• Collected food for pantries in Bergen County
  – Including the BCC Food Pantry (Paramus)
• Raise awareness by:
  – Provided knowledge about hunger and poverty
  – Distributed flyers and brochures with statistics
  – Provided resources where help is available
• Provided an opportunity for students on campus to accumulate service learning hours and increase knowledge
Service Learning Survey

- Survey conducted across all 3 campuses – Hackensack, Meadowlands and Paramus
- Candidates were asked to answer five (5) questions (slides 4-7) to assess their knowledge of food pantries on campus and in their community
- A combination of students, faculty and other school staff is represented
- Total of 97 individuals participated
Fig. 1: Did you know that there is a food pantry on campus?

- 29% said YES
- 71% said NO
Fig. 2: Do you know any food banks or pantries other than the one on campus?

- **YES**: 14%
- **NO**: 86%
Fig. 3: Do you know if your local/closest food pantry has enough food?

- **YES**: 20%
- **NO**: 80%
Fig. 4: Have you ever known or do you know anyone who has utilized the services of a food bank/pantry?

- **YES**: 33%
- **NO**: 67%
Fig. 5: Are contributions to food banks/pantries significant?

- 33% NO
- 67% YES
1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program
Summary of Service Learning Survey

• Very little awareness of food pantry resources available on campus
  – Ineffective promotion/advertising or lack of attention

• Potential underutilization of food pantry resources (by those percentages unaware)
  – If you do not know it is there, you can’t use it.

• Large number of people knew someone who has utilized “a” food pantry
  – Despite the impression of wealth in the school/Bergen county, there is still need for the services of food pantries.
1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program

Summary of Service Learning Survey

• Lack of individual involvement in their own community
  – May not need the services of a food pantry, and therefore, do not deem the information important

• Large percentage of individuals are aware that contributions are important
  – If there are easy ways (i.e. food drives or one location for drop off near and accessible) for people to contribute, they most likely will.
Approximately 200 students were assisted in 2013 as per **Barbara Buff, Head College Nurse**
- Many of the 200 students visited the pantry on a weekly basis

The food pantry, as of 4/1/2014, does not have enough food to meet the demand.

The services of the food pantry are advertised by word-of-mouth, which does not seem *most* effective, but it has reached at least 200 students in need of resources provided by the BCC Pantry.
• “We appreciate all the food we are getting. There are days when the cupboard is totally bare and there are times when it is full. We are grateful, the students are grateful.”

~ Barbara Buff, Head College Nurse
### Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age by County, Municipality and Legislative District: New Jersey, 2006-2010

**Source:** State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Population for whom poverty status is determined</th>
<th>Income below poverty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>777968</td>
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<td>Bergen County</td>
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1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program Service Learning Food Drive Spring 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Below Poverty Level - As Published</th>
<th>Below Poverty Level - Using CPI-U-RS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>310,648</td>
<td>46,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>306,130</td>
<td>46,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>303,820</td>
<td>43,569</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>296,450</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>287,699</td>
<td>35,861</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>285,317</td>
<td>34,570</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty Status using CPI-U-RS to Adjust Money Income: 2002 to 2012

Source: United States Census Bureau
The age groups represented were: 17–20yrs, 21–24yrs and 29+ (age group not represented – 25–28yrs)

Ten percent (10%) more females than males participated.

In these groups, there were 10% more individuals who had not experienced hunger (i.e. going without a meal) than those who did experience hunger.

Approximately 85% of the focus group ate a meal at least three (3) times per day.

Approximately 75% of the focus group ate a snack at least three (3) meals per day.

Approximately 27.5% of the focus group ate when they had a friend to sit with.
Example Questions

- If I was hungry for days and without money, I would ________ (finish the sentence). Why?
- How do you feel knowing that there are people in your classes and on your campus hungry and coping with poverty?
- What is your favorite type of food?
- When choosing to eat, what do you consider? (i.e. cost, availability of food, etc.) Why is ‘this’ important?
Personal (Students’) Responses

- “I had to survive, so I stood outside of McDonalds and waited for people to throw away food and then I searched through the garbage after it….my younger brother and I.”
- “I try to eat all of my food because this situation is familiar to me.”
- “We forget and we are a selfish people…we worry about ourselves only.”
- “I would rather starve than ask for help if I needed…do not want to be pitied.”
- “I do not know where to go for help…maybe beg on the streets.”
- “I experienced this my first semester…I would help.”
What can YOU do?

• **Increase Awareness**
  — On campus: communicate with peers, ask questions and locate resources, and share food and information (tell a professional)
  — In your community: research and get involved with your local food pantry; volunteer to help directly or indirectly

• **Most of all - Donate**
  — There can never be too many food donations at any food pantry.
Categories (non-perishable only)

- Dairy: Milk, Yogurt and Cheese
- Vegetables
- Grains: Bread, Cereal, Rice, and Pasta
- Protein Foods: Meat, Poultry, Fish, and Dry Beans
- Fruits
- Oils and Condiments
- Paper Products
- Soap Products
- Personal Care Products
- Extras: tea, coffee, salt, pepper, etc.
Thank You for Your Participation

Donations made by faculty, staff and students to the 1-2-3 Connect Program Food Drive