



Tacony Academy Partners with Red Rabbit and Food Bank of South Jersey to Combat Food Insecurity

PHILADELPHIA, PA; August 8, 2023—Tacony Academy, one of four American Paradigm Schools located in North and Northeast Philadelphia, has joined forces with Red Rabbit and the Food Bank of South Jersey in an effort to combat food insecurity in the region. Building upon their existing partnership, Tacony Academy opens up its elementary school kitchen to Red Rabbit throughout the summer to prepare homemade meals that are distributed to local South Jersey residents.

Red Rabbit, a Black-owned food service management company, is renowned for its mission to uplift underserved communities of color by providing culturally responsive, nutritious, and delicious meals. As the first school in Philadelphia to collaborate with Red Rabbit, Tacony Academy serves as a crucial partner, providing the infrastructure to prepare meals that will be supplied to the Food Bank of South Jersey, ensuring continued support beyond the academic school year for those facing food insecurity during the summer months. This collaborative effort is an extension of a year-round partnership to provide children with fresh meals.

"At Tacony Academy, we are committed to ensuring our students and the broader community have access to nutritious meals year-round," said Tacony Academy's CEO and Principal, Naimah Wimberly. "This partnership with Red Rabbit and the Food Bank of South Jersey represents a significant step in our joint efforts to combat food insecurity and create a positive impact in the lives of our families."

The collaboration operates seamlessly with each party playing a vital role: Red Rabbit produces freshly prepared meals from scratch, Tacony Academy provides the essential and fully equipped kitchen and cooking space, and the Food Bank of South Jersey takes charge of distribution to various sites in South Jersey serving families throughout the summer.

"Children deserve nourishing and culturally affirming meals year round and it is our privilege to work with such wonderful partners to ensure that the South Jersey community has equal access to good food in the summer. This program helps ensure that they enjoy their summer and start the new school year well positioned to succeed," said Nausher Khan, VP of Partner Relations at Red Rabbit.

Through this partnership, the Food Bank of South Jersey Summer Meals Program currently serves close to 1,000 lunches per day, along with breakfast, snacks, and some dinners to children across its four-county service area. The Food Bank of South Jersey Summer Meals Program aims to bridge the summer 'meal gap' when school breakfasts and lunches are not

available. Through this partnership, they have expanded their impact, reaching 27 sites and serving approximately 1,330 children across the region.

“Summer should be about fun, not worry,” said Fred Wasiak, President & CEO of the Food Bank of South Jersey, “which is why we are proud to partner with great organizations like these to end summer hunger in our communities. When we come together, we can truly make a difference in South Jersey and beyond for those facing food insecurity.”

About American Paradigm Schools

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit www.ap-schools.org.

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

About Red Rabbit

Red Rabbit is the largest black-owned school food service company in the US. Since 2005, it has worked with hundreds of schools, networks, districts, food banks, and government officials alike to uplift communities of color throughout the North East and Mid-Atlantic Regions. Their work is deeply rooted in the children they serve as it aims to bring joy to each community by serving delicious, thoughtful, and familiar food.

About Food Bank of South Jersey

The Food Bank of South Jersey believes that no one should go to bed hungry. Since 1985, it has served the children, families, and seniors of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties by distributing safe and healthy food, providing nutrition education and cooking courses, and developing sustainable pathways for neighbors to improve their lives. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and member of Feeding America, FBSJ distributed 15 million meals in 2022, through direct distributions and its network of more than 200 partner agencies. For more information, visit FoodBankSJ.org.

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