



NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

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For Immediate Release

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NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS VISIT CAMDEN'S CATHEDRAL KITCHEN AND GRAB A DELICIOUS BITE TO EAT

VISIT TO CAMDEN'S LARGEST EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDER GAVE BOARD MEMBERS
THE CHANCE TO SEE FORMER PAROLEES WORKING TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

TRENTON, NJ, April 15, 2019—

Board members from the New Jersey State Parole Board toured Cathedral Kitchen to see for themselves how Camden's largest emergency food provider serves more than 100,000 meals per year fulfilling a critical need to care for the city's hungry. In addition to receiving an eye-opening tour of the facility, board members enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared for them by the Kitchen's culinary professionals who create meals for the community throughout the week.



The mission of Cathedral Kitchen, which was founded in 1976, is to provide necessary programs and services which strengthen and support the health and well-being of the Camden and South Jersey communities, while treating the individual with respect and helping them achieve self-sufficiency.

Aside from producing hot, healthy meals for their clients six days per week, Cathedral Kitchen also delivers important job training in the form of its Culinary Arts Training Program, offers a meal program that serves food to halfway houses and shelters, and provides on-site, full-service dental care and health screenings.

New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. said of the Parole Board members' visit, "We were all extremely impressed by the tremendous work that the folks at Cathedral Kitchen accomplish, including the former parolees who are now working diligently to create meals for others while learning an invaluable trade in the food service industry. The Kitchen's committed staff not only prepares and serves an extraordinary number of hot, healthy meals to underserved members of the local community, but delivers its mission to clients with dignity and genuine respect."



“Cathedral Kitchen uses food to change lives by nourishing, training, and employing individuals and families that are struggling from Camden and South Jersey,” said Cathedral Kitchen Executive Director Carrie Kitchen-Santiago. “The Kitchen operates a culinary and baking arts training program for low-income adults, many of whom have criminal records. We are very grateful for our long-time partnership with the New Jersey State Parole Board, which has enabled us to more effectively help our students who have parole issues, making it more likely

that these students will successfully graduate and obtain gainful employment in the food industry.”

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society, and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn SPB parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, SPB officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the SPB’s Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.



Photo Captions:

Photo # 1: *New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. (center with purple tie) along with other State Parole Board Members, meet some of the Cathedral Kitchen’s cooks in the facility’s kitchen area.*

Photo # 2: *New Jersey State Parole Board Members learn about Cathedral Kitchen from a tour given by the emergency food provider’s staff.*

Photo # 3: *New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. (center), and State Parole Board Member James Jefferson (left) listen as a Cathedral Kitchen staff member describes the facility’s many programs and services.*