 to 37,955
- Grew our Backpack Program to serve 1,900 children in 29 schools
- Distributed more than 2 million pounds of food

2025 Impact Numbers

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Client Visits	11,472	22,525	26,788	32,236	37,955
Backpack Program Recipients	660	1200	1500	1700	1900
Pounds of Food Distributed	900,000	1.2 million	1.9 million	2.2 million	2.3 million
Total Revenue (\$\$ & In-kind)	\$2.8 million	\$2.9 million	\$4.5 million	\$5.2 million	\$6.3 million



“*Ami persona me ayudado muchísimo soy madre soltera y gracias adiós aesa ayuda q me brindan mis hijos no cafés en tanto de alimentos porke es una gran ayuda para mí y mis hijos*

(“This program has helped me a lot. I’m a single mother, and thanks to God and the help they provide, my children don’t lack food, because it’s a great help for me and my children)

Client, Sept. 2025

Wrap Around Services: Addressing the Whole Person

When someone walks through our doors, they are facing more than lack of food. Food insecurity is rarely just about food — it is fear, confusion, and not knowing where to turn. This year, we saw what happens when someone feels truly supported. We helped a woman file her taxes with an ITIN when she thought it wasn't possible. We walked beside someone for nearly two years on their journey from homelessness to stable housing. We helped a single mother access SNAP alongside WIC, giving her family breathing room and stability.

The real barrier is rarely willingness — it's access to trusted guidance.

Wrap Around Services means we don't just provide food and say goodbye. We stay. We listen. We help untangle complex systems. And when clients are ready, we step back — because they have regained the confidence to move forward on their own.

This is what compassion, partnership, and persistence can do.

Dominique Cousin, MSW Social Worker, Manager of Empowerment Services

Resources Categorized

Number of clients met with re: SNAP Submitted: 45/ Potential applicants: 155

Referrals to others food pantries: 67

Number of clients met with re: wrap-around services: 200

Number of families helped with free & reduced lunch applications: 92

Food Related Resources: 309 resources provided

Utilities: 125 resources provided Healthcare: 62 resources provided

Employment: 61 resources provided Housing: 78 resources provided

Senior Services (OOA/Disability): 39 resources provided

Legal: 20 resources provided

Behavioral Health System Navigator: 15 resources provided

Substances & Harm Reduction: 16 resources provided

Transportation: 35 resources provided

Inquiry to Social Services: 13 resources provided

ANCHOR: 5 resources provided

Childcare/Youth Services: 18 resources provided

Volunteer Services: 5 resources provided. Clothing: 10 resources provided

Tax Services: 5 resource provided. Holiday Gifts: 4 resources provided

Veteran Services: 5 resources provided ALICE fund: 2 resources provided

2025 Annual Report



**The Food Bank
Network of
Somerset County**

Food Procurement & Management

- Sourcing, sorting, and storing nutritious food items 2.3 million pounds of food for distribution
- Daily distribution at the main pantry (serving over 210 households five days a week)
- Saturday distributions from satellite pantries
- Distribution of personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and school supplies

Client Engagement Growth

- 26,788 client visits in 2023
- 32,236 visits in 2024
- 3,366 new clients in 2025, 37,955 visits
- Average of 75 pounds of food per visit
- approximately 1,800 pounds per household annually

Program Reach & Food Distribution

- Serving over 17,000 individuals at risk, including seniors, disabled residents, veterans, unemployed/underemployed families, and those experiencing homelessness
- Wraparound (non-food) Services
- Backpack Program Supplemental food packages - weekly distribution to 1,900 students in 29 schools

Impact

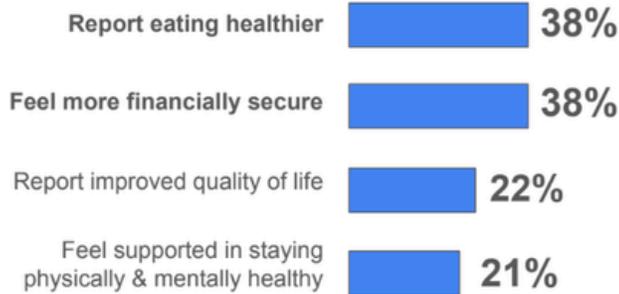
- A healthier, more resilient Somerset County community with lasting reductions in food insecurity; Improved quality of life through enhanced nutritional health, economic stability, and supportive community networks
- Long-term benefits that contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty, reducing chronic health issues, and enabling children to achieve academic and personal success

FBNSC is a stabilizing presence in Clients' lives



What Clients are Saying

>90% of clients reported a positive benefit of using the FBNSC, specifically:



"Helps to survive in this time where saving money is important to survive and use that money for other expenses such as bills for water, electricity, rent."

"Providing healthy fresh food"

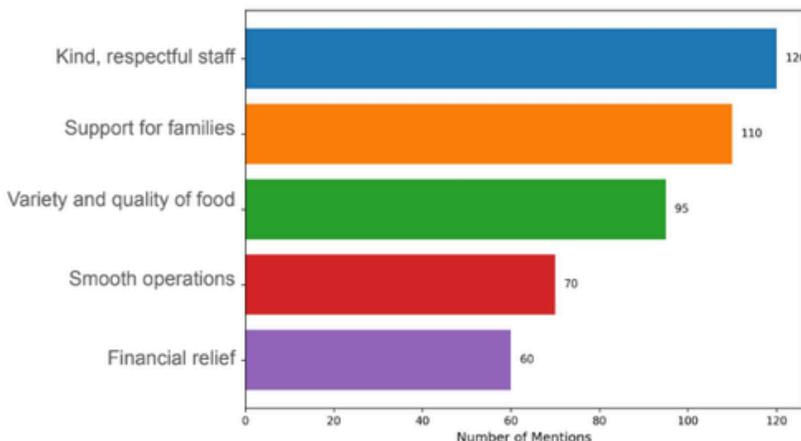
"Saves money and gets food for home. I have something to eat today, tomorrow and it helps me to afford other expenses such as paying bills."

"Te dan comida que en verdad te llena y dura por meses y Ademas la nutricion es excelente" They give you food that truly fills you and lasts for months, and the nutrition is excellent.

Clients value dignity, respect - ahead of food



Top Themes (from open-ends)



What Clients are Saying

"They are very kind. They are great already, kind staff, and very compassionate".

"The people are the best staff, and the food quality is excellent"

"The staff is extremely friendly and great food products".

"They are very nice people, helpful and most importantly respectful".

Our Board of Directors

THE FOOD BANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY



Gordon White III,
President



Michael Mahoney,
Vice President



Sumita Saini,
Treasurer



Cress Dominic,
Secretary



Pastor Dan Fenco,
Member at Large



Chris Yen, Member at Large



Bryan Watkinson,
Member at Large



Bob Uccardi,
Member at Large



Kiran Kathari,
Member at Large



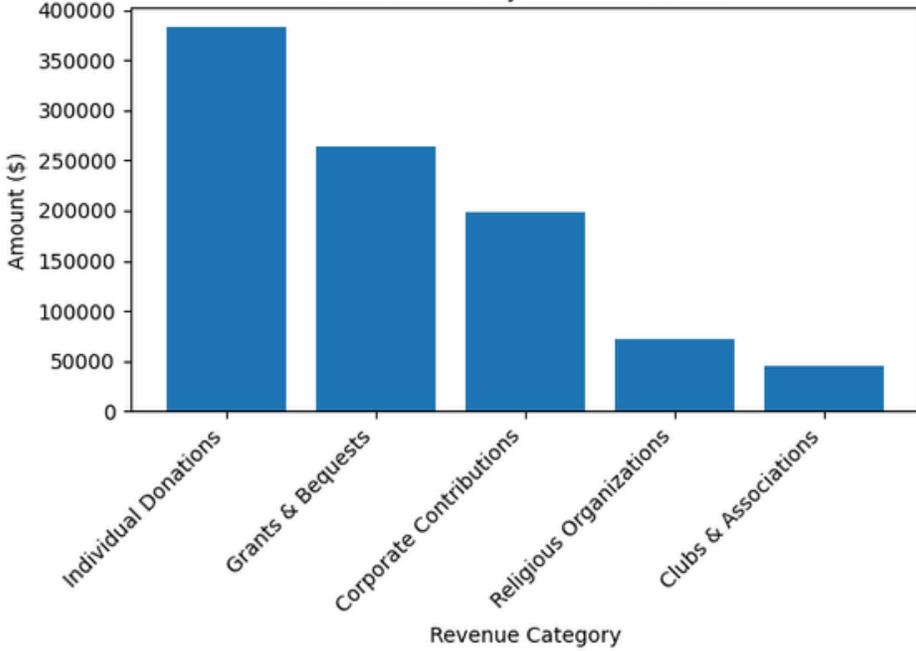
Monica Martinez Milan
Member at Large

The Board of Directors for The Food Bank Network of Somerset County, NJ, serves as a volunteer leadership body that plays a crucial role in guiding the organization's mission and operations. Their primary responsibilities include:

- **Strategic Oversight:** The board provides strategic direction to ensure that the Food Bank effectively addresses food insecurity in Somerset County.
- **Governance and Accountability:** They uphold the organization's commitment to transparency and ethical practices, ensuring compliance with legal and financial standards.
- **Resource Development:** Board members often assist in fundraising efforts and community engagement to secure the necessary resources for the Food Bank's programs.
- **Support for Staff and Volunteers:** While the day-to-day operations are managed by professional staff, the board supports these efforts by leveraging their expertise and networks.

**THE FOOD BANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY
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2025 Income by Revenue Source

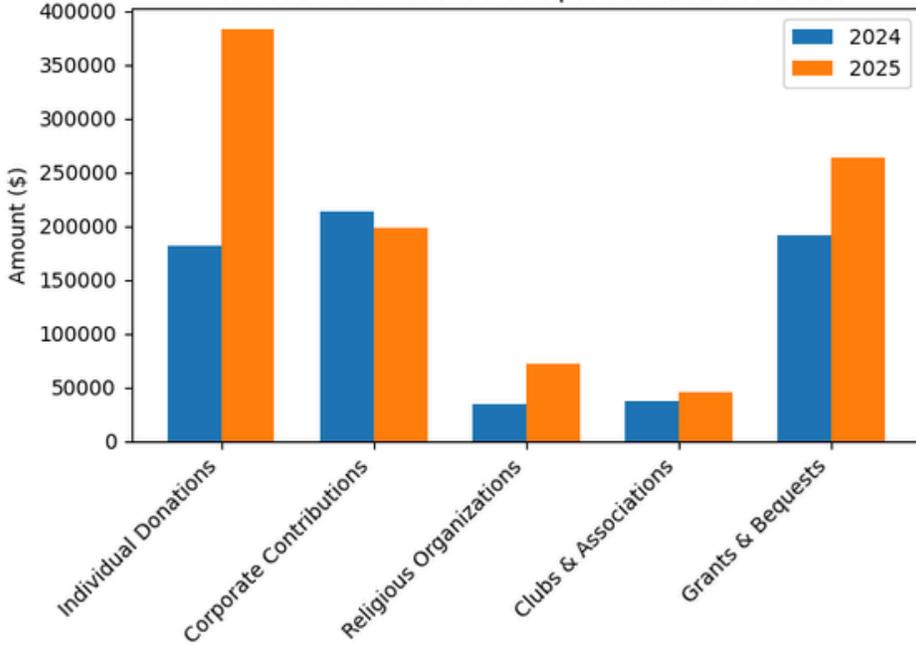


2025 Income Distribution Summary

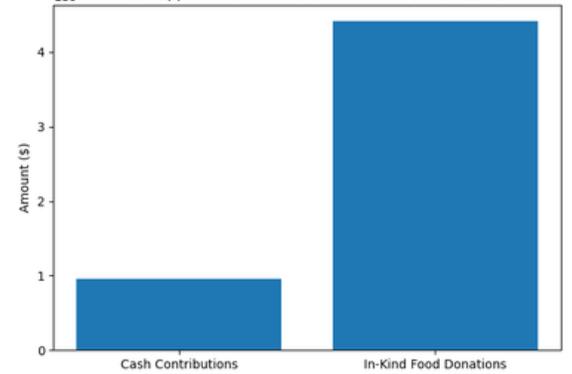
Individual: \$382,821
 Grants/Bequests: \$263,681
 Corporate: \$198,806
 Religious: \$71,629
 Clubs/Associations: \$45,183

Food Donations: \$4.416 million

Year-over-Year Revenue Comparison (2024 vs 2025)



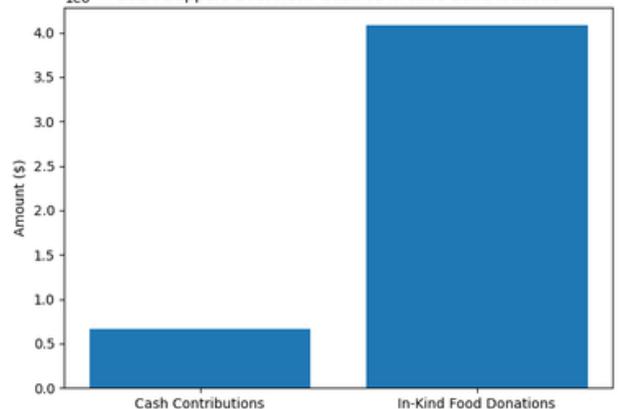
2025 Support Overview: Cash vs In-Kind Contributions



**YEAR OVER YEAR
2024 INCOME DISTRIBUTION
SUMMARY**

INDIVIDUAL: \$182,258.11
 GRANTS: \$191,662.99
 CORPORATE: \$213,814.47
 RELIGIOUS: \$34,288.37
 CLUBS/ASSOCIATIONS: \$37,242.46
 FOOD DONATIONS:
 \$4,083,268

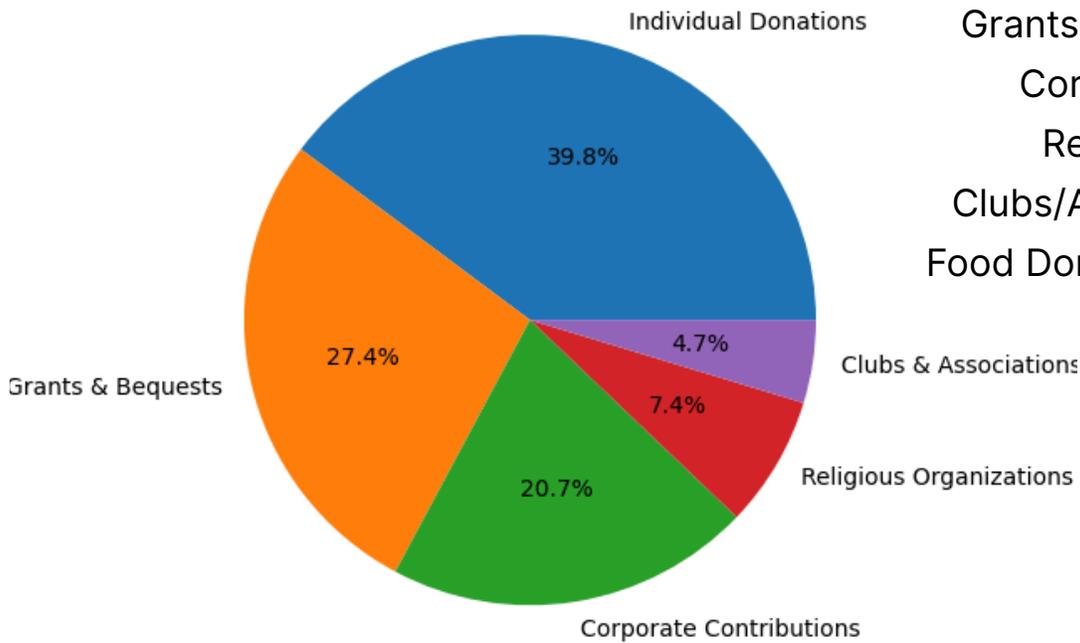
2024 Support Overview: Cash vs In-Kind Contributions



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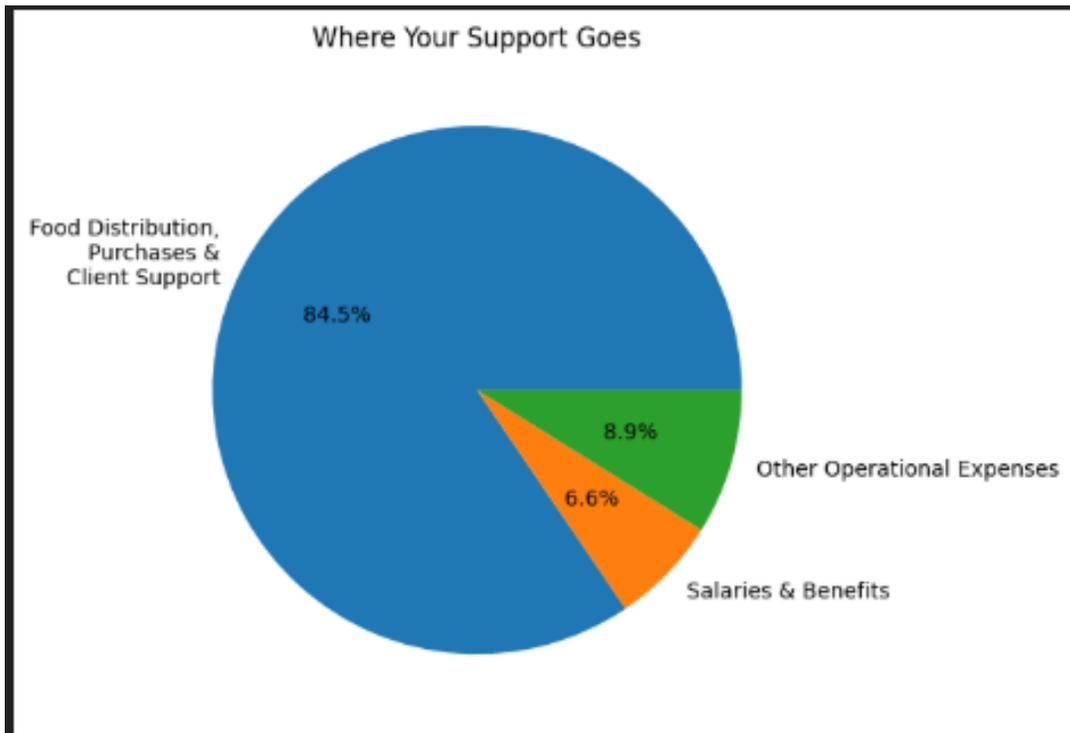
INCOME AND EXPENSES

2025 Income Distribution by Revenue Source



Individual: \$382,821
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 Religious: \$71,629
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 Food Donations: \$4.416 million

Where Your Support Goes



Food Distribution, Purchases, & Client Support: \$4,290,312
 Salaries & Benefits: \$337,163
 Other Operational Expenses: \$451,366

Why Corporate and Community Partnerships Matter



2025 Corporate & Community Volunteer Program and Food Drives

IMPACT Numbers

47 Corporate Company Group Engagements

22 Community Group Engagements

902 Corporate & Community Volunteers at average 2-3 hours each

Total Corporate Volunteer Hours for 2025: 2,706 hours of service

of Corporate & Community Food Drives 52

Corporate & Community Food Drives Total Poundage: 10,800



Lisa Marie Arieno, Director of Development & Group
Volunteer Engagement: lisamarie@somersetfoodbank.org

Warehouse & Pantry Service Locations

1. Main Facility/Warehouse Pantry:

7E Easy Street (at Middlebrook Crossroads Industrial Park),
Bound Brook, NJ **Hours: Monday– Friday (9:00am–2:30pm)**
Thursday Evenings: (5:00pm—8:00pm)

2. St. John’s Lutheran Church (Basement):

108 W. Union Ave, Bound Brook, NJ
1st and 3rd Saturday of every month: 10:00am—1:00pm

3. Vermeule Center:

11 Vermeule Place, North Plainfield, NJ
1st and 3rd Saturday of every month: 9:00am–11:00am

4. Faith in Action Church:

228 South Main Street, Manville, NJ
2nd Saturday of every month: 9:30am—12:30pm

5. Our Lady of Mercy Church:

122 High Street, South Bound Brook, NJ
3rd Saturday of every month: 9:30am–12:30pm

6. Raritan Pantry:

25 East Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ
2nd Saturday of every month: 9:30am –12:00pm
4th Tuesday of every month: 4:30pm–7:00pm

7. VA Lyons Pantry:

Building 143, 1st Floor, Lyons, NJ
3rd Monday of every month: 9:30am–12:30pm
For more information please call: 732-560-1813

Our Numbers are Rising

Client Engagement Growth

- 26,788 client visits in 2023
- 32,236 visits in 2024
- 3,366 new clients in 2025, 37,955 visits
- Average of 75 pounds of food per visit
(approximately 1,800 pounds per household annually)
- Average of 281 new clients per month
(compared to average of 188 in 2024)
- 4.2 million pounds of food distributed
(up 2 million since 2024)
- 1,900 children/29 schools enrolled in the
Weekend Backpack Program (up 125 kids/25
schools in 2024)

These numbers are more than statistics—they highlight how food insecurity remains a persistent challenge, even in communities that appear affluent and stable, like Somerset County.

These numbers highlight why continued financial support and volunteer involvement from our generous neighbors across the community remain so essential.

Scan the QR code to explore ways you might support our mission, either by volunteering your time or making a financial gift.

