



Shown, from left, are Newark Academy middle school students Saina Rastogi, Sophia Hou, Suri Patel, Ashleen Callahan, group founders Rhea Vasavada and Ashlyn Wolfe, Monica Li, and Hannah Lazer in a selfie with Table to Table director Heather Thompson. In 45 minutes, the students packed enough leftover food to provide fresh, tasty meals for more than 100 people.

Newark Academy Students Rescue Food One Tray at a Time

Every Friday after school, a group of middle school students at Newark Academy in Livingston wash hands, put on gloves, tie their hair back, and gather, package, and label an assortment of unused food from their school cafeteria. This surplus is donated to Table to Table, a food rescue program that delivers fresh foods to organizations that serve the hungry in Essex and three other northern New Jersey counties.

This mission was first started in April of 2023 by five students who were then in sixth grade – Ashlyn Wolfe, Rhea Vasavada, Nilya Damodaran, Ava Lavian, and Julia Neu. It began with a simple observation of wasted food in trash bins, a stark contrast to the hunger plaguing many communities.

“We saw excess food in the cafeteria garbage containers, and we thought this could be eaten by other



Sophia Hou, Rhea Vasavada, Hailey Drummond, Suri Patel and Ashleen Callahan pause while packing food for rescue at Newark Academy's middle school.

people,” said Ashlyn. “We thought of donating the food.”

But first, they had to find an organization to partner with. They looked to find organizations that would take the food and give it to people in need, and found Table to Table.

They also had to pitch their plan to the school's foodservice provider, Sage. “We made a presentation to them about what we wanted and how we would work with them and Table to Table to make it happen,” explained Rhea. Ever since, Sage has set aside surplus meals and foods each week for the students to pack and donate.

The founders' passion soon spread to their peers. For sixth grader Hannah Lazer, it's about empathy and equity. “It's important that we donate to people who are less fortunate than a lot of us here,” she said.

Ashleen Callahan, also in sixth grade, recognized the project's power to unite. “It brings the community closer together. We get a chance to give back for everything we have,” she said.

The students also are committed to environmental stewardship, by rescuing food destined for landfills. They seamlessly and efficiently pack the leftover foods, which this week included asparagus, macaroni salad, grilled cheese, spinach and tofu, breads and bagels, and meat sauce; label the containers; and store them in tall racks before rolling the racks outside to a delivery vehicle.

“We're making a dent raising the level of consciousness, providing these kids leadership opportunity, and they get it, they know what they have to do,” said advisor Debra Tavares. “They're hard workers. And they feel good about what they're doing, they understand the significance.”

During a recent Friday event, Table to Table's director, Heather Thompson, told the students how inspiring she found them.

“The food you are packing today is going to a food pantry in Orange, not so far away, and they do a food distribution that reaches more than 1,500 people,” Thompson said.

A lot of times when families go to food pantries, they get canned food, cereal, pasta, beans, Thompson added.

“Those things are important, but they don't get a lot of fresh food, and deliciously made food, like this. You guys are doing a lot of good,” she said. “(If) we could do this in every school, just think about how much food we could provide.”

The volunteers suggested inviting neighboring schools to see the food

donation program, and said they would like to help them start similar programs at their schools.

Tavares, along with sustainability teacher Rachael Reeves and the students, are already looking into next steps. To begin, the students will present the program at a middle school environmental club meeting.

How many people did the food they collected that one Friday feed?

“With 19 trays, and two huge bags of greens, it will probably provide fresh, healthy meals for more than 100 to 150 people,” said Thompson.

Not bad for leftovers.

Yard Waste Collection Taken with Garbage

Livingston residents are reminded that yard waste may be left at the curb for collection along with household garbage from January through September.

Yard waste includes bundled small brush, twigs, and branches; leaves; bagged grass clippings; and other bagged garden materials.

Tree limbs and branches should be bundled in no more than four-foot lengths; they should weigh no more than 50 pounds per bundle; they should also be bundled or bagged in a way that allows an individual to safely pick up and move the bag or bundle.

Yard waste collection is suspended during the township's Fall Leaf Collection Program, which runs from late October through early December.

For any problems or questions related to garbage pickup, residents should contact RTS directly by either calling 833-RTS-LVTN (833-787-5886) or going to support.rts.com

Go to livingstonnj.org/GarbageRecycling for schedules, FAQs, recycling guidelines, information about disposal of special items, and more.

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#261 KYLE KITCHIN
PATROLMAN #40
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF LIVINGSTON

Patrolman Kitchin graduated from West Essex Regional High School in 2011 and attended college at East Stroudsburg University majoring in Criminal Justice/Sociology and minoring in Psychology. Officer Kitchin graduated from ESU in 2015 and was hired in Livingston as a Police Officer in July of 2016. Officer Kitchin enjoys spending time with his family and golden retriever.

PERSONAL MESSAGE
“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence”
-Vince Lombardi

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LPD TRADING CARDS: In the coming months, the Tribune will share some of the Livingston Police Department trading cards in each edition of the paper. They are being submitted by the department, in order of seniority, starting with the patrol officers. Shown here are the cards for Officer Kyle Kitchin and Officer Jalessa LaSure.



#262 JALESSA LASURE
POLICE OFFICER #41
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF LIVINGSTON

Officer LaSure was first introduced to law enforcement watching Law & Order SVU. She wanted to be Olivia Benson. She went to college and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Crime Scene Investigation. She began her career in law enforcement with the East Orange Police Department in 2013 as a patrolman and then detective for 2 years. She has been with the Livingston Police Department since 2017 where she serves as a patrol officer.

PERSONAL MESSAGE
To whom much is given, much is required.

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Model Aircrafts Displayed at Library

June 6, 1944 was the day the air, land, and sea forces of the Allied armies stormed the beaches of Normandy, France in an attempt to end World War II. This year marks the 80th anniversary of that very important day, D-Day. To mark the observance, Livingston resident Bob Carley is displaying some of the aircraft models he made over the past 50 years, in the Livingston Library's display case for the month of June.

Bob's 1/48th scale model display shows the aircraft that helped the

Allied countries achieve victory over Germany and the Axis power. He has American, British, and German aircrafts and each model is an exact replica of the actual aircraft, and included is information about each aircraft and the specific jobs they did.

The D-Day operation was known as “Operation Overlord.” On that day there were over 11,000 aircraft in the air guiding ships, army tanks and troops in the fighting. Bombers, fighter planes, cargo planes, and reconnaissance aircraft all took part in the invasion.

In Carley's display, residents will notice most of the Allied aircraft have black and white invasion stripes on them.

“These markings were quickly sprayed on or hand painted by brush just days before the invasion,” Carley explained. “Their job was to identify friend from foe and they helped to save lives. Our command of the air along with the British RAF gave the Allies air superiority and helped to end World War II.”

Building model aircraft from kits has been a passion of Carley's for over 50 years. Around the age of seven, he used to watch his father and his uncle, both veterans of World War II, build model airplanes, boats, and train sets. Carley's background in metal fabrication and computer programming has helped him in understanding the technology that was used in the development of World War II aircrafts.

At 76 years old, Carley still finds pleasure in building World War II model aircrafts, vehicles and troops. “Researching that period of time in history by using the library, the Internet, and going to airshows has proved to be very enjoyable to me” Carley said.

To make sure his aircraft are accurate and authentic, he spends as much as 40 hours completing one airplane.

Some of the models in the exhibit are recent builds and some date back to the 1980's. Bob continues to improve and update some of the older builds in his 100 plus collection with new ideas and information from his research.

The display will remain at the Library through the end of the month.



Lottery Pool Rules

Here are a few tips before jumping in!

1. Know who is in your pool and record who has contributed.
2. Establish and agree to ground rules. Know what happens if the group wins.
3. Recruit a pool member as your leader. Choose wisely.
4. Keep all original tickets in a secure place.
5. Determine what game you want to play.

For more information about responsible gaming and pool play, visit NJLottery.com/PoolRules.

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