



Started in December 2010 by a group of New Jersey Youth Corps of Monmouth County students and volunteers seeking to give back to their community, Need to Feed is a weekly food service that offers a good free meal to those in need. Need to Feed sets up one or two late afternoons/early evenings a week, serving soup, baked goods and coffee or sandwiches and cold drinks depending on the season.

Despite serving less than 25 people on the first snowy night on Springwood Avenue in December 2010, Need to Feed has grown to serving 200 persons weekly – children, elderly, homeless, families. Also, based on the needs of those coming to the Need to Feed tables, the program has expanded its offerings and now distributes fruit, vitamin c, and hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves whenever possible.

Need to Feed was initially funded through the award of a competitive Emerging Community Leader grants from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation and has operated for close to a year with a very small budget. Ongoing, generous support from Frank's Deli and Marilyn Schlossbach significantly lengthened the duration of the program. Due to the great success of the program, the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation awarded the program an unprecedented second grant. With this support, through September 2011, Need to Feed served approximately:

5, 237 individuals with soup and/or sandwiches

4,933 pastries, donuts, rolls or loaves of bread, and

4, 500 apples and oranges

In addition, Need to Feed has drawn a great deal of attention in the area. Featured in two articles in the Asbury Park Press and receiving recognition by the Asbury Park City Council and the full support of the Asbury Park Police Department and Department of Social Services, the program provides an opportunity for people to come together over something good to eat whether it's a cup of soup or a hearty sandwich. Neighbors, city officials, police, area residents, youth, elderly, and volunteers connect with each other each week at Need to Feed's tables on Springwood Avenue.