



**Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges**

**P.O. Box 341, Short Hills, NJ 07078**

**Location: 357 South Jefferson Street, Orange**

**IFPOranges@gmail.com | 973-856-4000 | orangesfoodpantry.org**

It is my pleasure to express our full support for the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget on behalf of the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges (IFPO), where I serve as Executive Director. The IFPO is a volunteer-powered, supplemental food pantry helping to meet essential human needs of food-insecure residents of Orange, East Orange & West Orange, NJ, with dignity and respect. In 2025, IFPO is helping 670 households weekly, expecting 27,000 visits, 65,000 positive impacts, and on track to distribute 375,000 lbs of fresh and nutritious produce, a half million food items, 35,000 diapers, plus toiletries & menstrual care. The support from RWJBH through State-appropriated funds allows our organization to invest directly in community-based initiatives and partnerships that advance health and strengthen the well-being of our shared communities.

Our mission aligns deeply with RWJBH's commitment to reducing health disparities and expanding access to essential services. While clients come to the IFPO primarily for food, our partnership with the RWJBH Community Outreach Team gives them access to critical health screenings, medical referrals, and SNAP assistance right on-site, services many of our neighbors simply cannot reach on their own. The team visits us monthly, offering multilingual support through virtual interpreters in Spanish and Haitian Creole, removing language barriers that often stand between our clients and the care they need.

The impact is unmistakable. Each month, dozens of clients receive blood pressure checks, glucose screenings, and referrals to medical care. At a single visit, the outreach team identified a client with dangerously high blood pressure, urged him to seek immediate emergency care, and followed up that same afternoon to ensure he was safe and supported. That same day, a woman had her A1C tested, was diagnosed with diabetes on the spot, and was connected to follow-up care. She returned minutes later with her brother, who also tested positive for

diabetes, and both now have ongoing medical support. These are life-changing interventions for individuals who often arrive with no other point of access to health services.

If State appropriations are not renewed, these essential touchpoints disappear. Our community would lose direct access to preventive care, chronic disease screening, and vital health education. Vulnerable neighbors, many already managing limited resources, limited mobility, and limited English proficiency, would be left without a safety net that has proven effective, trusted, and deeply needed. The result would be fewer people reached, delayed diagnoses, and a widening of the very health gaps we are working together to close.

Continued State investment in RWJBH's community partnerships is essential to sustaining programs that directly benefit residents across New Jersey. We are deeply grateful for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and for their steadfast commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities.

Sincerely,

Karyn Boosin Leit, Executive Director  
Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges  
[orangesfoodpantry.org](http://orangesfoodpantry.org)