

# The Monmouth Journal

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## Local beach patrons help feed those in need



Crystal Wilbanks, 26, of Oceanport, works the front desk at Surfrider Beach Club in Sea Bright, where she has witnessed the generosity of its members donating food from their cabanas to the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Photo by Diane Carlton The Monmouth Journal  
By Diane Carlton The Monmouth Journal SEA BRIGHT — In an effort to collect much needed food for the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, charitable organization Move for Hunger has launched an inaugural Surfside Food Drive, taking place at beach clubs along the Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Spring Lake.

Culminating on Labor Day, Sept. 7, Executive Director Adam Lowy said, “More than 100,000 people in Monmouth and Ocean counties alone are at risk of going hungry every month. We really need events like this that bring the food drive to the people. Even the smaller donations go a long way.” Clubs that are participating in the event include Ship Ahoy, Sands Beach Club, Surfrider Beach Club, Chapel Beach Club, Water’s Edge Beach Club, Driftwood Beach

Club, Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club, Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion, Breakwater Beach Club, Elberon Bathing Club, Philips Avenue Beach Club, The Deal Casino, Allenhurst Beach Club, Loch Arbor Beach Club, and Spring Lake Bath & Tennis Club.

Cabana cabinets often are stocked full of untouched food at the end of the summer, and when the members clean out their units at the close of the season, they can donate the food to a good cause, rather than simply throw it away.

For those interested in contributing who are not members of a beach club, the Avon Pavilion will serve as a public donation drop-off site.

Founded by the Lowy family of Lowy's Moving Service in Neptune, Move for Hunger is a start-up endeavor that has already collected more than 2,000 pounds of unwanted, imperishable food from customers who are relocating and had donated it to local food banks.

Crystal Wilbanks, 26, of Oceanport, works the front desk at Surfrider beach club in Sea Bright and said Lowy's has been tremendously efficient in dropping off boxes and calling to pick them up.

The collection boxes and food drive sign are posted in the Surfrider lobby and, according to Wilbanks, have been popular with members of the club. She has witnessed, first hand, the generosity of the club's members and said they all seem very excited about the concept. Acknowledging the innovative nature of the drive, Wilbanks said, "I think it will be such a great success because so much food goes to waste each year."

In addition to member donations, Surfrider has made their own non-perishable donation and has plans to join members on the "clean out days" of Sept. 8 and 9 when the club prepares to winterize until next season and contributes non-perishable items left over from the snack bar. Jim McConville is the general manager at Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis club and said the association is always happy to give back to a good cause.

Unable to collect food because of multiple activities taking place at the facility during the season, the club contributed a monetary donation to the food bank and praised Lowy's for their commitment to service. "It's so nice and so rewarding that people volunteer," he said. "I think it's tremendous." The food drive will continue through Labor Day weekend.