

Elizabeth firefighters donate holiday meals, give thanks for community charities

EFD Thanksgiving donation

Members of the Elizabeth firefighters union make a donation at the St. Joseph Social Service Center. From left are Firefighter James Yelverton; Captain William Feehan; Sister Jacinta Fernandes, OSB; FMBA Local 9 Vice President David Bialas; FMBA Local 9 President Michael Guarino Jr. *(Courtesy Elizabeth FMBA Local 9)*

Katie Lannan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com By **Katie Lannan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com**

Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on November 28, 2014 at 2:55 PM

ELIZABETH — The city's firefighters union donated Thanksgiving meals to several local charities this year and is asking residents to remember those same organizations throughout the holiday season.

"It is not about Elizabeth firefighters being able to help hundreds of Elizabeth residents on this single holiday, but the fact that these organizations help thousands of Elizabeth families throughout the year," said David Bialas, vice president of Local No. 9 of the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association of New Jersey.

The union donated turkeys and hams to Missionaries on a Mission and St. Joseph Social Service Center in advance of Thursday's holiday.

Missionaries on Mission, based out of the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on East Jersey Street, set the goal of donating 200 food baskets this Thanksgiving.

The St. Joseph Social Service Center is located on Division Street and is under the direction of Sister Jacinta Fernandes.

"Sister Jacinta is a staple of the Elizabeth community and has helped countless residents during her years of service," said union President Michael Guarino, Jr. "Her soft voice yet charismatic activism accompanied by her selflessness is an inspiration to all of our members as we carry out our civic mission."

The union also provided turkey dinners to the St. Patrick's Church soup kitchen and cooked and donated turkeys for the Salvation Army Elizabeth Temple's Thanksgiving meals.

"This has become a yearly tradition for our organization and our members always enjoy meeting the staff who graciously donate their time preparing for an event that helps so many citizens," Guarino said.

MORE UNION COUNTY NEWS

Katie Lannan may be reached at klannan@njadvancemedia.com. Follow her on Twitter @katielannan. Find [NJ.com on Facebook](#).

