

# SHARE MY MEALS



## WHO WE ARE?

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Share my meals is a non-profit organization that fights food insecurity in the Princeton area. We work with local entities seeking to curb the environmental impact of food waste by providing their excess inventory to people in need.

Our organization connects these two realities and creates a positive outcome for our community and our environment.

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+1 (609) 337-2415  
info@sharemy meals.org  
www.sharemy meals.org

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252 Nassau St.  
Princeton, NJ 08542  
USA



# WHAT DO WE OFFER?

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The Waste Watcher Program is a sustainable food recovery process, approved by the local health department that distributes surplus meals from the cafeterias of local corporations, schools, universities, and restaurants to food insecure members of the community.

## **Benefits of our Waste Watcher**

### **Program:**

- Access to healthy and balanced meals
- Reduced costs of leftovers disposal and tax savings
- Employees engagement through Corporate Social Responsibility
- Tangible environmental impact via food waste reduction

## **How does the Waste Watcher**

### **Program work?**

Food recovery planning:

- Pre-planned: donor sends weekly information detailing location, timing, and estimated quantity of surplus meals.
- Day-of: donor texts or calls a hotline with donation details.

## **Food recovery process:**

- Meals are packaged and labeled by the donor in non-disposable trays, each containing healthy and balanced ready-to-eat meals for up to 5 people (one family).
- Two trained Share my meals volunteers pick-up the food, transporting it in an insulated box to ensure a temperature of 41°F or below.
- Meals are delivered to the Share my meals recipients within 60 minutes directly to their house.

## **Food Distribution**

Share my meals carefully screens the recipients population to ensure the food will be exclusively distributed in respect of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act requirements, including:

- Families receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits,
- Families participating in other federal assistance programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy
- Families (TANF), Families who are eligible for the public housing program

The recipients are chosen on a rotation basis and contacted on the day of delivery. The non-disposable trays are returned to one of the Share my meals volunteers within a week.

# HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SHARE MY MEALS MOVEMENT?

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**Grants and donations:** Our non-profit is run entirely by volunteers and its 501 (C) (3) status allows donors to claim tax deductions.

## **Dynamic of the fundraising:**

Our goal is to work with local for-profit companies and restaurants to implement fundraising initiatives supported by joined efforts of the partners themselves, their employees and/or customers.

- Share my meals together with its partners decide on a Share my meals item to be listed on the menu of the restaurants or of the companies' cafeterias.
- A percentage of the sale of this item is donated to Share my meals.
- This strategy can be implemented temporarily or permanently, with revolving menu items.
- Together with our partners we develop a communication message for their employees and/or customers as well as a relevant payment process.
- The partners supporting the Share my meals movement will receive a certificate to acknowledge their participation to the movement.

# WHAT DRIVES US?

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## **There is a shocking amount of food waste in the United States**

40% of the total food produced is never consumed.

## **Food insecurity in Princeton and in New Jersey**

The USDA estimated in 2017 that 9.6% of the total population and 13.2% of the children population in New Jersey were food insecure. [NJSHAD - Complete Health Indicator Report - Food Insecurity](#)

As of July 2016, there were 858,572 persons receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly known as Food Stamps) benefits in New Jersey. [Current Program Statistics](#)

**12%** of public school children in Princeton qualify for free and reduced lunch. In-school meals are often their only consistent source of food.

## **The desire to rebalance the “Food Waste & Demand” equation**

Far too many people go hungry while food waste negatively impacts the environment. Share my meals strives to solve these two issues at a grassroots level.

# WHAT SUPPORTS OUR INITIATIVES?



Our efforts are aligned with broader national initiatives, including government programs and regulations which provide clarity and incentives for corporations that aim to reduce food waste. Share my meals is also working alongside the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular [goal 12](#), which is focused on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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### FOOD WASTED

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## 13.2%

### FOOD INSECURE

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of the children population in New Jersey were food insecure (USDA 2017)

## 12%

### CHILDREN IN PRINCETON

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of public school children in Princeton qualify for free and reduced lunch