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NBC 10 Philly Highlights Governor Christie's Commitment To South Jersey Food Bank

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TRANSCRIPT

Tracy Davidson: New Jersey governor Chris Christie helps bring welcome news to a south Jersey food bank. It now has 2 million reasons to be thankful. The governor announced a huge donation from the Delaware River Port Authority to the Food Bank of South Jersey today, money desperately needed to help feed the hungry this holiday season. NBC 10's Cydney Long is live in Pennsauken with the details. Cydney.

Cydney Long: Well, hi Tracy, good afternoon. In fact, 2,000 local families wrote heartfelt stories of why they needed food. Take a look. They wrote them on paper plates. The food bank sent a thousand of them to DC as well as a thousand to Trenton. And today with Governor Christie's announcement, the food bank no longer fears depleting its most precious resource.

Val Traore: So our challenge is the quantity of food, keeping a consistent flow of food coming into here.

Cydney Long: Governor Chris Christie on a tour of the Food Bank of South Jersey this afternoon gets an up-close look at shelves with little more than two months supply of food coupled with a 43% increase in the families across the state that are in need during the holiday season and beyond. The CEO of the food bank Val Traore asked 2,000 families in financial trouble to write their stories on paper plates. She sent them to the Statehouse.

Val Traore: We weren't sure what the response was going to be from Trenton when they got a box, or rather the Governor got a box of a thousand paper plates with stories of people on it.

Cydney Long: The governor here to announce that \$2 million initially promised by the Delaware River Port Authority for the Food Bank of South Jersey is now, after careful review, on the table again and will help Food Bank of South Jersey purchase and distribute nutritious meals to families in need for months to come.

Governor Christie: What really struck me was when she showed me the packages they make for kids to take home

on the weekends because when they don't get a school breakfast or school lunch they don't get anything to eat.

Cydney Long: The \$2 million announcement is part of the governor's month-long season of service. It also marks the end of the DRPA spending of economic development dollars after much criticism for how the Port Authority has collected and spent money in the past.

Jeffrey Nash: Today I feel good for the families of south Jersey and I feel good for the toll dollars.

Cydney Long: Tracy, in its 25 years of service, the Food Bank of South Jersey has provided, get this, 100 million pounds of food. That is 76 million meals to local families. Tonight they will continue making a difference here in the region. We're live in Pennsauken tonight. I'm Cydney Long, NBC 10 News.

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