



# Cathedral Kitchen Annual Report 2025



*A family with CK Empowerment Coach Hayde during meal service*

Dear Friends,

In June, Cathedral Kitchen will celebrate 50 years of service in Camden. We are incredibly grateful to our philanthropic partners and volunteers who provide a firm and steady foundation for our work attending to the needs of thousands of our neighbors. It is only with your help that we've been able to lend a hand to those in need, day after day, and especially during such an unpredictable year.

A growing number of people are struggling under the weight of rising costs and impending cuts to critical safety net programs. We cannot forget the devastating disruptions to SNAP benefits due to the lengthy government shut down that gave us a glimpse to what we can expect if proposed changes to Medicaid and SNAP are instituted.

During the government shut down, we served more meals than ever before. One day during the last week of October we served 800 meals – an ominous record number in our nearly 50-year history. Even before the SNAP crisis, we were noting an uptick in the number of times per week guests seek our services. Our May 2025 guest survey revealed that 84% of guests come to CK for a meal at least 3 days per week, up from 76% previously. 54% come 5 to 6 times per week, up from just 18% previously.

The average number of meals we serve daily has increased by 58% compared to before the pandemic. We are also serving a higher number of meals to families with children, reflecting rising food insecurity among low-income families. Seniors and those with disabilities are also seeking our services in higher numbers.

Your support this year made all the difference. And we will need you that much more in 2026.

While we prepare for continued challenges ahead, we're also excited to celebrate our 50th anniversary beginning in June. Plans are well underway for parties and events that will span a full year from June 2026 to May 2027. We'll have multiple opportunities to applaud the accomplishments we've reached together over the last 5 decades. We'll also launch new and inspiring offerings for volunteers. If you don't already, please subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media, for up-do-date information about events and volunteer opportunities. Information about our June 50th anniversary kick-off event will be released soon.

As one volunteer recently said – *"A meal is more than just nutrition. It's an acknowledgment of someone's humanity. Perhaps in 50 years from now, the need for our services will end. Until then, we will be here, offering a hot meal and a place at our table."*

With gratitude for your support and commitment to our mission.

Carrie Kitchen-Santiago  
Executive Director

**In 2025, Cathedral Kitchen's Meal, Outreach, and Social Enterprise programs provided 1,013,009 meals, an average of 2,775 meals each day.**

# Cathedral Kitchen Board of Directors

**Officers**  
 Russell (Chip) Heim  
*President*  
 Helen Le Du  
*Vice President of Strategy,*  
*Treasurer*  
 Zetra Goodman Waters  
*Vice President of Operations*  
 April Schetler, MS, RD, FAND  
*Secretary*

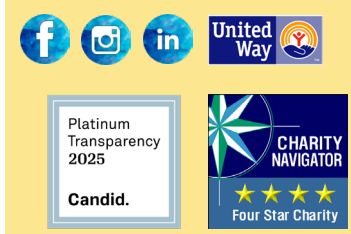
**Directors**  
 Maureen Coghlan, Esq.  
 Erin Coleman  
 Ronald DeAbreu  
 Lisa Folks  
 Life Gaylord  
 Beth Green, SPHR, PCC  
 Bill Haggett  
 Charles Holmes, CPA, CITP, CFF  
 Rory O'Hara, CFP®, CRPC®

**Executive Director**  
 Carrie Kitchen-Santiago

Founded in 1976, the Cathedral Kitchen is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**Mission Statement**  
 Cathedral Kitchen's mission is to help people out of food insecurity and champion their pursuit of stability and prosperity.

**Cathedral Kitchen**  
 1514 Federal Street  
 Camden, NJ 08105  
 T: (856) 964-6771  
 F: (856) 964-6772  
 www.cathedralkitchen.org



A member of



# Meal Program

Our Meal Program provides free, hot, nutritious meals, cooked on-site, 6 days per week. Need for this life-saving service continues to climb. The average number of meals we serve daily has increased by 58% compared to before the pandemic. We are also serving a higher number of meals to families with children. In 2025, we served 65,156 meals to families, nearly double the number we served in 2024.



**350,787 free meals were provided by our Meal and Outreach program**

**A family of four can save more than \$1,140 per month by coming to Cathedral Kitchen six days per week for meals and groceries (based on Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2022 report).**

# CK Marketstand



Our Marketstand fills a critical gap for those who are food insecure. Free fresh foods and pantry items are available every weekday.

*Left: A family receives a turkey and Thanksgiving staples before the holiday*



- 65,523 bags of groceries were distributed through our Marketstand and Outreach
- 710,842 pounds of food was donated, preventing 1,829 metric tons of CO2eq emissions, the equivalent of driving from CK to Alaska and back 537 times
- This donated food is valued at \$1,364,817



CK staff member Adam delivers produce from Carversville to a volunteer at Mickle Towers

We deliver free hot meals and groceries to partner organizations to support food security in the broader community. After-school programs, local pantries, houses of worship, and low-income residential facilities receive regular deliveries, including Mickle Towers, a low income senior residential facility in Camden.

*"I do this out of love, care, and concern for my people and our elders. Cathedral Kitchen donations are instrumental to these seniors' food security"*

**-Kesha Farrington, Mickle Towers**

## Community Partners We Serve



- 📍 Branch Village
- 📍 Brothers & Sisters Heavenly Foods
- 📍 Building Bridges
- 📍 Cathedral Kitchen
- 📍 Center for Family Services
- 📍 Heart of Camden
- 📍 Joseph's House
- 📍 Kaighn Ave Baptist Church
- 📍 Mickle Tower
- 📍 Mighty Writers
- 📍 New Beginnings Church
- 📍 PRUP
- 📍 Riverview Towers
- 📍 Stonegate
- 📍 UrbanPromise
- 📍 Westfield Towers

## Leave a Legacy

Planned Giving is a way to leave a legacy to many people in need through bequests or trusts, gifts of stock, mutual fund shares, life insurance and retirement plan assets. Your attorney or financial planner can help you to arrange any of these using the following information:

**Cathedral Soup Kitchen, Inc. • 1514 Federal Street • Camden, NJ 08105 • Tax ID #: 22-3114500**

Please let us know if you have already included Cathedral Kitchen in your estate plans. For more information, please contact Noreen Flewelling by phone at (856) 964-6771 ext. 126 or by email at [noreen@cathedralkitchen.org](mailto:noreen@cathedralkitchen.org).



# Empowerment Services

CK's two Empowerment Coaches work with hundreds of guests before and during our daily Meal Program, helping them connect to critical services, resources, and information.

In 2025, our coaches worked with 247 guests, up from 172 in 2024, helping them achieve stability goals, including obtaining SNAP, SSI/SSDI, TANF/General Assistance benefits and health insurance; receiving essential documents needed for housing, healthcare, benefits and employment, like ID, birth certificate, and Social Security card; getting into shelter/housing, getting help with utility and rent payments to prevent shutoff and eviction, and enrolling in substance use programs.

Empowerment coaches also connected and coordinated care with our onsite service partners. Outcomes resulting from that care included:

- **299 guests enrolled in Medicaid/Medicare or had issues with insurance resolved**
- **49 guests received a phone and 24 received a tablet**
- **759 health screenings, vaccines, and consultations were provided**
- **110 individuals received support managing addictions**
- **200 guests received legal assistance from VolunteerUp and South Jersey Legal Services**



## Our Partner Service Organizations in 2025

**Camden Health Department • Campbell's Legal Department • Center for Family Services • Cooper Hospital Flow Forward • Harm Reduction Program • Horizon • NJ Department of Motor Vehicles • Omega Physicians Rowan Schreiber School of Veterinary Medicine • SafetyNet Phones • SJ Family Medical Center South Jersey Legal Services • Standup Wireless • United Health Care • Virtua • Volunteer Up • WellPoint**

## Guest Spotlight



*William with CK Empowerment Coach, Hayde*

William is a 66-year-old veteran originally from Lakewood, NJ. After his time serving with the army, he was incarcerated for a period of time. From there, he moved around, spending time working as a machine operator in Lakewood and then in Delaware, before settling in Camden with one of his sons.

For more than 3 years, William has been housing and food insecure, living in a tent or sometimes an overnight shelter. When he decided to take initiative and get his life back on track, William was overwhelmed with the amount of paperwork and logistics necessary, especially on top of the effort he devoted to just surviving and staying safe every day.

He had just about given up when, in a last-ditch effort, he decided to reach out to one of CK's Empowerment Coaches, Hayde, during our meal service. *"Hayde helped me much faster and got more results than when I was trying to work with the government directly."*

In under six months, William secured SNAP benefits, a new ID, a birth certificate, and social security support. Right now, Hayde and William are looking at some promising options for housing and are hoping to secure this in the coming months. In addition to the help William is getting from Hayde, he gets meals and personal care items from CK and gets his mail delivered here.

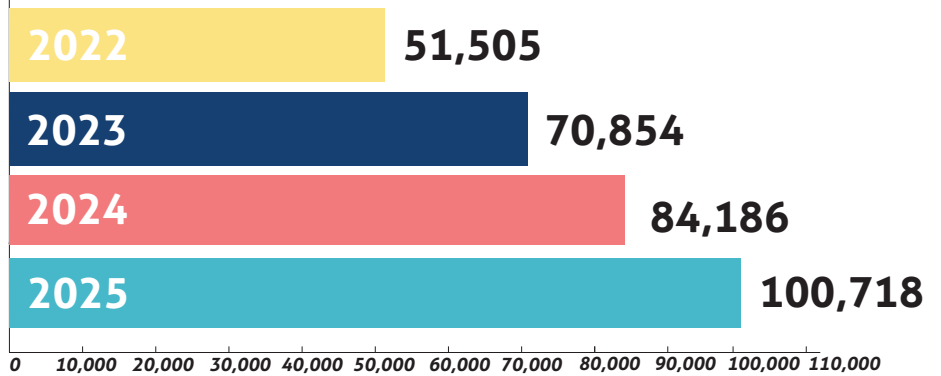
William has not taken advantage of social services outside of CK. In his older age, he just wants to be in places where he feels safe – his tent and Cathedral Kitchen. Despite his current hardships, William has an incredibly positive outlook on life and uses humor to get through the tougher days.

*"This place keeps me in a good mood. It's too easy to think about what's happened in the past and get stuck in that dark place that doesn't serve you. But tomorrow is an untouched day—why would I bring my troubles from yesterday or today into tomorrow?"* We're so glad CK has become a safe place for William.

# Personal Care

Every Monday guests can pick up a discreetly packaged bag of free personal care items of their choosing – underwear, socks, soap, period products, toothbrushes, etc. Demand for these costly items increased over 100% in 2025 compared to 2022.

## Personal Care Items Distributed



Our Personal Care team that distributes items every Monday!

## Distributed 100,718 items



5,507 deodorants



10,243 pairs of underwear



4,138 menstrual products



12,382 dental products

# CK Volunteers

Our dedicated CK volunteers keep our meal service running smoothly. They assemble take-away bags, prepare and serve the meal, and clean up after the meal. They also provide a warm smile, an encouraging word, and an open heart to our guests, making a world of difference to so many. We simply could not do this work without them.

### Volunteer reflections from our 2025 feedback survey:

*"It was really nice to see the comfort that the food brings to all the guests." "CK is my happy place."*

*"I really enjoyed my interactions with the people who came in for a meal."*

*"I believe I got as much, if not more, satisfaction from volunteering at CK, as the guests who benefitted from the program."*

Please consider joining our volunteer team! Visit [www.cathedralkitchen.org](http://www.cathedralkitchen.org) and click on the volunteer tab for more information and to register.



These are just a few of our amazing volunteers! Left to right: Gloucester County Institute of Technology, Gamma Nu Zeta, St. Joseph the Worker Parish



- 3,470 active volunteers donated 26,036 hours of service
- Volunteer hours translated to more than \$962,551\* in savings for the Kitchen

\* Based on the 2025 Independent Sector value of volunteer time for NJ

# Culinary Arts Training



Our Culinary Arts Training program prepares students for employment through class work, hands-on kitchen training, and ServSafe instruction. The free, accredited 15-week program also includes job readiness training and individualized empowerment coaching.

On average, 90% of our graduates are employed within three months of graduation; 96% of those graduates are still steadily employed 6 months after starting employment. Many of our students have gone on to purchase cars and homes and move up in their careers.



## Graduate Spotlight



CK graduate Siani, now a supervisor at the Cooper Hospital kitchen

Siani, a New Jersey native, graduated from our Culinary Arts Training (CAT) Program in 2021. Five years later, she's continued to grow into an impressive chef and—after three promotions—is now a supervisor at the Cooper Hospital kitchen!

Before the CK training program, Siani had always wanted to work with food but didn't have the training or skills to pursue it. Siani excelled in the CAT Program, even winning the Outstanding Student award. To this day, she credits the CAT program for her food safety knowledge, technical skills, and social skills. And Siani doesn't mess around with food safety! *"While it may seem small, failing food safety protocols can result in more than a failed inspection: people can get sick."*

During the 15-week program, CAT students cook for and serve food insecure and housing insecure Camden residents for the CK Meal program. Today, that experience pushes her to leverage her position at the hospital to feed those in need.

In addition to her professional success, Siani has grown into herself in other ways as well. Now living on her own with a little puppy, Rocki, Siani has gained self-confidence and joy since graduating from the program. She's still in touch with her CAT program friends, one of which works down the street at the Camden Aquarium Cafeteria.

*"I wouldn't be here without CK, and I know it's a place I can always go back to if I need anything. Chef Nai is still a second mother to me. Her and Chef Jill were awesome."*

This summer, Siani and one of her colleagues at Cooper Hospital plan to open a food truck, Curbside Eats, right here in Camden. Opening a food truck has always been a dream of Siani's.

*"Everything I learned at Cathedral Kitchen helped me to advance at Cooper and prepared me to start my own business. As long as you work as a team and remember what you learned, there's nothing you can't do."*

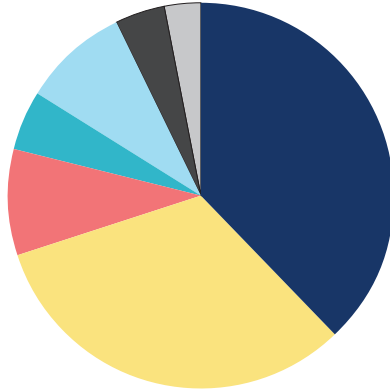
At 31, Siani still has a lot of time to achieve her goals. But if the last five years are any indication of what's to come, we'll be announcing a restaurant opening soon!

### Some employers who have hired our 2025 graduates include...

- Adventure Aquarium • Applebee's • Boaggio's Bread Bakery • Brock at TRIAD 1828 • Caribbean Flavors • Carrabba's Italian Restaurant
- Cheesecake Factory • Chipotle • Cracker Barrel • Double Tree Hotel • Eurest at Subaru • Food Reyes • Heritage Dairy
- Hilton Garden Inn • Honeygrow • Legacy at the Freedom Mortgage Pavilion • Little Brown Bird • Longhorn Steakhouse
- Morrison's at Virtua • Sodexo at Cooper Health • Sodexo at Campbell's • The Breakfast Place • The Merion • Tyler's Mill Senior Living

## INCOME

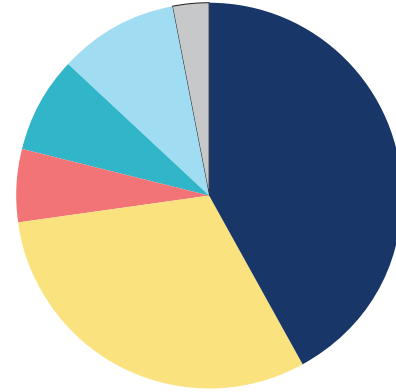
Total Income: \$7,055,388\*



- Social Enterprise 38%
- Individual Donations 32%
- Foundation Grants 9%
- Corporate Donations 5%
- Government Grants 9%
- Harvest for Hunger 4%
- Interest and Fees 3%

## EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$6,007,810



- Social Enterprise 42%
- Meal Program 31%
- Culinary Arts Training 8%
- Social Services 6%
- Fundraising 10%
- Administration 3%

*\*Income includes \$532,500 in multi-year pledges committed but scheduled for payment in 2026 and 2027. These totals were published prior to the completion of the 2025 audit.*

## Social Enterprise

Voted **Best Mission-Driven Catering** for the second year by **SJ Magazine**, our social enterprise business provides training opportunities for our culinary students, creates jobs in Camden, and generates income for our programs and services. We employ over 20 staff members, the majority of whom are graduates of our culinary arts job training program. In addition, our social enterprise businesses generate approximately 40% of CK's \$6 million operating budget.



**622,985 meals were prepared by our contract catering team for Volunteers of America's shelters and halfway houses**



**15,934 meals were prepared and delivered to Camden County senior centers**

**Planning a party or event? CK Catering from the Heart does the work for you!**

Our Culinary Chefs create a mouthwatering menu that suits your needs and budget, and our friendly, professional staff makes sure your event is flawless!



Contact Lisa Marco to begin your planning today! 856-964-6771 x101

### A Selection of our Catering Clients

- Archer • Camden County • Campbell's • Christ Our Light • Cooper Health
- Corporate Synergies • Delaware River Port Authority
- Domenica Foundation • Freedom Mortgage • Haddon Fortnightly
- ResinTech • Rutgers • Salvation Army • Subaru
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill • Virtua



# Cathedral Kitchen turns 50 this year



*Celebrate with us!*



## **Save The Date:**

### **Golden Harvest – 50th Anniversary Celebration**

Thursday, November 12, 2026  
Lucien's Manor, Berlin, NJ

**Golden Harvest** will celebrate the impact you've helped make possible while looking ahead to our vision for the future and the next chapter of Cathedral Kitchen.

Guests can still look forward to all the event favorites: wine and craft beer tastings, gourmet food, live and silent auctions, and raffles—along with special touches to honor five decades of using food to change lives.



We're looking forward to hosting the Camden community for a special event on June 20 to kick off a year of 50th anniversary celebrations—a family-friendly Community Day honoring 50 years of serving Camden.

More details are coming soon, along with other ways you can celebrate and support Cathedral Kitchen throughout this milestone year.

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cherry Hill, NJ BMEU  
Permit No. 192

[www.cathedralkitchen.org](http://www.cathedralkitchen.org)

Fax: 856-964-6772

Phone: 856-964-6771

Camden, NJ 08105

1514 Federal Street

**Cathedral Kitchen**