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SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES DIWALI WITH COMMUNITY FOOD DONATION

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, NJ (NOVEMBER 13). In celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, South Brunswick's Hindu community and local Hindu organizations once again came together to share the joy of the season through service and giving.

This year, the community collected more than **5,000 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene products** to support local families in need. The donations were presented to the **South Brunswick Food Pantry** on **Friday, November 7, 2025**, with township officials and staff joining volunteers for this meaningful occasion.

Mayor **Charlie Carley**, Councilwoman **Archana "Ann" Grover**, Councilwoman **Patty Germain**, and Township Manager **Bryan Bidlack** attended the event, along with **Dawn Neglia**, Director of the South Brunswick Office on Aging, and **Jeanne Wert**, Social Services Director. Together, they thanked the volunteers and community members whose generosity helped make the food drive a success.

The food and hygiene products were collected through the combined efforts of area residents and the following organizations:

- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh
- COHNA
- Shivalli Kutumba of North America
- Havyaka Association of North America
- HindiUSA
- Vadtal Dham Monmouth Jct.

The annual Diwali food drive reflects the community's spirit of compassion and unity — values deeply rooted in the Festival of Lights. By coming together to support neighbors, participants hope to spread light, hope, and goodwill throughout the township.

“We are grateful to our Hindu community for their continued generosity and commitment to helping others,” said Mayor Carley. “Their efforts embody the true meaning of Diwali and the values that make South Brunswick such a caring and inclusive community.”

Organizers also extended their heartfelt appreciation to township officials for **proclaiming October 2025 as Hindu Heritage Month**, recognizing the contributions of residents of Hindu heritage and celebrating the township’s rich cultural diversity.

For more information about the South Brunswick Food Pantry or ways to contribute, please visit <https://southbrunswicknj.gov/social-services/> or contact the South Brunswick Social Services Department at 732-329-4000 x7674.

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