



# NEWS

## Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 23, 2008  
End date: August 8, 2008

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### Companies needed to organize summer food drives for children.

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.

Companies are needed to host employee food drives during the summer to help these families.

The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC) is coordinating 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", will be delivered to the Center for Food Action and other local food pantries during the months of July and August. Companies can request a free information kit that describes the program and provides "how-to" instructions on running an employee food drive, by calling (201) 489-9454 Ext. 114.

"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.

In 2007, \$15,085 worth of food and grocery gift cards was distributed through “Brown Bag Buddies”. The goal for 2008 is \$20,000. The sponsors for this year’s drive are BD, Rockland Electric, Sealed Air and Compensation Solutions.

“We are asking all companies in northern New Jersey to encourage their employees to participate in this summer food drive,” continues Ms. Tomasi. “Remember, hunger never takes a vacation.”

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

