



# NEWS

## Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council

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### Summer Food Drive for Children a Success

North Jersey--Hundreds of children from needy families receive hot breakfast and lunch during the school year through subsidized school meal programs. When schools close for summer vacation, these meals are not available, and low-income families are often unable to fill the void, many having to make the choice between paying rent or going hungry.

The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC) coordinated a summer food drive with both its member companies and other interested companies, to collect "kid-friendly", non-perishable breakfast and lunch food items. The food collected during this initiative, entitled "Brown Bag Buddies", was delivered to the Center for Food Action and other local food pantries during the months of June and July.

"The wages of the working poor have not kept up with housing, transportation and child care costs. Northern New Jersey has the highest child poverty rates in the state. Without school meals, families must turn to the food pantries to provide nutritional meals for their children," says Tess Tomasi, BVC coordinator.

Fifteen companies took part in this year's initiative, collecting and distributing over 5,000 lbs of food, valued at almost \$16,000, as well as grocery gift cards.

The sponsors for this year's drive were BD, located in Franklin Lakes, Rockland Electric, in Saddle River and Sealed Air, located in Elmwood Park

Since 2000, the BVC's "Brown Bag Buddies" campaign has raised over \$200,000 in food and donations to help provide breakfast and lunch for children who aren't receiving school meals during the summer.

For more information about "Brown Bag Buddies" or the other programs of the BVC, call (201) 489-9454, Ext. 114 or e-mail [ttomasi@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:ttomasi@bergenvolunteers.org).

The mission of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council is to provide leadership in meeting community needs through mobilization of employee volunteers. Its purpose is to significantly impact the lives of children and families in the areas of hunger, health and education by connecting area businesses with non-profit organizations to direct resources to those in need. The BVC is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County.

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Pictures captions:

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The employees at **Kreiser Industrial Corporation** in Elmwood Park collected 576 pounds of food that was delivered to local food pantries and distributed to needy children and their families during the "Brown Bag Buddies" initiative of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council.

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**People's Education**, a school publishing company in Saddle Brook, organized a summer food drive throughout their building, to support the "Brown Bag Buddies" initiative of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council. The food was delivered to local food pantries and distributed to needy children and their families.

Shown here are employees of **Paul Wiener Physical Therapy**, a participating company, who collected 526 lbs of food

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The employees of **Amper, Politziner & Mattia**, an accounting firm in Hackensack, collected 525 pounds of food that was delivered to local food pantries and distributed to needy children and their families during the “Brown Bag Buddies” initiative of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council.