



**The Baris family of Livingston is gearing up to donate and deliver frozen turkeys for the Table to Table “Turkey Take,” one way that Table to Table volunteers get food to the hungry. Shown, Nate Baris picks up food that would otherwise be wasted.**

***Here’s How to Help:***

# Food Rescue Kicks Off Holiday Turkey Drive

Table to Table, a large food rescue organization in northern New Jersey, is beginning its third annual “Turkey Take.” The holiday program seeks individuals, schools, businesses and community groups in Essex and three other northern New Jersey counties to donate and deliver one or more frozen turkeys, to local food pantries and group homes, from now through Friday, December 22.

“We invite the community at large to join us in feeding our hungry neighbors, especially as Thanksgiving approaches,” said Julie Kinner, vice president of operations at Table to Table.

The Baris family, for example, is one Livingston household that will participate in this year’s drive. They began volunteering with Table to Table about six months ago.

“We were bothered by the amount of food that is wasted everyday, ending up in landfills and contributing to climate change,” said Karen Baris. Her older son, Nate, was especially eager to do some kind of food res-

cue. He had completed a climate program over the summer, and is on the Sustainability Council at his school, Newark Academy.

“You don’t have to spend extra money. It’s literally food that is being thrown away and getting it into the hands of people who are hungry,” said Karen. “It’s a simple thing for

the whole family to do.”

The family, which also includes dad Brett, daughter Serena, and younger son Evan, has performed a number of food rescues. They sign up using the Table to Table IRescue app.

“The app is simple to use,” said Karen. “You can find the time and location that’s convenient for you. You sign up to pick up food from one place and deliver it somewhere else. It’s very efficient.”

The Baris family, for example, has picked up at Whole Foods in Vauxhall a number of times and delivered to the United Methodist Church in Orange; and picked up from the Montclair Farmers Market and delivered to the Salvation Army.

“We would like to do more, find more local donors and recipients,” Karen said.

“The Turkey Take is a great opportunity,” she added. “A lot of people get free turkeys that they aren’t using.”

Those interested in participating should download the I Rescue app, she said, which is how the Table to Table connections are made. “Then send an email to [volunteer@tableto-table.org](mailto:volunteer@tableto-table.org), with your name, number of turkeys, and date and time you want to deliver. They’re very flexible about where and when.”

For more information, go to [tabletotable.org/turkey-take](http://tabletotable.org/turkey-take).

Turkey Take is one way that food rescues are done by Table to Table; food donors and volunteers are needed all year long.

“I enjoy doing this. It feels good to me, helping and contributing to the community, and doing something about climate change issue as well,” Karen said. “I like having my kids see how you can do relatively simple tasks that make a big difference.”

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