



“Give someone a fish, feed them for a day; Teach someone to fish, feed them for a lifetime.”

On behalf of Elijah's Promise and the many people we serve, it is my honor to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget.

Through our longtime partnership with RWJBarnabas Health, we have been able to work together to strengthen food security and community health for the most vulnerable members of our Central New Jersey community. However, nothing has been as significant or as game-changing as their emergency funding support last month. Their rapid response allowed us to immediately address the impacts of the SNAP suspension and deliver healthy, nutritious meals to those most in need.

As Central New Jersey's largest anti-hunger organization, we witnessed firsthand the unprecedented level of need created by the suspension. In response, we deployed double or even triple our normal quantities of food in order to support our partners. Combined with the record demand we experienced at our kitchen and mobile meal sites, November was extraordinary in every sense.

With fewer resources available for guests who rely on them, we were required to step up in substantial new ways. EP On Wheels, our mobile meals program, delivered two to three times its normal volume. None of this would have been possible without the emergency funding from RWJBarnabas Health.



In addition, we supported groups with whom we had never previously partnered. For example, North Brunswick Public Schools was identified by the NJ Office of the Food Advocate as one of the twenty school districts of greatest concern. After coordinating with their superintendent, we deployed our truck and served more than 90 families — providing hot meals, trays of prepared food, and shelf-stable items. In total, we distributed over 1,200 meals to sustain them for several days until benefits were restored.

Elijah's Promise

Food Changes Lives



Mailing Address: 211 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901
Soup Kitchen Address: 18 Neilson St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901
Phone: 732-545-9002 **Fax:** 732-846-1138 / 732-545-1996

“Give someone a fish, feed them for a day; Teach someone to fish, feed them for a lifetime.”

In November 2025, Elijah’s Promise served **50,919 free meals**.

For context, in previous years we served:

- **November 2015:** 8,144 meals
- **November 2019:** 9,045 meals
- **November 2024:** 26,984 meals

This level of response would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of RWJBarnabas Health. Their financial investment — combined with their exceptional volunteer engagement, including more than fifty volunteers and members of their senior leadership team assisting in our kitchen — was critical to our emergency efforts.

We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and for their unwavering commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities. We strongly urge the State to continue its funding of RWJBarnabas Health, whose support is vital to ensuring that vulnerable residents receive the services they need.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wilson
Executive Director

About Elijah’s Promise

Since 1989, Elijah’s Promise has harnessed the power of food to break the cycle of poverty, alleviate hunger, and change lives for the most vulnerable members of our Central New Jersey community. We operate a community soup kitchen, culinary arts school, mobile food truck, and connect low-income individuals and families with social and health services. With the support of volunteers, donors, and community partners, we serve more than 400,000 free meals per year and train previously unskilled workers for careers in the food service industry.

Get involved at ELIJAHSPROMISE.ORG