



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Food Bank of Delaware Receives BJ's Charitable Foundation Grant
to Provide Fresh Way to Fight Hunger**

*Thirty Grants Given to Celebrate BJ's Wholesale Club's 30th Anniversary
and Increase Local Capacity*

Wilmington, Del. (Sept. 19, 2014) – The Food Bank of Delaware today announced that they are one of 30 food banks awarded grants this September from BJ's Charitable Foundation. The foundation is distributing grants in celebration of BJ's Wholesale Club's 30th anniversary. A member of the Feeding America network, the Food Bank of Delaware is among those awarded gifts to increase the food storage capacity for local anti-hunger organizations.

To commemorate the \$21,000 donation from the BJ's Charitable Foundation, the Food Bank of Delaware and representatives from the Elsmere BJ's Club presented a brand-new refrigeration unit to the Cedars Church of Christ food closet this morning. In addition to presenting the refrigeration unit, volunteers from BJ's distributed fresh foods to 20 families in need.

"We are thrilled to have been awarded one of the 30th anniversary grants by BJ's Charitable Foundation," said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. "Because of this grant, we will be able to work with our local partners to help them obtain more healthful foods and ensure that food makes it into the hands of more Delawareans in need."

The \$21,000 donation will enable the Food Bank of Delaware to increase partner capacity for fresh foods. While food banks often have immense space and storage to provide product for the food pantries and shelters they support, these smaller partner organizations and charities often have limited equipment abilities. Limited equipment hinders their ability to serve the community.

"BJ's Wholesale Club is proud to reach our 30-year milestone and share our enthusiasm by expanding our role in the fight against hunger," said Charlie Tirney, general manager of the BJ's Wholesale Club in Elsmere. "Supporting the Food Bank of Delaware and their local agencies' need for capacity building will ensure that perishable food can reach the people who need it most in our own backyard."

By providing anti-hunger partners like food pantries, shelters and meal programs with the necessary equipment, they can transport and store a larger amount of perishable items and thus distribute more food to local families struggling with food insecurity. The Food Bank of Delaware will provide a total of two glass door display refrigerators, four upright freezers, four chest freezers and 25 48-quart capacity coolers to partner agencies.

"The Cedars Church of Christ Food Pantry greatly appreciates the partnership we have with BJ's Wholesale Club," said Cedars Church of Christ Minister Brad Carman. "The donation of a new refrigeration unit is a great help in our efforts. BJ's generosity in helping us feed the hungry with regular food donations and the gracious spirit with which they do it is wonderful. We at Cedars try to model that spirit as we pass it along to those in need food. These kindnesses are essential in our ongoing efforts to help."

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About the Food Bank of Delaware:

The Food Bank of Delaware distributes millions of pounds of food and grocery products each year to 550 hunger-relief partners throughout the state and also provides thousands of meals a month for children through the After-School Feeding Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Backpack Program. The Food Bank's hunger-relief programs directly provide for Delawareans at risk of going without meals each year. For more information about the Food Bank of Delaware, visit www.fbd.org or call (302) 292-1305.

About BJ's Wholesale Club

BJ's is dedicated to providing Members with high-quality, brand-name food and merchandise at prices that are significantly lower than supermarkets, supercenters, department stores, drug stores and specialty retail stores. BJ's carries the most product variety of any Membership club with more than 7,000 items, including supermarket-sized staples, USDA Choice meats and stock-up items, as well as all-natural and organic products. BJ's is the only membership club to accept all manufacturers' coupons and for greater convenience, offers the most payment options including EBT.

Headquartered in Westborough, Massachusetts, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. is a leading operator of warehouse clubs in the eastern United States. The Company currently operates 205 clubs and in 15 eastern states. Learn more and shop online at www.BJs.com or, for exclusive content visit [Facebook.com/bjswholesaleclub](https://www.facebook.com/bjswholesaleclub) and [Twitter.com/bjswholesale](https://twitter.com/bjswholesale).

About BJ's Charitable Foundation

BJ's Charitable Foundation was established with the mission to enrich every community BJ's Wholesale Clubs serve. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that primarily benefit the underprivileged in the area of basic needs (hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, education and health). For more information about BJ's Charitable Foundation, please visit, www.bjs.com/charity/.