



Freehold Area

OPEN DOOR

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



www.faopendoor.org

732-780-1089



**ESTABLISHED
1987**

OUR MISSION

**OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN NEED**



OUR SERVICES

We meet our clients where they are, address their immediate needs, and provide support as they develop skills to become self-reliant.

Food Pantry

Advocacy Program

Educational Programs

www.faopendoor.org



WITH GRATITUDE

Looking back on 2024, we thank our generous supporters and talented partners and volunteers behind each and every moment of impact and reason to celebrate. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made, and continues to make, our mission possible. Throughout our history, the local community has helped provide food and nourishment to more than 350,000 people in the local Freehold area.

Thank you for making our work — and this impact — possible, for being by our side, and for helping us finish 2024 strong. We have only the highest of hopes for 2025.

OUR PARTNERS

Aldi

Amazon

Battleview Orchards

Costco

Crumbl

Fulfill

Lidl

Salvation Army

Target

TEFAP - USDA

Trader Joe's

United Way - EFSP

Wawa

Wegmans



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Neighbors,

Since 1987, Open Door has been committed to helping our neighbors, providing them with the support and resources they need to thrive. It's an honor to reflect on the progress we've made over the years - and to share the journey of the past few years with you.

I joined Open Door in 2018 with two simple but ambitious wishes: to have our own vehicle and to expand our space. Today, I'm proud to say that we've successfully realized the first goal—thanks to the support of our partner, Fulfill. Our beautiful Open Door van is now on the road, allowing us to pick up fresh and nutritious items from our retail partners. This includes bakery goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, cheeses, prepared meals, and much more. Our shopping list model has expanded to include a wide variety of choices, offering families the power to select what works best for their needs.

While we've achieved our goal for the vehicle, we are still working towards expanding our space. This is a dream that remains within reach, and we are excited about the progress we're making toward that goal. With this expansion, we will be able to serve our community even more effectively, providing even greater resources for our neighbors.

So often, those who come to us feel powerless in many aspects of their lives. Our goal is to give them power in this space. By offering choice, dignity, and respect, we are not just providing food—we are empowering individuals and families to make decisions about their lives. This should be easy, and it is, because when we meet people where they are, we create a space of trust and support: we can Be The One.

As we continue working toward our larger home for Open Door, I am filled with confidence. We are committed to being a safe and reliable resource for our neighbors. Whether it's food, emergency funding, educational programs, or other support they may need, we are here to help.

I am deeply thankful for the ongoing support of our community and the tireless work of our volunteers; they are the beating heart of Open Door. Without them, none of this would be possible.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we are making a difference—one neighbor at a time.

With gratitude,
Geralyn Fraggetta-Drury
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

There have been times in each of our lives when we have needed a helping hand..... when “someone” reached out and shared their time, talents, or treasure to help us through a rough spot. Your generosity allows Freehold Area Open Door to “Be the One,” the one who provides that support, who helps our neighbors deal with food insecurity, finds support services, enrolls in an after-school program, helps

pay for utilities to prevent homelessness, even at times provides small scholarships for higher education.

Each month we support over 3,500 of our neighbors with the basic necessities of life. Whether they need a three-day supply of food, a week’s supply of food or even a month’s supply of food our “doors are open” to them. If they need a free after-school program to support their children, help finding social services, or help with the rent our “doors are open.”

I invite you to come sit in the Throckmorton parking lot any Monday through Thursday morning and watch as donors arrive in their personal vehicles having picked up donations from our local partners like: Fulfill, Wegmans, Whole Foods, Target, Aldi, Battleview Orchards, and Wawa, just to name a few. You will see carloads of food enter the back door, be sorted and go right out the front door to our neighbors.

Our community partners and your generous donations make this possible. Our mission partners provide donations that allow us to purchase things like milk, eggs, diapers, wipes, and toilet paper, so our neighbors don’t go without.

On any given day you will see our dedicated volunteers, who do everything from our drivers who pick up donations and deliver them to Open Door; our volunteers who sort donations and pack boxes of food; our front of the house volunteers who greet our clients, create a welcoming environment and help them navigate the daily food offerings. They all give of both their time and talents to support our community.

We are proud to have you as part of our community, and your support inspires us to continue our work and mission. Please know that your generosity is not only deeply appreciated but also makes an invaluable difference. Thank you for all you do to support our mission of keeping the “door open” for any community member who needs that helping hand.

With deep thanks,
Victa C. McKenzie
President

FOOD PANTRY OUR REMARKABLE IMPACT

In a world where hope sometimes feels scarce, stories of extraordinary kindness and generosity emerge to remind us of the boundless good that humanity is capable of. Among these inspiring tales is the remarkable achievement that Open Door food pantry distributed an astounding 1.6 million pounds of food to help over 40,000 people in 2024. Providing support to over 3,000 people facing food insecurity each month is both a significant challenge and a profound opportunity to make a positive impact in the community. The numbers alone are awe-inspiring. Picture 1.6 million pounds of food—equivalent to 800 tons—distributed to families, seniors, and individuals in need. This mountain of sustenance not only filled empty cupboards but also brought comfort, dignity, and peace of mind to those who might have otherwise gone hungry. Behind these impressive figures lies the dedication of countless volunteers, donors, and staff members whose tireless efforts made this achievement possible.

With as much as we have accomplished our work also serves as a call to action. There is still much to be done in the fight against hunger, but this story proves that when we come together with a shared purpose, the results are nothing short of transformative. Here's to a future where acts of generosity like this inspire us all to create a world where no one goes hungry.

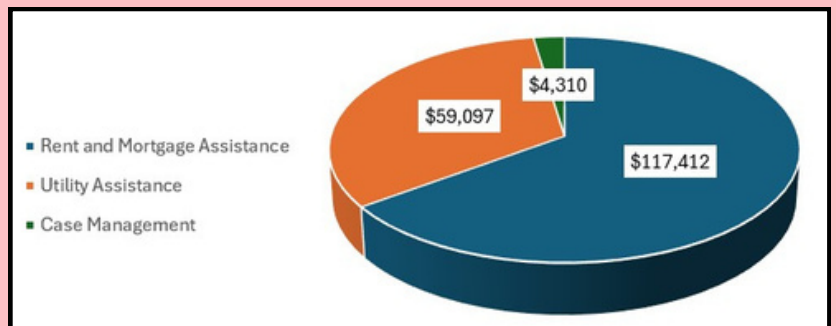


ADVOCACY: EMPOWERING STABILITY



In 2024, our Advocacy program provided a lifeline to hundreds of families and individuals, distributing over \$180,000 in assistance to 269 households. This effort was not just about numbers—it was about stability, hope, and rebuilding lives. Our Advocacy program focuses on three main areas, rental assistance, utility assistance and case management.

2024 ADVOCACY DISBURSEMENTS



Behind the program's success is our dedicated social worker, Erika Woods, MSW. She leads a team of advocates, caseworkers, and selfless donors who worked tirelessly to turn financial aid into meaningful change. Their collective efforts demonstrate that when communities come together with a shared purpose, they can achieve extraordinary results.



DELIVERING HOPE

If getting to us is tough, our home delivery program makes sure you still get the food support you need—right to your doorstep, with care.



Our Advocacy Team consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that individuals like Stacey—and others who are homebound due to age, disability, or chronic illness—receive the essential items they need to live with dignity and comfort. From food and toiletries to household necessities, our team delivered these critical supplies regularly, often becoming the only point of contact for some clients throughout the month.

These efforts go beyond logistics—they are lifelines. Each delivery is a testament to our commitment to holistic care, addressing not only physical needs but also alleviating isolation and enhancing quality of life. Through partnerships with Fulfill, our retail donors, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers, our social workers provided unwavering, compassionate support to those who needed it most.

This work is a reflection of our mission in action: meeting people where they are and ensuring that no one is ever left behind.

Be The One

HOPE THROUGH HARDSHIP

AMBER'S STORY

Freehold Area Open Door not only gives out food to those in need, but we give people a sense of hope and dignity. We'd like to tell you the story of Amber.

One morning, Amber walked into our pantry, her shoulders heavy with the weight of the world. She came seeking food, but as we handed her the items, she hesitated for a moment before quietly asking to speak to someone on the staff.

In a soft, wavering voice, Amber shared her story. She is a single grandmother, living in a small, impersonal motel room—her only refuge after losing her home.

Life had turned upside down when her daughter was recently detained, leaving Amber to care for her young granddaughter. Despite the sudden responsibility, she was determined to make her granddaughter feel safe and loved, even in such difficult circumstances.

Then, almost timidly, Amber asked if there was any chance we could help with more than food — perhaps some sheets, towels, or even something she could use to cook meals. Her request was a reminder of the sheer resilience it takes to keep going when every day feels like an uphill climb.

Thanks to the generosity of our amazing partners, Amazon and Target, we sometimes receive non-food donations. This time, we were able to provide Amber with a double-burner hot plate and a new set of sheets. As we handed her these items, her eyes filled with tears, and her voice broke as she said, "Thank you for listening and helping me."

Her gratitude was palpable, and in that moment, we were reminded of the profound impact even small acts of kindness can have. It's not just about meeting basic needs—it's about giving people like Amber a renewed sense of hope, dignity, and a reason to keep moving forward.





Our Leadership

Geralyn Fraggetta-Drury....Executive Director
Erika Woods, MSW.....Advocacy Director
Alyce Meyers.....Pantry Coordinator

Board of Trustees Executive Committee

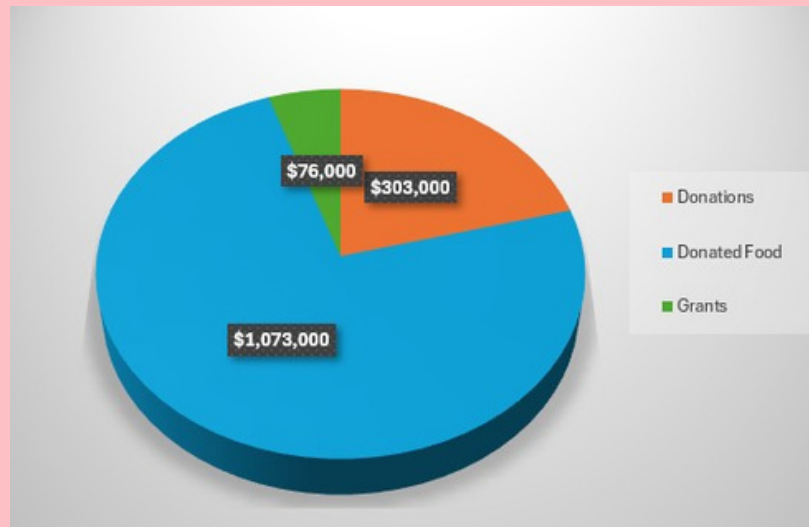
Victa McKenzie.....President
John Crescenti.....Vice President
Rebekah Heilman..... Recording Secretary
Mimma Finger.....Corresponding Secretary
Adewale Akinrinde.....Treasurer
Fred Berenbroick.....Financial Secretary



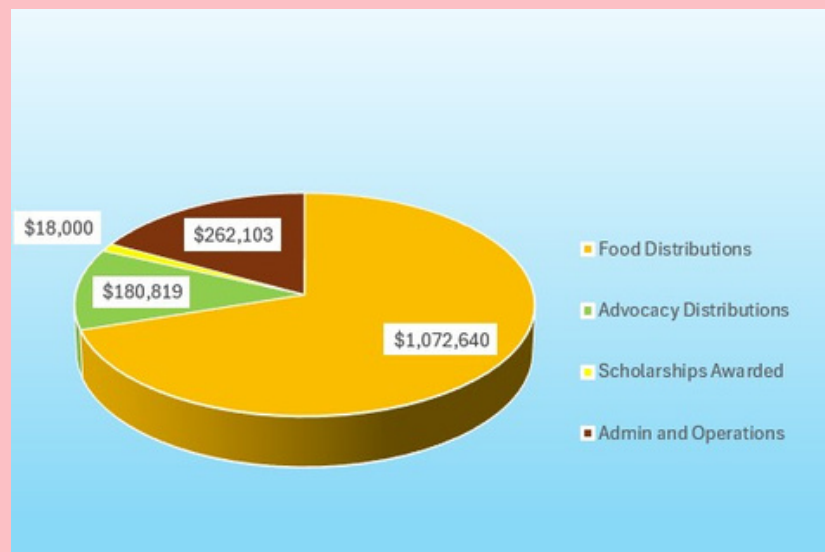
2024 KEY STATISTICS

People served	40,116
Pounds of food distributed	1,602,057
Total volunteer hours	875
People assisted with rent, utilities, and case management	631
Scholarships awarded	10

2024 REVENUE



2024 EXPENSES



2025

From the beginning, it's been our mission to solve food insecurity in the local Freehold area. When we set out on this journey over 35 years ago, we were a grass roots group, serving about 1,000 people in 1987. In 2024 we served over 40,000 people.

Since 1987, Freehold Area Open Door has assisted over **350,000** people. Although it's a massive achievement, it's too small a dent in the ongoing food insecurity crisis. There is a clear need to continue the hard work of executing our programs of collaborating with local partners to providing food and housing assistance for everyone in the community – and to do so at a faster and more efficient pace.

Please join us as we continue our mission to help feed the hungry, to keep people in their homes, and to help them navigate the social services system. Many of our clients and neighbors are facing rising food prices, rising rent and utilities and we don't always have enough to meet their needs. In the last four years many of our former donors have become clients. We humbly ask for your help and support however you can.

- \$25 provides a week of meals for a family of 4.
- \$25 helps cover utility bills for a struggling household.
- \$50 ensures fresh produce and staples for two families.
- \$50 contributes toward emergency rent or mortgage payments.
- \$100 sustains four families for an entire week.
- \$100 provides critical assistance to keep a family of 4 safe in their home.

Whatever you can donate, your donation helps keep our “**doors open**” and allows us to “**Be the One**” who on your behalf reaches out to help our neighbors and our community.

If you would like to join us in our mission, visit our website www.faopendoor.org to look for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.



2025

