

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Janina Akins  
Director of Communications and Community Affairs  
Mercer Street Friends  
609.396.1506  
[jakins@mercerstreetfriends.org](mailto:jakins@mercerstreetfriends.org)

## **Merck Company Foundation Awards Mercer Street Food Bank \$25,000 Grant**

The Merck Company Foundation awarded the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank a grant of \$25,000 to improve access to and consumption of healthy food for low-income people facing food hardships and shortages. The funding will support programs and activities that address and mitigate barriers to good nutrition by providing food with high nutritive value to food insecure populations; educating them about good nutrition and equipping them with tools to improve their eating habits.

“We are grateful to the Merck Company Foundation for recognizing the link between poverty, hunger and poor nutrition and helping us in our work to improve the well-being of poorly nourished children and adults”, says Phyllis Stoolmacher, Director of the Food Bank.

In 2010, the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank distributed 3 million pounds of food and groceries, secured from government sources, food companies, farms, food drives and private donations, which helped to feed 25,000 food insecure residents of Mercer County. Ninety percent of the food distributed by the Mercer Street Friends meets the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010 and the USDA Food Pyramid/My Plate Guidelines.

This is the second year that the Merck Company Foundation has awarded a grant to the Food Bank.