



April 2018

Bridgeton Takes Meals on the Road

Bridgeton Mayor Albert Kelly turned a \$10,000 grant into a bright, inviting mobile meals bus that serves up both tasty food and engaging books to area children – many of whom lack transportation to summer meals sites.

The Healthy Food Express was launched last summer after Kelly used a grant from Ocean First, a local foundation, to retrofit a former Head Start school bus. The seats were removed and flooring, refrigeration units and electrical outlets were installed. The outside of the bus was brightly painted with pictures of children and slogans like, “Eat Healthy Every Day.”

Last summer, the bus not only helped feed area children who could not travel to a meal site, it brought nutrition to senior citizens and others in need, says Kelly, who also serves as executive director of Gateway Community Action Partnership.

“We were able to distribute excess food we received from farmers, from our farm that Gateway runs and from donations from area supermarkets,” Kelly explains. “This is also a mobile library, so we can take educational materials to give to our youth.”



In 2018, plans called for adding an awning to the bus to provide shelter from the hot summer sun and a PA system to broadcast the bus' arrival, Kelly adds.

The bus will go to “where the need is, from Bridgeton and beyond,” he says, citing housing projects, city streets, parks and libraries.

“We have hungry children and hungry citizens in our communities and not everyone can make it to a meal site,” he notes. “We’re looking to partner with other organizations that would like to work with us, to spread out and make sure we find the right sites that will feed as many children as we can.”

To learn more, call Gateway Community Action Partnership at (856) 451-6330.

For more information, contact Adele LaTourette, director, Hunger Free New Jersey at alatourette@cfanj.org or Lisa Pitz, outreach director, at lpitz@cfanj.org. For more information about the New Jersey Food for Thought Campaign, visit njfoodforthought.org or contact Nancy Parello at nparello@cfanj.org. This document was prepared by Hunger Free New Jersey. Visit hungerfreenj.org to learn more.

