Food for Thought

Summer 2026



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The B.E.A.T. Center is a one-stop hub for hope in Ocean County, home to Fulfill's People's Pantry, Toms River warehouse operations, Resource Connections and Community Impact teams, and JBJ Soul Kitchen.

27 Million Meals and Countless Lives Changed

Fulfill & JBJ Soul Foundation Celebrate 10 Years of The B.E.A.T. Center

The story of The B.E.A.T. Center began long before its doors opened. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, neighbors across Ocean County came together to care for one another, and the People's Pantry was born. That spirit of community inspired a bigger vision: a place where families could find not only food, but hope, support, and opportunities to build a brighter future. With the generosity of founding supporters including OceanFirst Bank and Foundation, The Grunin Foundation, The Tepper Foundation, the Wintrode family, and many other dedicated community partners, that vision became reality. Ten years later, The B.E.A.T. Center continues to be a place where neighbors come together and lives are changed.





Over the past decade, The B.E.A.T. Center and its affiliated programs have helped provide nearly 27 million meals to neighbors across Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Families have found fresh food at the People's Pantry, children have received healthy meals throughout the summer, and individuals experiencing homelessness have received more than 450,000 prepared meals through Fulfill's culinary kitchen. Since opening in 2016, JBJ Soul Kitchen's Toms River location has welcomed every guest with dignity, serving more than 90,000 meals regardless of a person's ability to pay.

The impact extends well beyond food. Fulfill's Resource Connections Team has helped secure more than $15 million in SNAP and affordable healthcare benefits, while approximately 150 graduates of the Culinary Arts Training Program have launched meaningful careers. More than 200,000 volunteer hours have helped make every success story possible. Every meal served, every opportunity created, and every life touched reflects what can happen when a community comes together. As we celebrate ten years of The B.E.A.T. Center, we're grateful to everyone who helped build this lasting community resource, and excited for all that is still to come.



fulfill MONMOUTH & OCEAN HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

THE JBJ SOUL FOUNDATION
JBJ SOUL KITCHEN
Community Restaurant

fulfill PEOPLE'S PANTRY



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
Ken Tierney, People's Pantry

Volunteer Ken Tierney has been a volunteer with the People's Pantry from the start. He was planning to begin volunteering with Fulfill (then the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties) in advance of his upcoming retirement as an educator. Hurricane Sandy changed those plans. In the aftermath of the storm, Ken volunteered with a new pantry being formed, called the People's Pantry. Eventually, his plan to volunteer with Fulfill came to fruition when when the founding organizers of the pantry handed over operations to Fulfill, bringing his plan full circle. Fourteen years later, Ken continues to show up for his neighbors. Week after week, he greets visitors with a smile, offers a helping hand, and provides the kind of consistency and compassion that helps make the pantry feel like a welcoming community.

Speaking at the recent ten-year anniversary of The B.E.A.T. Center, Ken shared how volunteering has enriched his life and strengthened the community, reminding us that giving back truly changes lives, both for those receiving help and those who serve. His story is a testament to the lasting impact one dedicated volunteer can have over time. Fulfill is honored to shine a spotlight on Ken Tierney, who has brought his light of kindness, compassion, and care to countless individuals over the years.

Food Drives Needed!

Make a difference in your community by hosting a food drive

Summer is one of the toughest times of year for local families facing hunger, and right now, the need is rising while food donations are declining. Community food drives have slowed significantly, leaving our shelves in need of support. You can help make a difference by hosting a food drive. Every non-perishable item collected helps provide meals for neighbors in need. Ready to get started? Visit fulfillnj.org/food-drive or contact Valerie Mahon at vmahon@fulfillnj.org.





Partner Spotlight: OceanFirst

OceanFirst Bank and OceanFirst Foundation, headquartered right in Toms River, were partners from the start in the establishment of The B.E.A.T. Center, providing one of the first leadership level donations that make the center a reality. Over the years, the bank and foundation have been true partners in fighting hunger at the Jersey Shore. Ten years after that leadership level gift for the launch of The B.E.A.T. Center, OceanFirst again provided a leadership level gift towards Fulfill's Path to Plenty Campaign to Fill the Healthy Food Gap, continuing their commitment to supporting our local community.

Boots, Bands, & Big Impact

Shore To Rock Hunger raises more than $270,000 to help nourish neighbors across Monmouth and Ocean Counties



On a beautiful spring evening at The Barn at Laird in Colts Neck, hundreds of supporters gathered for Fulfill's annual Shore to Rock Hunger benefit, proving once again that when our community comes together, extraordinary things happen. The country-themed event welcomed community leaders, volunteers, advocates, business partners, and donors for an evening of live music, great food, and a shared commitment to ensuring local families have access to nutritious food. Thanks to the incredible generosity of attendees, sponsors, and supporters, this year's event raised more than $270,000 to support Fulfill's mission of building food security across Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Guests enjoyed live entertainment from After the Reign and inspiring stories highlighting the impact made possible through community support. The evening also honored several champions whose dedication continues to strengthen our region: NJ Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Neptune Senior Center, The Citta Foundation, and Donald Norkus.



"Shore to Rock Hunger is more than a fundraiser—it's a celebration of the partnerships, volunteers, advocates, and supporters who make our work possible," said Fulfill President and CEO Triada Stampas. Funds raised will directly support Fulfill's network of nearly 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, and community partners, helping provide food and essential resources to more than 150,000 neighbors each month. Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, volunteered, or donated to make this special evening possible.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our First Annual Jersey Shore Hunger Build is on Sunday, November 15th

Ready to build for a cause? Register your team for the inaugural Jersey Shore Hunger Build, where creativity meets community impact! Teams will design and build amazing structures made entirely of canned and boxed goods, all to help fight hunger in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Stay for a cocktail reception and vote for your favorite creation. Learn more and sign up at fulfillnj.org/events.



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