

Our New Life Food Pantry served 8,477 people throughout 38 NJ communities in 2016. We hope and plan to continue to serve the growing number of those in need, especially those who do not qualify for other social services. Our unique program provides for those who may otherwise fall through the cracks. We serve families, elderly people, the homeless, Veterans, single parents and individuals who fell on hard times or are struggling with addiction. Patrons can come from any town and are given the opportunity to select the items they want rather than given a pre-chosen bag. This not only saves resources but provides a sense of dignity as the experience is more like “shopping” than a hand out.

In addition to non-perishable foods, personal care items, fresh produce, bread, dairy and frozen foods, we provide job search and resume assistance, clothing, medical screenings and vaccinations, nutrition education, food stamp and utility assistance, counseling and prayer [if requested].

We are currently housed in two rooms and 2 hallways under St. George’s Church. The increased number of pantry patrons has made our current space inadequate. Our goal is to acquire a separate building for the food pantry. This would not only provide a safe and steady flow through the pantry, but it would also provide us with much needed storage. We receive and store perishable and non-perishable foods that are distributed to our patrons, used for our free Community Dinners and shared with local churches for their soup kitchens.

The new building would also include a separate resource area for free computer use so patrons can search jobs, apply online for social services, look up doctors and dentists who provide free care and work on resumes. We would have a private room for our patrons to receive counseling and health screenings. Ideally it would also have a larger gathering space for our patrons to wait for their turn indoors [out of the elements] while enjoying refreshments. This larger space could also be used for our free Community Dinner and nutritional demonstrations as well as providing space for the Summer Meal Program which helps ensure kids have healthy meals once school lets out.