



## For Immediate Release

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## Red Bank Charter School Squares Off Against Poverty at *Hoedown for Hunger* Event

*RBCS Community Helps Raise Awareness for the Growing Needs of Food Banks*

**Red Bank, NJ – October 27, 2011** – Red Bank Charter School, a non-profit, non-partisan, K-8 public school, hosted a food drive in October to raise awareness and boost the local relief efforts of the [Red Bank Salvation Army](#).

“At the Red Bank Charter School, we saw the arrival of [Hunger Action Month](#) as an opportunity to educate children and the community on the growing challenges so many of our neighbors face simply to feed their families,” said Meredith Pennotti, principal. “With an estimated 14 million children in America in need, the work of organizations like the Salvation Army have become a crucial lifeline.”

Among the most important missions of the Red Bank Charter School is a Service Learning Curriculum that provides the opportunity for students to volunteer at food banks, senior centers Habitat for Humanity, and other service organizations. This month, each RBCS class hosted a “food silo” where students and families collected over 1,300 food items and hand-delivered them to the Red Bank Salvation Army.

“This is a tremendous gift,” said Capt. Stewart Dalrymple, corps commander. “In recent months, we have seen the demand for assistance rise significantly. Just a few months ago, we were aiding about 30 families a month. Now we are providing food to around 50. What the RBCS has given us will greatly increase our ability to carry out our mission.”

The food drive culminated with a community-building event, *Hoedown for Hunger*, with RBCS parents, faculty and students proudly displaying their “food silo” collection on their Barnyard Float in the Red Bank Halloween Parade. Following the parade, they gathered at the Red Bank Salvation Army to deliver remaining donations and celebrate their achievements with a chili cook-off and square dancing.

“We’re very proud of our partnership with the Salvation Army, which not only helps to serve the community at large but provides an invaluable learning experience to our students about the very real needs right here in our community,” Ms. Pennotti added.

RBCS wishes to thank the following businesses for their support with the Hoedown for Hunger: Sickles Market, That Hot Dog Place, Cupcake Magician, Delicious Orchards, Mr. Cupcake, Pat Boag Landscaping, AWT Environmental, A&M Industrial, AV Murphy Builders, Sugarush and Java&Dogs.

For additional information please contact Red Bank Charter School at (732) 450-2092. Photos are attached.  
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#### ABOUT THE RED BANK CHARTER SCHOOL

The Red Bank Charter School is a K-8 public school serving children in Red Bank, N.J. Founded in 1998, the school has a current enrollment of 180 students with a highly qualified faculty and staff numbering more than 40. New Jersey Charter Schools are free public schools that are open to all children and which typically offer their students more individualized attention, longer school days, longer school years, and innovative programs with substantially less funding than conventional public schools. Further information is available at [www.redbankcharterschool.com](http://www.redbankcharterschool.com).

#### ABOUT THE RED BANK SALVATION ARMY

The Red Bank Salvation Army is an inclusive community offering both church and social services. Though anyone is welcome to attend our church services, we extend our hand of service to those in need who live in Anthonytown, Atlantic Highlands, Beacon Beach, Belford, Colts Neck, East Keansburg, Eatontown, Everett, Fair Haven, Highlands, Keansburg, Leonardo, Lincroft, Little Silver, Locust, Middletown, Monmouth Beach, Navesink, New Monmouth, Oceanport, Port Monmouth, Red Bank, Rumson, Scobeyville, Sea Bright, Shadow Lake Retirement Village, Shrewsbury and Tinton Falls. Anyone who would like to donate food to the Salvation Army can call the corps center at (732) 747-1626 to find out what kind of items to provide and then bring them to the center any weekday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.