



CM ANNUAL REPORT



2011



• HUNGER PREVENTION

Heart-healthy foods and nutrition education that's accessible to low-income families.

• HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Housing stability with back rent, mortgage, security deposit, and utilities assistance.

• WORKFORCE TRAINING

Prepares men and women to re-enter the workforce with refreshed skills and guided job search.



A BRIEF LOOK BACK AT 2011 ...

Sharon Jackson moved into a **NEW APARTMENT** in January thanks to help with a security deposit from the Crisis Ministry's homelessness prevention program. Sharon graciously agreed to share her story in our video, which is on YouTube and our website.



An unexpected April phone call from the Chapin School brought **GOOD NEWS**. Students had voted for the Crisis Ministry to share proceeds from Chapin's annual Run-a-Thon. The result? Nearly \$40,000 divided evenly by the Crisis Ministry and Chapin's scholarship program! Carolyn Biondi accepted the "big check" in May 2011 from Chapin staff member Sharon Gomberg.



William Franklin was one of several trainees in the Crisis Ministry's workforce development program Harvesting Hope to **RE-ENTER THE WORKFORCE**. We offer our best wishes to William and all of the trainees who gained on-the-job experience and engaged in guided employment search.



In September, Carrie, a resident of Trenton senior housing welcomed **HOME FOOD DELIVERY** volunteers from the 2011-12 confirmation class of Nassau Presbyterian Church. This picture is captured from our video, produced by Paul Budline.



We opened a **SATELLITE PANTRY** at 400 Hamilton Ave. in Trenton's Chambersburg neighborhood. Located in the former Bethany Presbyterian Church, our satellite came together thanks to enthusiastic and capable volunteers from **Bristol-Myers Squibb**. At right, a family is assisted during check-out by Harvesting Hope workforce trainees.



The Crisis Ministry board's Thalia Mingo, center, and William Creager, right, made the official announcement at the October fundraiser that Carolyn Biondi had been confirmed as the Crisis Ministry's **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**.



EDITORIALS

Friends in deed

After the fire that broke out in The Crisis Ministry's refrigerated pantry less than two weeks before Christmas, the situation looked grim. About 30 tons of food were destroyed in the blaze and subsequent smoke and water damage at the headquarters on East Hanover Street in Trenton.

Against the backdrop of abundance and overconsumption, need seems sharpest during the holidays. As their client families faced imminent hunger, those at the Crisis Ministry of Trenton and Princeton were at a loss. It was a temporary one.

Almost immediately, calls began coming in with offers of canned goods and a few dollars. Day after day, donations continued to pour in—food, furniture and offers of help.

Congregations, community groups, schools and individuals throughout the region heard about the loss and moved quickly to fill the void left by the fire.

The 'Times' Carmen Cusido has been following the story and reports that the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton opened up administrative space for the ministry. The Rescue Mission of Trenton helped deliver desks, chairs, file cabinets and shelving units donated by Mercer County, which also provided help in setting up computers at the temporary office space.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton collected \$3,000 to help out the families the Crisis Ministry serves.

Congregants at Trinity Church assembled 80 bags of nonperishable food donations.

The Bonner Foundation donated \$10,000, while Nottingham High School, The United Way of Mercer County, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, McCarter Theatre in Princeton and Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton have also all donated funds. The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and a food pantry in New Egypt provided supplies, and Parkway Elementary School organized a food drive that yielded a van full of food.

By the time you read this, the list will have grown with more groups, churches, synagogues and schools offering their help.

The outpouring of support will help the Crisis Ministry continue helping prevent hunger and keeping families in their homes, as well as maximizing opportunities through job training. It also sends a message of good will that we often sing about at this time of year and sometimes forget to act upon.

As The Crisis Ministry works out of its temporary space and continues operation of its satellite food pantries at 400 Hamilton Ave., site of the former Bethany Presbyterian Church, and at Nassau Presbyterian Church on Nassau Street in Princeton, there is no doubt it will overcome this setback and continue its good work.

And that's a certainty because of the kindness and generosity of this community.

The Times of Trenton published the above editorial December 29, 2011

*If we learned
one thing,
it was this:
As much as
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our neighbors.*

In the middle of the afternoon of Thursday, December 15, the Crisis Ministry staff gathered for a holiday lunch to celebrate a bit and to reflect on a productive year. The year's highlights included the **stabilization of 736 households** through our homelessness prevention program, **improved food transport capacity** with a new delivery truck, a **new satellite pantry** opened in October with the support of incredibly well-organized and capable volunteers, the **most successful job placement year** ever for Harvesting Hope trainees, a **compelling new video**, a year of financial and volunteer **generosity from our partners and supporters**, and the confirmation of **Carolyn Biondi as Executive Director**.

Less than 12 hours later came a major setback, when a fire heavily damaged our Trenton pantry, destroyed 30 tons of food inventory, and rendered the building inoperable (until later in 2012). An immediate and widespread outpouring of information sharing, media coverage and financial and volunteer support helped our staff to resume helping families in financial crisis within three business days of the fire. We set up in an alternate location made available by First Presbyterian Church of Trenton just a few doors away. We made our new satellite at 400 Hamilton Avenue our main Trenton pantry for the time being.



Mark Smith interviewed Dec. 19 about the fire by Channel 6 Philadelphia and WZBN Mercer County.

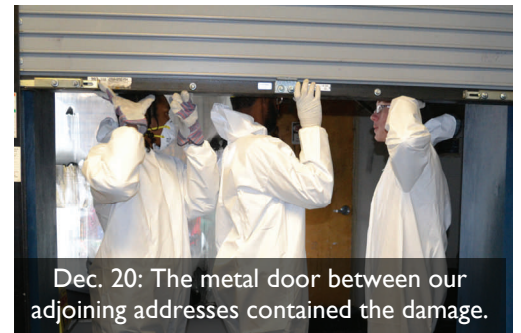
The sharing of our news and quick action by churches and synagogues, schools, friends, neighborhoods, businesses, fellow agencies, and Mercer County government ensured a constant flow of collected food. Through coordinated delivery efforts, the food made its way to donated, volunteer-constructed shelves from Mercer County and from Diversified Rack & Shelving so we could resume helping hungry families with minimal additional disruption. When we pause to reflect on December 16 and the weeks following, we continue to experience a sense of awe at the heartfelt and empowering support we received. If we learned one thing, it was this: As much as our neighbors rely on us, we rely on our neighbors.



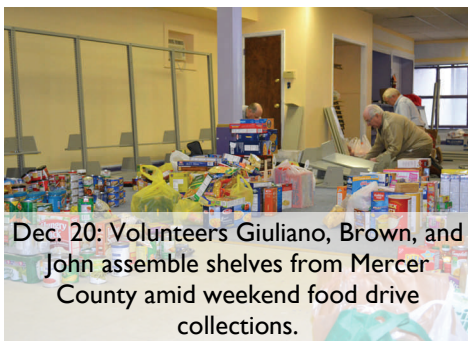
December 16



Dec. 19: Delia, Shalanda, Mark and Carolyn discuss plans with board chair Thalia Mingo and supporter Jacque.



Dec. 20: The metal door between our adjoining addresses contained the damage.



Dec. 20: Volunteers Giuliano, Brown, and John assemble shelves from Mercer County amid weekend food drive collections.



Dec. 20: Alicia and Home Food Delivery volunteers.



Dec. 21: Dara, Alicia, Vanessa and Warren begin setting up client interview stations at 117 E. Hanover.



Dec. 21: Shalanda, Accenture volunteers Kori Scott and Desiree Varbelow, and volunteer Sylvia Gonzalez sort food

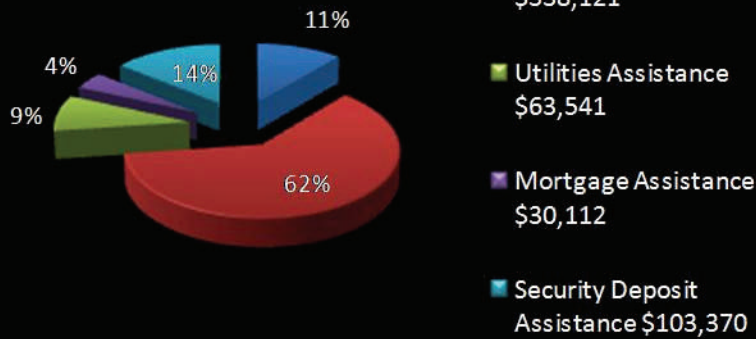


Dec. 30: Mel, Mark, Howard, and volunteer George put up shelves donated by Diversified Rack & Shelving in Robbinsville.



Dec. 30: Sarah, Pat, Carolyn, Thalia, Warren, and Vanessa with Church & Dwight's Angela Olsen in center. Church & Dwight donated \$100,000 after the fire.

Direct Aid 2011



The Crisis Ministry's annual audit and IRS Form 990 are available at thecrisisministry.org

The Crisis Ministry serves people from every municipality in Mercer County through accessible, centrally located sites: one in downtown Princeton and two in Trenton (downtown on East Hanover St. and in a satellite in the Chambersburg neighborhood). Partnering with some 60 congregations of different faiths and statewide and fellow area nonprofits and organizations allows the Crisis Ministry to advocate for our clients locally and statewide.

Hunger Prevention

We remain among the largest and most health-focused food pantries in the area. While our three Client Choice pantries are at the heart of the Hunger Prevention program, nutrition education classes in conjunction with the Rutgers Extension Service and health screenings in partnership with the community nursing program of Capital Health System round out our focus on promoting health and wellness.

Homelessness Prevention

The timely financial assistance we provide every month throughout the year helps families in or at risk for housing crisis to remain in their own homes, avoiding the trauma, dislocation, separation, and academic disruption associated with homelessness or the threat of it.

Workforce Development

In 2011, our workforce program **Harvesting Hope** trained and supported 58 men and women seeking to enhance their employability and workplace readiness with a education and experience in customer service. Several Harvesting Hope trainees were also assisted through our **License to Succeed** program, which, by restoring drivers licenses, eliminates one of the most stubborn barriers to employability.

Hunger Prevention in 2011

8,639 people received food through the Crisis Ministry's pantries in Princeton and Trenton. 5,271 were adults and 3,368 were children.

In all 3,846 separate households made 11,626 visits to the Crisis Ministry in 2011. This averages to three visits in 2011 per household, and illustrates that while the typical household helped by the Crisis Ministry's Hunger Prevention program is not chronically hungry its members experience intermittent food insecurity. Food insecurity can result when, after the bills are paid, there simply is not enough to stock the cupboards.

A record number of food drives — more than 50 in 2011 by supporting clubs* and organizations, congregations, schools, and businesses — enabled the Crisis Ministry to come in under budget while serving an average of **969 households per month**. In-kind donations by grocers, bakeries, restaurants, and other food retailers also went a long way toward maximizing our Hunger Prevention budget.

* Special mention goes to Yes We CAN! Food Drives, a partner organization that acts on behalf of the Crisis Ministry to build community awareness and to directly support our hunger prevention programs. Yes We CAN! Food Drives coordinates and staffs major food drives each month at such area locations as Pennington Quality Market, ShopRite, McCaffrey's Supermarket, and, seasonally, the West Windsor Farmers Market. From 2008 to October 2011, their drives resulted in 128,000 pounds (64 tons) of food donated.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: Housing stabilized for 1,833 people in 736 households

Eviction Prevention

Back rent assistance averaging \$862 helped **968 people in 392 households** to avoid the downward academic, domestic, and workplace or job hunting spiral that eviction can trigger.

Security Deposit Assistance

278 people in 118 households were able to obtain stable apartment housing with average security deposit assistance of \$876.

Utilities Assistance

521 people in 213 households avoided the loss of heat, electricity, or water with an average of \$298 in assistance.

Mortgage Assistance

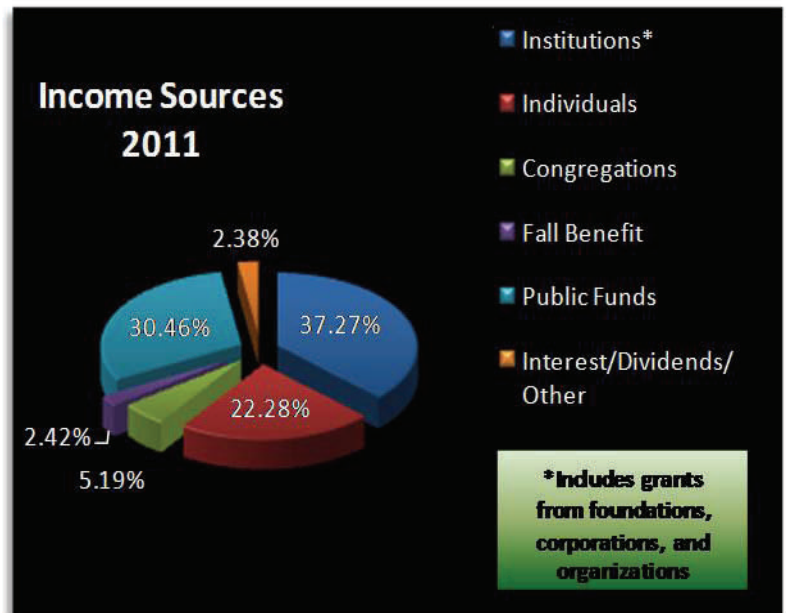
66 people in 25 households avoided foreclosure with help from the Crisis Ministry that averaged \$1204 in assistance.

Unusually high income for 2011 was due in part to the generosity of both new and longtime donors following the December fire. The original 2011 budget planned for income of \$1,388,200. Actual 2011 income was \$1,859,707.

The Crisis Ministry applied for and received grant support from the following:

- Accenture
- The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
- Mary Owen Borden Foundation
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- The Bunbury Company
- Church & Dwight Co.
- Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
- City of Trenton Homelessness Prevention Rapid Re-housing
- City of Trenton Community Development Block Grant
- Community Foundation of New Jersey
- Concordia Foundation
- Anonymous
- Delectabel, Inc.
- Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation
- Essig Enright Family Foundation
- FEMA (through United Way of Mercer County)
- Highland-Mills Foundation
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals of Johnson & Johnson
- J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Trust
- Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Karma Foundation
- David Mathey Foundation
- McCaffrey's Supermarkets
- Curtis McGraw Foundation
- Anonymous
- Merancas Foundation
- Mercer County One-Stop Career Resource Center
- Mercer County Health and Human Services
- New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives
- Novo Nordisk
- PNC Bank Advisors
- Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
- Princeton Area Community Foundation
- Roma Bank Community Foundation
- The Fred C. Rummel Foundation
- Social Services for the Homeless/Temporary Aid to Needy Families
- State of New Jersey Social Services Block Grant
- Sucharow Family Charitable Fund of Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer
- Tenacre Foundation
- Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Foundation
- Lawson Valentine Foundation
- Lena Willis Fund of Central Presbyterian Church
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
- United Way of Mercer County

Donations of food were made throughout the year by ShopRite Supermarkets, Italian Peoples Bakery, Wegmans, Whole Foods Market, Lucy's Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Ravioli, and Maidenhead Bagel, Lawrenceville Bakery, farmers at the West Windsor Farmers Market, and more.



Contributions from Individuals

Individual household giving: \$414,429

Individual donors contribute throughout the year to the Crisis Ministry in response to appeal letters and newsletters, offerings at houses of worship, special fundraisers, and collections by schools, clubs, and businesses. Our December 16 fire resulted in an unusually generous volume of donations at the end of the year.

Congregational grants, gifts/special collections, and budget lines totaled \$96,574. Please see the last page for our partner congregations, which provide financial support and volunteer support throughout the year.

Special Events

Fall for the Crisis Ministry, held in October in the Johnson Education Center of the D & R Greenway Trust, raised \$44,929.

In addition to the annual fall fundraiser, several events by other community groups raised funds on behalf of the Crisis Ministry in 2011: Valentines for Food's participating schools, churches, and businesses raised \$53,977 in dollar and food donations in February); the Chapin School's Runathon raised \$19,101 for the Crisis Ministry in April; Battle Against Hunger raised \$1,488.70 for us in September; and the annual Trinity Church Turkey Trot raised \$7,205 for us Thanksgiving morning.

The Crisis Ministry's Founding Congregations

*Nassau Presbyterian Church
Trinity Church Princeton*

Crisis Ministry Partner Congregations

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
Aquinas Institute
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Central Presbyterian Church, Summit
Christ Congregation
Congregation Beth Chaim
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dayton Presbyterian Church
Episcopal Church at Princeton University
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
First Baptist Church of Pennington
First Baptist Church of Princeton
First Baptist Church of Trenton
First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square
First Presbyterian Church of Pennington
First Presbyterian Church of Plainsboro
First Presbyterian Church of Trenton
Friendship Baptist Church
Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Jewish Center of Princeton
Kingston Presbyterian Church
Kingston United Methodist Church
Langhorne Presbyterian Church
Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church
Lutheran Church of the Messiah
Mt. Pisgah AME Church
Nassau Christian Center
Nassau Presbyterian Church
New Covenant United Methodist Church
New Egypt United Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
Presbytery of New Brunswick
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Princeton Society of Friends
Princeton United Methodist Church
Princeton University Center for Jewish Life
Princeton University Office of Religious Life
Princeton University Presbyterian Campus Ministry
St. David The King
St. David's Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
St. Matthias Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church
String of Pearls
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
Titusville Presbyterian Church
Titusville United Methodist Church
Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry
Trinity Cathedral
Trinity Church Princeton
Trinity Church of Rocky Hill
Union Baptist Church
Washington Crossing Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium
Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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*Office Director, J. Seward Johnson, Sr.,
Princeton Program Coordinator*

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Director
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Howard Roundtree
Driver
Mel Hopps
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Homelessness Prevention

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Homelessness Prev. Coordinator
Warentha Washington
Homelessness Prev. Coordinator
Vanessa Lagares
*Homelessness Prev. and Utilities
Assistance Coordinator*

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Coordinator
Delia Bailey
Assistant
Dara Lewis
Assistant

Administrative Staff
Pat Foo
Administrator
Alicia Morrison
Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Unger
Communications/Development Director

TRENTON

Temporary program and
administrative address:
117 East Hanover St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

Satellite pantry:
400 Hamilton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08619

General ph:
609-396-9355

Administrative ph:
609-396-5327

Direct homelessness
prevention ph:
609-396-2227
Fax: 609-482-4444

PRINCETON

61 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

Ph: 609-921-2135

*Please use 61 Nassau St.
as current best mailing address*

Email: info@thecrisisministry.org
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The Crisis Ministry is a nonsectarian and non-proselytizing organization with no political mission. It serves all who are in need regardless of age, race, gender, religious status, sexual identity, ethnicity, or national origin.



Partnering with our community to achieve food, housing, and employment stability for our neighbors in need.
The Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, was founded in 1980 by Trinity Church and Nassau Presbyterian Church.