



TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER

WHAT IS ECS-NJ?

A diocesan initiative that focuses on **proactively** addressing human needs and **relentlessly** working against both social and racial injustice.

This is an initiative that is close to our Bishop's heart. As the COVID-19 pandemic took over the lives of so many, Bishop Stokes knew it was time to act, to do our best to alleviate fear and suffering throughout our Diocese, to offer a source of hope and help for those who were and are currently struggling.

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Together, let's elevate our efforts to pray for justice and get involved in addressing issues of inequality and systemic poverty.

WHAT WE DO?

The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey has been working diligently to establish ECS-NJ over the past few months, placing emphasis on these top priorities:

1. Enlightening and empowering our congregations to advocate for programs and systems that work for justice
2. Facilitating collaboration to identify and address issues in our communities and in solidarity with each other
3. Mobilizing and allocating charitable resources to meet identified needs throughout our Diocese



2021 – The Year in Review – Oh, What a Year it Was!

ECS-NJ issued
ten grants in the
Fall of 2021
totaling \$117,000.

ECS-NJ presented three
biannual summits and seven
monthly issues briefings since
December 2020.

*Recordings of many of the events are
available on [YouTube](#)*



ECS Sunday 2021

What a wonderful day!!

Could you feel the growing sense of
commitment across the Diocese as our
churches joined in celebrating the official
launch of our exciting new initiative?

Established the [ECS-NJ
Advisory Council](#) with 12
diverse members from across
the diocese and named a
Development Officer

ECS-NJ raised our first
half million dollars before
the end of 2021. These
funds will support the
grant process.

[Donate Today](#)



ECS-NJ GRANTSGRANTEE STORIES

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) funded ten grant proposals during the [Fall 2021 cycle for a total of \\$117k](#). This was possible because of the generous donations of individuals and congregations across our diocese. *Thank you!*

The ECS-NJ grants are designed to *expand* existing compassion and justice ministries or to *make new ones possible*. Grant recipients for the [Spring 2022 cycle](#) will be announced on Saturday, April 23 at the 4th Summit on Building and Equipping the Beloved Community. Register [here](#).



St. Augustine's, Asbury Park

"On an extremely cold day, a young lady rode up on her bike with just a fleece hoodie to get lunch. We provided her with a hot meal and a warm coat. She thanked us and said, "What a blessing we were to her and her community." Through our ECS-NJ grant, we will also be adding fresh fruit and vegetables, new items of clothing and toiletries, and educational, health, and social justice programs for our community."

St. Mary's, Stone Harbor

"With the help of the ECS-NJ grant, we secured a lease in a shopping center, purchased new refrigeration, and are in the process of partnering with the Community Food Bank of NJ to provide a client choice model food pantry. The ECS-NJ grant makes it possible for us to expand our reach throughout Cape May County building fruitful partnerships."



WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Significant challenges and inequities have grown more numerous and appear more obvious against the backdrop of COVID-19. For many of us, food insecurity is not a reality that we must face each day. Thus, it remains totally unimaginable. But for a growing segment of NJ's population, the lack of food presents an ever-growing dilemma. This is their total reality!

Are you aware that **1.2 million people in NJ are food insecure**? And even worse, **400,000 of them are children**. In addition, over **300,000 NJ citizens are facing evictions**. Just imagine waking up to this frustration and fear every single day--- not knowing if and when you will be able to feed your family again on a regular basis or if you will still have a roof over your head by the end of the day.

We have reason for concern, for great concern. ECS-NJ provides us with the opportunity to join in a concerted effort to help as best we can. Remember, we are stronger together!

LET'S IGNITE AN EPIDEMIC OF COMPASSION

Your contributions have made this possible.

Please consider making a donation to ECS-NJ to support more compassion and justice projects.

[DONATE TODAY](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26
10 AM ON ZOOM**

"GRANT WRITING 101"

PRESENTED BY
T.J. HOULIHAN
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



WORK AND PRAY
FOR JUSTICE & EQUITY

[REGISTER NOW](https://bit.ly/ECS0322briefing)
BIT.LY/ECS0322BRIEFING

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/ECS0322briefing>

ECS-NJ'S 4th Summit on Building & Equipping the Beloved Community

ADVOCACY MINISTRY: FAITH IN ACTION



Keynote speaker:
The Rev. Sara Lilja,
Executive Director
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy
Ministry NJ (LEAMNJ)

Saturday, April 23
10AM - 12PM on Zoom

[REGISTER NOW](https://bit.ly/ECS0422Summit)

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/ECS0422Summit>

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your generous support will guarantee our Diocese the ability to expand our ministries across New Jersey in order to better address the needs of society. With your support, we will stand up for social justice and overcome the bonds of racism.

All this is possible if we work together!
ECS-NJ will strengthen our ability to focus in a united and coordinated way.
Remember, we are stronger together!

Examples of what you can do:

- St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Glassboro conducted a summer fundraising campaign and raised over \$11K for ECS-NJ – [Hear their story.](#)
- Trinity-Moorestown pledged a substantial amount representing 5% of the net proceeds from a successful capital campaign. Trinity plans to contribute this sum over a four-year period.
- The candidates for confirmation at Good Shepherd, Pitman completed individual stewardship projects to raise funds for ECS-NJ.

The excitement is growing!! And we are all part of it! We are so proud of our fellow Episcopalians who are following the path of Discipleship to help others during these extremely difficult times.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You Have Three Great Choices:

1. [Become A Friend Of ECS-NJ](#) by committing to pray regularly
2. Become an ECS-NJ Founder by [donating](#)
3. Participate in ECS Sunday on May 1, 2022

DONATE TODAY

As Christians, we recognize the importance of relating to the pain of others —of walking in their shoes. As Episcopalians, we also recognize our role in easing that pain.