

# THE CRISIS MINISTRY

1980 – 2015: 35 years of improving lives

Ending Hunger



Preventing Homelessness



Supporting Employment



“This food pantry makes a difference in my life. It is like a family to me, and they make me feel welcome.”

—Zara, Pantry customer



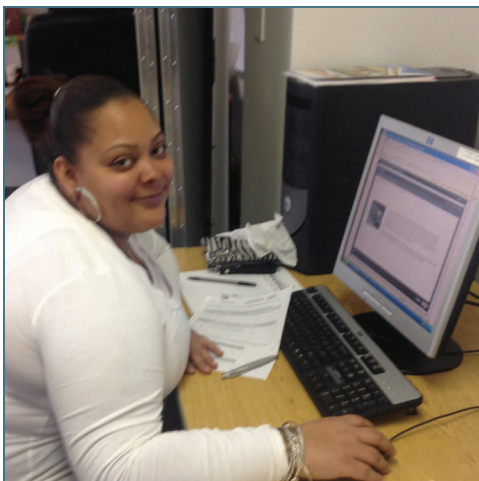
“I’ve come a long way and I’m proud of where I am now.”

—Shamia, Housing Stability member



“If not for the Crisis Ministry, I wouldn’t have a license today.”

—Calvin, License to Succeed client



“We all know that our health is dependent on an abundant supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Our clients are no exception.”

—Katy, Volunteer



## A message from Executive Director

### CAROLYN BIONDI

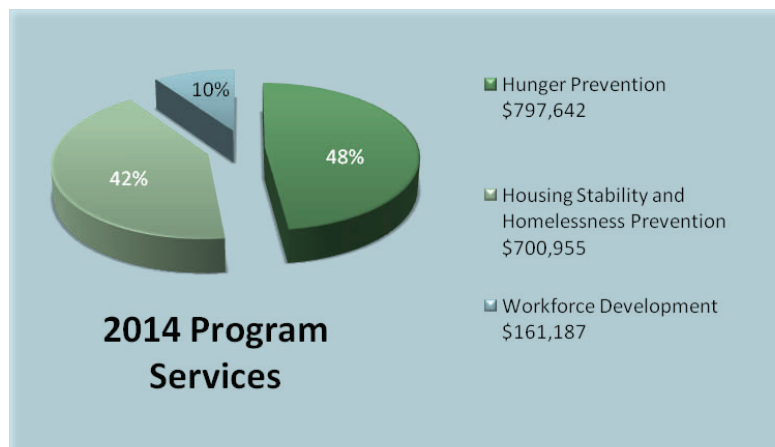
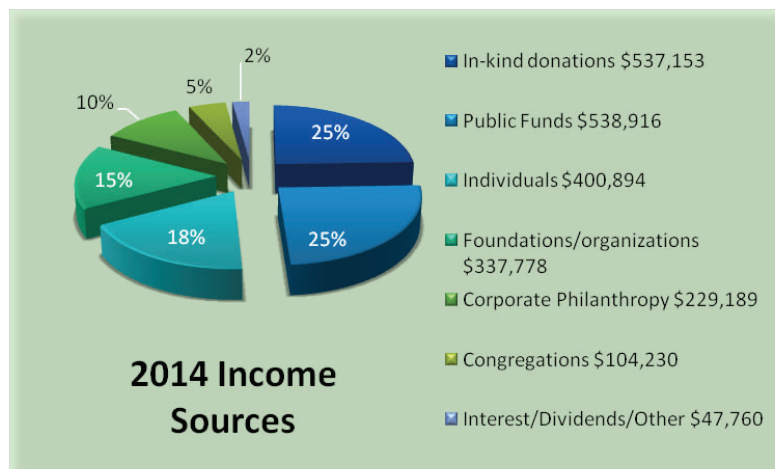
Two working parents with young children can put food on the table. A senior living alone has heating oil for the month. A veteran moves from homelessness to housing. A parent secures employment to support his or her family.



**We celebrate these moments, achieved for thousands of households per year, as we turn 35 years old in 2015.**

Our core mission – **to partner with our community to achieve stability for our neighbors in need** – continues to guide our daily work. We benefit every day from partnerships with community groups, congregations, schools, and businesses of all sizes to provide the food and financial resources our neighbors need. And we are adding new academic and corporate partnerships from the fields of psychology, economics, and health sciences to inform our work about what makes people resilient and thrive in the face of hard times so we can provide the most effective support.

We are grateful for your essential support as we continue to work with our clients to build a sturdy foundation, and walk with them on the road to a more stable future.



## 2014 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

### HUNGER PREVENTION & HEALTHY LIVING

- People from 4,500 Mercer County households **made more than 20,000 visits to our pantries** in Trenton and Princeton, receiving three days' worth of healthy foods for their families with each visit.
- Nearly 200 senior and disabled clients in Trenton and Princeton **received food and friendly visits** from our Home Food Delivery volunteers.
- Our garden, tended by volunteers, provided **fresh vegetables and herbs** for our pantries.

### HOUSING STABILITY & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- 727 people in 297 families threatened with eviction or foreclosure **stayed in their homes** and avoided the devastation of homelessness.
- 261 people in 94 families **moved from homelessness into a home** through our rapid re-housing/security deposit assistance.
- 406 people in 159 homes who faced loss of water, heat, or electricity **avoided utility shut-off** or had these vital services restored.
- 26 families and individuals avoided or ended homelessness and **progressed toward financial and housing stability** through our longer-term support and services.
- 350 low- and moderate-income people received **free tax prep** through our collaboration with the United Way of Greater Mercer County and the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT READINESS

- 65 adults in Harvesting Hope for on-the-job training and job search guidance.
- Grads **obtained employment** in retail, food service, health care, warehouse, and other sectors.
- 29 people improved their **employment and earning potential** through License to Succeed driver's license restoration and assistance.



## *A Conversation with Board Member*

### **PETER FASOLO**

Our dedicated and engaged board members lend critical support and guidance as we carry out our mission. Their contributions make it possible for our staff and volunteers to provide effective, high quality services in the community.

Peter Fasolo, Vice President of Global Human Resources for Johnson & Johnson, hit the ground running when he joined the board in 2014. Not long after he joined, he spent a day touring all three of The Crisis Ministry's sites with Executive Director Carolyn Biondi. Following his visit, we sat down for a Q&A.

#### **Crisis Ministry: Tell us about your day visiting the Crisis Ministry's sites.**

**Peter Fasolo:** I recently joined the Board and was quickly impressed with the mission, talent, and experience of the people I met. It was important for me to better understand what our staff and volunteers do every day "in the field" beyond what I was reading in a strategic plan or hearing in a meeting. Carolyn Biondi took me around for a day in the field recently. Only by being up close and personal and seeing the dedicated CM staff do the work, could I truly appreciate the daily compassion and commitment. I left that day feeling very inspired.

#### **CM: What are your thoughts or comments on staff and clients with whom you connected during your visit?**

**PF:** Everyone I met was a true professional. Caring, dedicated and very experienced. What struck me most was a consistent and realistic view of what was possible to help people. In one day, I heard examples of helping people get a driver's license, resume writing, job hunting, help in keeping the "lights on", rental assistance, and how a hungry family can come for groceries. The CM staff supports people in our own community who are struggling, working several jobs just to get through the month and need help.

#### **CM: How do you feel about the work of the CM Board?**

**PF:** The CM Board is full of extremely dedicated and hard-working people who freely give of their time. They have so many gifts to give in areas such as finance, marketing, community engagement, and corporate and personal philanthropy. I am very humbled to be around such an accomplished and compassionate group of leaders.

#### **CM: What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure on the CM Board?**

**PF:** My hope is to help get the word out on how important the CM mission is right in our own community. All of us, including myself, must be reminded of the huge obligation we have right in our own backyard. The CM staff and the volunteers are the "unsung heroes" of this work and my role is to help highlight their efforts and bring more community and corporate awareness of the work. I also hope to bring some insights I have in the health and wellness space. I think this is a very big idea, and hopefully I can provide some views on how to ensure we can help people stay healthy and reduce some daily stress.

#### **CM: What is your vision for J&J's involvement with the CM?**

**PF:** Johnson & Johnson has a proud history of giving back to the community. We are guided by our credo, written over 70 years ago, that guides us every day. The credo expects each of us to ensure we are providing high quality products to our patients and consumers, treating our employees with respect and dignity, and giving back to our communities. If we do these three things well, the shareholders will get a fair return. I see the CM mission to be totally aligned with our J&J credo, and I am proud to be able to get our two organizations together.

#### **CM: What does your involvement with the Crisis Ministry bring to your life?**

**PF:** Meaning. Purpose. Alignment of personal values with community engagement. It really has energized me to see what else we can all do together.

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## *Gifts of Hope support the mission of The Crisis Ministry*

*Please let us know if you'd like to make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one* ([info@thecrisisministry.org](mailto:info@thecrisisministry.org))

### *Remembered in 2014:*

Bill Sword, Bob Gunther Mohr, Chaplain Oscar Weber, Filomena Boyle, Gloria Grumbach, Ida Covello, Liz's mother, Neha Nilar, Patricia Twitchell, Raymond Meier, Ted Vial, the Mother of Liz Cohen

### *Honored in 2014:*

Annie Farrell, Bill and Mary Sproull, Carol Fagudus, Carol Kerbel, Daphne Jones, Dian Wisdom, Nancy Guest, Lawrence and Laura Wisdom Guest, Dick & Jeanne Katen, Edwin Metcalf, Elizabeth, Mr. Blyweiss, Mr. Martin, and Miss Baldini, Gordon Thomas, Jason Barber, Josiah Carr, Karla Robinson, the Katen-Narvel Family, Leah McDonald, Louise Hutner, Louise Kingston, Loupos, Mark Smith, Marlene Doyle, Michael Frunzi, Nate Howard's birthday, Turner Family, Evelyn Pearce

**We are grateful to the following foundations, organizations, businesses, and agencies for grants awarded in 2014**

Accenture  
Anonymus  
Battle Against Hunger  
BlackRock  
Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
The Bunbury Company  
City of Trenton Community Development Block Grant  
Church & Dwight Co.  
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund  
Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
David Mathey Foundation  
Delectabel Management, Inc.  
Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Foundation  
Essig Enright Family Foundation  
Fred C. Rummel Foundation

Graceway Presbyterian Church  
Highland-Mills Foundation  
Hlubik Farms  
J. Seward Johnson Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust  
Janssen Pharmaceuticals  
John Witherspoon Middle School  
Johnson & Johnson  
Junior League of Greater Princeton  
Lawrenceville School Community Reach Out  
Lawson Valentine Foundation  
Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation  
McCaffrey's Supermarkets  
Merancas Foundation  
Mercer County Health and Human Services  
Mercer County One-Stop Career Center  
Mercer Street Friends Food Bank  
Nassau Presbyterian Church  
NJM Insurance Group  
NRG Energy

Novo Nordisk, Inc.  
PNC Fund of the Princeton Area  
Community Foundation  
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville  
Princeton Area Community Foundation  
RBC Dain Rauscher  
Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust  
Roma Bank Community Foundation  
RSW Foundation  
Santander  
Shine and Inspire, Inc.  
ShopRite  
Social Services for the Homeless  
Theodore Cross Family Foundation  
Trinity Church  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Social Outreach Committee  
United Way of Greater Mercer County  
Walmart Foundation  
Whole Foods Market

**EMPLOYEE MATCHING PROGRAM SUPPORT IN 2014:**

Bank of America, Black Rock, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chubb & Son, Exxon Mobil Foundation, GE Foundation, NJM Insurance Group, NRG Global Giving, Pfizer Foundation, PHH Corporation, PNC Foundation, Prudential Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Ford Foundation



**35 years of**  
**Ensuring basic needs,**  
**Cultivating long-term stability**

The above list represents grant support. For a comprehensive community support list, please visit our website.

**2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Fred Van Sickle, *Chair*  
Gary Patteson, *Vice-Chair*  
Gerald Delk, *Treasurer*  
Leah McDonald, *Secretary*  
Ildiko Antal  
Ken Barbuscio  
Elizabeth Baughan  
Lee Davis  
Peter Fasolo  
Edwina Hawes  
Sharyn Kerschner  
Christian Martin  
Louise Senior  
Nick Valvanis  
Colin Watts  
Carolyn Biondi, *Ex-Officio*  
The Rev. Dr. Dave Davis, *Ex-Officio*  
The Rev. Paul Jeanes, III, *Ex-Officio*

**STAFF**

Carolyn Biondi, *Executive Director*

**Hunger Prevention & Healthy Living**  
Mark Smith, *Director*  
Seth Arber, *Coordinator*  
Cora Evans, *AmeriCorps Bonner Leader*  
Anthony Guthrie, *Transportation & Facilities*  
Mel Hopps, *Greeter*

**Housing Stability Services**  
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Lisa Beamer, *Homelessness Prevention Coordinator*  
Vanessa Lagares, *Homelessness Prevention and Utilities Assistance Coordinator*  
Cecilia Avila, *Homelessness Prevention Coordinator*  
Elizabeth Wall, *Housing Stability Program Coordinator*  
Michelle McNair, *Receptionist*

**Workforce Development**

Margaret Cowell, *Director, and License to Succeed Coordinator*  
Dara Lewis, *Workforce Development and License to Succeed Coordinator*  
Delia Bailey, *Workforce Development Coordinator*

**Administrative Staff**

Sarah Unger, *Communications and Development Director*  
Sun Hae Kim, *Administrative Director*  
Keating Johnson, *Communications and Development Coordinator*

**Princeton Office**

Cecilia Avila, *J. Seward Johnson, Sr., Princeton Program Coordinator*

**Serving Mercer County families and individuals at three locations**

**In PRINCETON:**

- 61 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542

**In TRENTON:**

- 123 East Hanover St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608
- 714-16 S. Clinton Ave.  
Trenton, NJ 08619

Call: 609-396-9355

Visit: [www.thecrisisministry.org](http://www.thecrisisministry.org)

Email: [info@thecrisisministry.org](mailto:info@thecrisisministry.org)



The Crisis Ministry is a nonsectarian and nonproselytizing 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 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 Princeton and Nassau Presbyterian Church.