

**Friends Foundation for the Aging  
New Grant Proposal Form  
Starve Poverty**

**Date:** 2/22/25

**Organization:** Starve Poverty

**TIN & formal organization name:** Starve Poverty International, 56-2557796

**Contact name, phone, email:** Ron Fraser, Founder and CEO, 609-249-5392, Ron@starvepoverty.org

**Amount requested:** \$10,000

**Project title:** Starve Poverty food pantry and home repair program

**Summary Description (maximum 25 words):** Starve Poverty uplifts vulnerable elderly who are living in poverty through a food pantry, home repairs and compassionate, caring community.

**Please answer the following questions clearly and concisely.**

**What is the problem you have identified?**

Starve Poverty addresses poverty, food insecurity and urgent home repairs among senior citizens who live on extremely fixed incomes in Southern Ocean County. We identified these needs literally in our backyard, because Starve Poverty is adjacent to two manufactured-home communities in Barnegat Township: Pinewood Estates and Brighton at Barnegat Mobile Homes. Our location is deliberate, because these are age-restricted, lower-income, mobile home parks. All of the residents are elderly people with limited resources due to their fixed income. Many are homebound due to medical and mobility challenges.

New Jersey has an extremely high cost of living that is exacerbated by inflation and the rising cost of everything from groceries to gas to household items. Ocean County has the highest concentration of elderly and veterans in the state, with a preponderance of seniors settling in lower-income mobile homes in the Barnegat Township area.

It is extremely difficult for the elderly people in our community to afford to buy groceries - any groceries, but especially produce, dairy and meat. At the same time, mobile homes are prone to leaky roofs and water damage that can cause unsafe living conditions for seniors. The combination of poverty, food insecurity and unstable housing make seniors extremely vulnerable to isolation, depression and hopelessness.

**What is the solution you propose to address the problem?**

Starve Poverty is a beacon of light and resources for vulnerable seniors, so they can age healthfully with dignity, self-determination and respect. Our solution is the Starve Poverty food pantry, which provides a consistent source of groceries, alleviates immediate hunger and promotes better health, and the Starve Poverty home repair program, which helps elderly individuals to maintain their independence, safety and well-being. These initiatives foster a stronger and more connected community in Southern Ocean County.

Starve Poverty operates as a "choice pantry," which means our patrons select the food items they would like from a menu of choices that include dairy, meats, produce, shelf-stable or non-perishable items and baked goods. All are welcome to visit, and no appointment is required. The food pantry is a "one-stop shop" for all of our services. Over time, we track each family's unique circumstances and develop meaningful relationships. We listen to their specific concerns and learn what is most needed at their home.

Poverty, food insecurity and home repairs are problems that are pervasive in Southern Ocean County. But through our grassroots commitment to vulnerable seniors, Starve Poverty is making a difference. We are tackling these problems by:

- Alleviating food insecurity. The Starve Poverty food pantry reduces hunger among senior citizens and family members by providing consistent access to nutritious groceries.
- Improving nutrition and health. Regular access to healthy food leads to better dietary habits and overall health outcomes for low-income seniors.
- Fostering community connections. Our food pantry creates opportunities for social interaction and engagement, reduces isolation and promotes a sense of belonging among solitary seniors.
- Increasing social interaction. The food pantry is a welcoming environment staffed by compassionate volunteers. When seniors visit the food pantry, they connect with Starve Poverty and other community members. This fosters social connections and reduces feelings of isolation. Our “one-stop approach” also gives Starve Poverty the opportunity to identify other urgent needs among our food pantry patrons, such as home repairs.
- Strengthening community. The food pantry uplifts vulnerable populations and builds more inclusive and supportive communities.

### **What actions will you take?**

At Starve Poverty, our vision is to alleviate poverty and reduce food insecurity among the elderly by sharing compassion, kindness, respect and loving guidance.

Lack of reliable public transportation is a huge barrier to senior services in Southern Ocean County. Many isolated seniors do not have a reliable car or family members nearby. It can be difficult for the vulnerable seniors we serve to drive a half hour from Barnegat Township to Toms River, which is the county seat and central location for health, human and social services.

Starve Poverty addresses this serious gap in services by spearheading all of our programs in a centralized location in Barnegat Township. We were excited to secure a \$10,000 grant in 2024 from Kentucky Fried Wishes, which we are using to purchase a 40-foot shipping container that will expand storage at the food pantry. Our goal is complete the container project as quickly as possible in 2025, in order to increase shelf, refrigerator and freezer space. Demand requires it.

As of this writing, the container has been ordered and the site preparation is complete. Once the container is delivered, we will move forward with the wiring, insulation and renovation to customize the storage space for what we need to support the food pantry.

Currently, our food pantry is open two days a week (Wednesdays noon-2 PM and Thursdays 10 AM- 1 PM). Long-term, we plan to add a third window of service hours to the food pantry, such as evening hours to accommodate those that have work or appointments during the day. At this point, it is a goal, and we are moving toward implementation as funding becomes available.

Our immediate priorities are to pay our part-time project manager to focus on the food pantry and home repair programs so they run smoothly. As we're able to add a third window of service to the food pantry, our project manager would continue to split his time between the food pantry and home repairs.

Starve Poverty must purchase food packaging, handling and cleaning supplies and augment in-kind food contributions with the purchase of meats and proteins. We are grateful to be a participating agency of Fulfill (the centralized food bank for Ocean and Monmouth counties), but we incur significant fuel costs by having to drive 80 miles roundtrip to receive food from Fulfill.

Thus, one of our goals is to secure funding for a new vehicle. We plan to replace an existing vehicle with a truck or large vehicle capable of towing a substantial trailer. This vehicle will be crucial for transporting food, supplies and materials for disaster relief. We are aiming to raise \$10,000 in grants to help with a \$12,000 down payment, with the hope of establishing a partnership that can help us with payments over the vehicle's lifetime. This will allow us to maintain a reliable service for the long-term.

We are also seeking a community partner to help us build a Community Pavilion at Starve Poverty. This structure will serve as a hub for our community events and support the food pantry during certain weather conditions. We envision the pavilion as a space that benefits our entire community and are eager to identify a partner who shares our vision.

**Describe the population to be served.**

Our primary target population is vulnerable elderly people who are living in poverty in the Barnegat Township area, as well as their family members. The food pantry is open to anyone in need from Barnegat Township and surrounding towns. Due to our close proximity to Pinewood Estates and Brighton at Barnegat Mobile Homes, the majority of people who visit our food pantry walk or carpool from these mobile homes.

Starve Poverty experienced 2,956 weekly visits to the food pantry in 2024 and impacted 5,843 total family members, when taking into account all of the individuals who live with the person who visited the food pantry. Many of the seniors we serve are raising grandchildren or financially supporting other family members.

When examining unduplicated figures, we are proud to have served 322 unduplicated families in 2024. That is an outstanding accomplishment for Starve Poverty as a grassroots nonprofit. We could not have achieved such meaningful impact in our local community without the more than 3,400 volunteer hours that our neighbors dedicated to Starve Poverty in 2024.

Requests for Starve Poverty home repairs tend to be both modest and life-changing (e.g., floor, roof and gutter repairs, window installations, powerwashing and plumbing). We often install handicapped-accessible ramps so that seniors can readily leave the house. Floor repairs help to prevent falls and improve the overall safety and security of the home for the senior.

Over the past year, Starve Poverty completed 28 urgent home repair projects. Our volunteers contributed 1,008 hours to the home repairs, which significantly improved the quality of life for isolated senior citizens. We continue to empower seniors to navigate their home safely and retain their independence.

**Are there partners/collaborators for implementation or funding-who? Has the solution been tried by other organizations?**

Starve Poverty is fiercely committed to sustaining the food pantry and home repair program, long-term, in service to our neighbors. We are deeply embedded in our Southern Ocean County community. Starve Poverty is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with Christian roots. We are not part of any church or denomination, but we proudly collaborate with several churches and a wide variety of other organizations.

As noted, Starve Poverty is a participating agency of Fulfill (the two-county centralized food bank). Starve Poverty is part of a Causeway CAREs collaboration called Project Home Repair, which helps to streamline resources and obtain supplies at the best cost.

The steady growth of our food pantry has been made possible by the strategic fund development, community building and partnerships we have forged over the past several years. In addition to the \$10,000 grant from Kentucky Fried Wishes that we mentioned, the Hunger Foundation of Southern Ocean County committed \$10,500 to our food pantry and indicated they plan to make this an annual investment. The Citta Foundation has provided \$10,000 in general operating support to Starve Poverty.

On a proactive basis, we seek foundation and corporate grants, individual donations and in-kind support for the food pantry. We have established partnerships with other community organizations in order to lessen our reliance on purchased food. Starve Poverty's partners include Bayside Chapel (Barnegat, NJ), Manahawkin Baptist Church (Manahawkin, NJ), Lighthouse Alliance Church (Little Egg Harbor, NJ), Princeton Alliance Church (Princeton, NJ), ACME Supermarkets (Barnegat Township) and Chick-Fil-A (Manahawkin).

**How will you know your actions are having an impact? How will you measure outputs and outcomes?**

For a small nonprofit, Starve Poverty is making a significant impact through the food pantry. Outputs include food, meals, food pantry visits and home repairs. Outcomes are the lives changed and the seniors who can continue living in their homes due to our outreach.

Starve Poverty distributed 98,619 pounds of food in 2024. This equates to 82,182 meals and represents a nearly 28 percent increase over 2023. The food pantry has been experiencing a tremendous demand from elderly neighbors in need.

We conservatively estimate that Starve Poverty will serve 420 unduplicated families at the food pantry in 2025, which would be an increase of about 30 percent from 2024 to 2025. With 420 unduplicated families, that means Starve Poverty would serve at least 1,000 unduplicated people in 2025.

Starve Poverty volunteers ensure the smooth operation of the food pantry while fostering an environment of kindness, friendship and camaraderie. Our food pantry patrons enjoy social interaction with one another, sharing coffee and baked goods together. They mingle, expand friendships and offer support networks within their own communities. People like Jeri, who works at a local grocery store but struggles to make ends meet.

Jeri arrived at our food pantry late, after work. After a few weeks of coming for food, she started to open up to the Starve Poverty team about her situation. She was also struggling to live in her house with all the disrepair due to years of struggling financially. Once we heard of this, we were able to arrange a site visit and start the process of completing some essential home repairs to avoid major problems. Jeri still comes to Starve Poverty for food most weeks, but she is in a better situation because of the home repairs and the food. It is certainly not lost on us that Jeri works at a supermarket and continues to struggle with food insecurity.

Starve Poverty also had a huge impact on a local disabled woman who felt like a prisoner in her own home for four years. She was unable to use the stairs without a great deal of assistance. As a result, she depended on her family and neighbors for everything from grocery shopping, to bringing in the mail, to getting to medical appointments. She began to fall so frequently that she was forced to leave her home and move to Delaware with her daughter. Her family transported her to New Jersey one week a month for medical and other appointments. She was wheelchair-dependent and reached out to Starve Poverty for help. After we assessed the home, we installed a manufactured ramp that enabled her to move home. The home repair completely changed her life, by bringing her back to the home and community that she cherishes.

**Include a simple program budget in the same pdf with expected income and expenses (e.g., staff, program supplies, travel, etc.). Please see the next page.**

**Starve Poverty food pantry and home repair program  
Program budget 2025**

**Anticipated program expenses:**

**Cost of contracted building services \$35,000**

This includes the hiring of a contractor for a complex job such as a roof replacement or the construction of a large or elaborate ramp. Starve Poverty verifies the need, determines the services required, prepares the contract with the building repair team and completes all paperwork to obtain reimbursement from Project Home Repair. However, the reimbursement does not include any administrative relief for our project manager's time or smaller home repair jobs such as bathtub cut-outs, toilet replacement, furnace repair/ replacement or window repair replacement.

**Part-time project manager \$32,000**

2 days per week/1 year.

Supports the food pantry and home repair programs.

Responsibilities include: volunteer recruitment/training/supervision, food ordering/inventory, food safety, management/completion of home repair projects, contractor contracts/supervision, coordination with Fulfill and Project Home Repair.

**Food pantry and home repair program administration \$8,000**

Administrator costs/general supplies/postage.

**Starve Poverty vehicle \$6,000**

Lease payments/maintenance/insurance.

Food transportation to/from Fulfill; 80 miles roundtrip.

**Fuel \$3,500**

**Purchased food \$10,000**

Meats/proteins.

**Food pantry supplies \$5,000**

Food packaging/cleaning/handling.

**Complete build-out of food pantry storage container \$5,000**

Electric/HVAC/insulation.

**Food (in-kind) \$4,000**

From individuals/churches/organizations.

**Food pantry operating expenses \$3,500**

Occasional repair/replacement of refrigerators and freezers, contractor costs/outlets and circuits, employee/volunteer training, volunteer meals.

**Home repair materials \$4,000**

**Home repair supplies \$2,500**

Cleaners and cleaning supplies, fasteners, small tools, air hoses, water hoses.

**Total expenses: \$118,500**

**Starve Poverty food pantry and home repair program**  
**Program budget 2025 (continued)**

**Anticipated program income:**

**Grants \$45,000**

**Corporate contributions \$20,000**

**Individual contributions \$14,500**

**Food (in-kind) \$4,000**

**Project funding from Project Home Repair \$35,000**

**Total income \$118,500**

**Attach a copy of your IRS determination letter. We may also look at your website, your Guidestar (Candid) profile and your IRS Pub 78 non-profit status or plan a site visit. Please make sure these are up-to-date. 501c3 letter for Starve Poverty is attached.**

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **OCT 12 2007**

STARVE POVERTY INTERNATIONAL A NJ  
NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
C/O RONALD FRASER  
713 LAKE BARNEGAT DR  
LANOKA HARBOR, NJ 08734

Employer Identification Number:

56-2557796

DLN:

207256001

Contact Person:

TERRY L MILLER

ID# 31222

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

February 6, 2006

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)