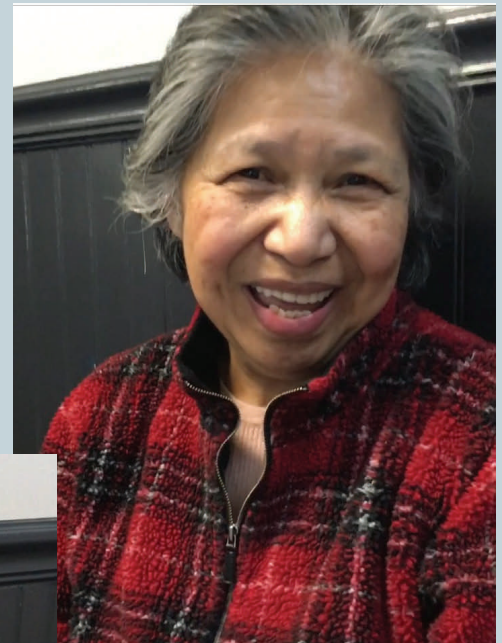




The
CRISIS MINISTRY
OF MERCER COUNTY

Partnering with the community
for over 35 years to:
END HUNGER
PREVENT HOMELESSNESS
PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT



▲ “It really helps,” says Josie as she gets ready to shop in our food pantry, “especially now when it’s hard to get out to find food within the community of senior citizens.”

▲ Sitting in the comfortable waiting room, Nichele talks of how much she and her children appreciate the resources and support of the Crisis Ministry: “We really need to keep food pantries going because families really need help.”

◀ An armed services veteran whose job layoff and health crisis led to a period of homelessness, Clifford got back on his feet by working with the Crisis Ministry.

Serving neighbors in need throughout Mercer County

In TRENTON: 123 East Hanover St., 08068; 714-16 S. Clinton Ave., 08619

In PRINCETON: 61 Nassau St., 08542

Visit, learn, and support: www.thecrisisministry.org

Call: 609-396-9355 Email: info@thecrisisministry.org

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A Message from CAROLYN BIONDI, Executive Director

What a pleasure it was to celebrate the Crisis Ministry's 35 years of service throughout 2015! It is truly a privilege to serve as Executive Director for an organization with such a strong history of service in our community. Demonstrating the enduring commitment of our supporters is **Martha Sword**, who served on the board previously, is doing so again, and graciously shares her thoughts at right.

In addition to a milestone anniversary, there were many other reasons to celebrate in 2015. **For the second year in a row, we welcomed and served customers who made over 21,000 visits to our food pantries.** And to think that one staff member — Food Logistics Coordinator **Anthony Guthrie**, highlighted below — picked up and delivered the 250 tons of food!

There was more good news, such as **10% growth in the number of families who were able to stay under their own roofs** rather than face



homelessness, and the **50% growth in the number of adults who restored their driving privileges**, a key factor in obtaining and maintaining employment. As our board chair **Gary Patteson** says in his message at right, our clients' achievements are made possible with the continued support of you, our community. We are so pleased to count you among our friends and partners, and invite you to drop us a line or drop in any time. We would love to welcome you!

Where our \$2,217,300 in support came from in 2015:

<i>In-kind donations*</i>	25%
<i>Private funding</i>	
Individual donors	18%
Foundations	15%
Businesses	10%
Congregations	5%
Other	2%
<i>Public funding</i>	25%

* From food and personal care products drives; donations from food retailers, farmers, farmers' markets; Mercer Street Friends Food Bank

How your support helped in 2015:

Hunger Prevention —4,290 households with more than 10,000 family members of all ages
Rent Assistance —367 families
Utility Assistance —255 families
Security Deposit Assistance —130 families
Mortgage Assistance —3 families
Housing Stability —41 families
Workforce Development —65 adults with children

Making the Rounds with ANTHONY GUTHRIE

250 tons of food! That's what Anthony Guthrie estimates he moves each year as the Crisis Ministry's driver. You may have spotted him on the road in a Crisis Ministry van or truck, picking up food donations from congregations, schools, businesses, farmers markets, and grocery stores. Often working solo, Anthony loads and unloads dozens of pallets of food every month for the 1000+ customers who visit the Crisis Ministry's three client choice pantries. He also coordinates the logistics of our largest single in-kind donation annually from Vanguard in Wayne, PA. Called All Cans on Deck, this single drive brings in more than 38 tons of food.

Clearly, our Hunger Prevention program owes a lot to Anthony's good humor and strong back.

Born in Trenton and raised on what is widely known as the "Irish Riviera", Anthony lived in Spring Lake Heights and then moved with his family to Belmar. He attended Catholic schools and continued his education at the Delbarton School in Morristown—a private, parochial prep school founded some 75 years ago by the monks of St. Benedict. He played some semi-pro soccer before getting behind the wheel as a New York

City chauffeur. Later, after several years in the furniture business in California, Anthony returned to New Jersey to spend time with family. It was during this time that his struggle with substance abuse was addressed. The residential addiction treatment program at the Rescue Mission of Trenton was there when he needed help. And it was the Rescue Mission that eventually led him to us. After nearly 18 months at the Rescue Mission, Anthony joined their staff as a truck driver, picking up clothing and furniture donations for its residents. This



Anthony Guthrie gets ready to unload pallets of food into our downtown pantry.

experience came in handy when the Crisis Ministry reached out to the Rescue Mission for a reference. Anthony was whole-heartedly endorsed and began driving part time for the Crisis Ministry as well.

Now Anthony drives exclusively for the Crisis Ministry, and his responsibilities have grown with the organization and its resources. "It's a good feeling knowing that the work we do helps people," he says, speaking from experience. "I know guys from the Rescue Mission who have benefited from the Crisis Ministry's **License to Succeed** program. They had their driver's licenses restored, and now one of them has a job driving. It has turned his life around."

Turning one's life around is something Anthony understands. Clean and sober for nearly five years, he is thankful for his job and for the opportunity to reach out a helping hand: "I am humbled and reminded of my own frailty when I see the people we serve at the Crisis Ministry. There but for the grace of God go I." He is also aware that hard work and dedication are part of his success since his treatment for addiction: "It is essential to my sobriety. The stability and routine of my job at the Crisis Ministry really contribute to a healthy lifestyle."

Anthony's sharp wit and big heart contribute so much to our team. Next time you see him on the road making the rounds, give him a wave. He'll get a kick out of it.

Reflections from Board Member

MARTHA SWORD

Fourteen years ago Sally Osmer, the former executive director of Crisis Ministry, used to end morning prayer circles of workers and volunteers with the wish that there would be no need for Crisis Ministry; that everyone would have enough to eat, money for heat and rent, a safe home from which to operate, and the skills to navigate the workplace. I joined the board 14 years ago because I admired Sally and wanted to be helpful to her in any way I could. While Sally Osmer's daily morning prayers have surely been heard, they have not yet been met and the need continues.



Today, over 10,000 people come to the Crisis Ministry every year in need of food. That's a lot of hungry people. These are our neighbors whom we can and should help. I gladly agreed to return to the board because I can help by spreading the word about how committed the Crisis Ministry is, how efficient the organization is, how devoted and caring the staff is. What I love is that it treats everyone with respect, gives hope, doesn't judge or proselytize. Rather, it holds out a hand, offers food or the deposit on a new apartment, helps someone reinstate their driver's license.

I've lived in this area all my life, and I know how important it is to have a community come to your rescue when life throws you curve balls. If I can help in some small way by raising awareness and funds for the Crisis Ministry, then I will.

...and Board Chair

GARY PATTESON

For the past 35 years, the Crisis Ministry has partnered with the greater Mercer County community to achieve stability for our neighbors in need. Through the financial and volunteer support of community groups, congregations, schools, and businesses of all sizes, we continue to provide food and financial resources to thousands of households every year.



Each and every day, our staff and volunteers work alongside and in support of our clients as they achieve essential milestones – food for a healthy home-cooked meal, a heating bill paid, a home retained, a driver's license restored, a new job started. Your partnership makes it possible to provide this support in a caring and effective way that respects the dignity of all and shows that **not only are we all in this together, we are better together.**

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



◀ Jackie is thankful that the Crisis Ministry has healthy food available: **"If I didn't have this pantry, I wouldn't be able to eat the three small, nutritious meals a day that I need."**

▶ Qiana, a member of the U.S. Army, wanted to spend a day off by **giving back to the community** so she came and volunteered in the Crisis Ministry's vegetable garden, which grows 2,000 pounds of produce every year.



We thank the following organizations for grant and other major support in 2015

Accenture
 Anonymus
 Battle Against Hunger
 BlackRock
 Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
 Bristol-Myers Squibb
 The Bunbury Company
 City of Trenton Community Development Block Grants (2) for Homelessness Prevention
 Church & Dwight Co.
 Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
 County of Mercer: Homelessness Trust Fund; One-Stop Career Center; Social Services for the Homeless (2)
 Curtis W. McGraw Foundation
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Delectabel Management, Inc.
 Doll Family Foundation
 Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Foundation
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 Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation
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PNC Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
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 Tenacre Foundation
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 Vanguard
 Walmart Foundation
 Waste Management
 Wegmans
 Whole Foods Market



**Ensuring basic needs,
 Cultivating long-term stability**

Gifts of Hope support the mission of The Crisis Ministry

Remembered in 2015:

John Burger, Lois Cartnell, Grandma Doris, Joyce R. Greene, Thomas Guthrie, Elsie Hansen, Margaret Merrill, Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, Martha Lou Stohman, Bill Sword, Betty Quinn, Nancy Watkins, Phyllis Weseloh, Connie Zimmerman

Honored in 2015:

Arlynn's 50th Birthday, Marjorie Biddle's retirement, Alison Boden, Hansen Chiang, Charley Day, Debbie Endo, Carol Fagundus, Anne Farrell, Mark Feigenson, Ray Gonzalez family, David Greenberg, Laura and Lawrence Wisdom Guest, Nancy Guest, Mary E. Hardesty, Jim and Peg Hastings, Nate Howard, SHJ, Dick and Jeanne Katen, John Kelsey, John and Peg Kemmerer, Jarrett Kerbel, Sharyn Kerschner, Peter Loupos, Reiko and Max Matsuoka, Jean McCarthy, Jim McClosky, Edwin Metcalf, Gary Patteson, Mark Smith and the CM staff, Ann Summer Deborah Thomas, Nick Valvanis, Dian Wisdom

Please contact our staff to honor or remember someone special with a Gift of Hope donation.

THESE COMPANIES MATCHED EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS WITH A TOTAL OF \$30,893 in 2015: AIG, Billtrust, Black Rock, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chubb & Son, GE Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft, PJM Interconnection, LLC, PNC Foundation, Progressive Insurance Foundation, Prudential Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

THESE CONGREGATIONS CONTRIBUTED \$87,004 TO THE CRISIS MINISTRY IN 2015:

All Saints' Church*, Christ Congregation, Covenant Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Princeton, First Baptist Church of Trenton, First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck, First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square*, Hopewell Presbyterian Church*, Kingston Presbyterian Church, Kingston United Methodist Church, Lutheran Church of the Messiah, Nassau Christian Center*, Nassau Presbyterian Church*, Pennington Presbyterian Church*, Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville*, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Princeton United Methodist Church, St. David the King*, St. Matthias Episcopal Church, St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, Trinity Church*, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton*, Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium

* Top ten congregational supporters in 2015

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Proud to be a **four-star charity** five years in a row — a distinction achieved by only 6% of nonprofit organizations.

Partnering with our community to achieve stability for our neighbors in need, the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization founded in 1980 by Nassau Presbyterian and Trinity Churches. It is a nonsectarian, non-proselytizing community organization with no political mission, serving all who are in need regardless of age, race, gender, religious status, sexual identity, ethnicity, or national origin.