



**St. Joseph
Social Service Center**

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES ♥ NOURISHING EACH OTHER

118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908) 354-5456, www.sjeliz.org

December 29, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

It is an honor to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget. St. Joseph Social Service Center is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to improving access to nutritious food, preventive health resources, and wellness education for underserved families in the greater Elizabeth, NJ area. Our agency has been serving the materially poor and homeless community for 40 years. We address food insecurity and the social determinants of health, particularly in high-need neighborhoods. These State-appropriated funds allow RWJBH to support community-based programs like ours that directly address barriers to health and wellness.

Our mission is deeply aligned with RWJBH's commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities. RWJBH's role as an anchor institution, and its long-standing focus on addressing barriers that drive poor health outcomes, makes its partnership essential to the work we do. Through our collaboration, RWJBH has supported our year-round food access programs by providing volunteers, distributing nutrition education materials, and contributing fresh produce. In addition, we have partnered with RWJBH on various mental health initiatives to bring hope and healing to our neighbors. St. Joseph's serves nearly 10,000 people each year and we are grateful for our strong partnership with RWJBH.

We have worked closely with RWJBH for nearly all of our 40 year history! This partnership has proven consistently reliable, impactful, and mission-driven. Their expertise, community outreach infrastructure, and ability to mobilize resources have strengthened our programs and increased our capacity to serve vulnerable households. The continuation of State-appropriated funds to RWJBH is critical: without these funds, the system's ability to support community partners like ours would be significantly diminished. Reduced investment would directly affect the number of families we can reach, limit access to fresh and nutritious foods, and hinder our shared efforts to address the root causes of food insecurity across the state.

We express our sincere appreciation for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and remain grateful for their ongoing commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities throughout New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette Murphy".

Bernadette Murphy
Executive Director

"Share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor" - (Isaiah 58)