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‘South Jersey Needs a Little Christmas’ ... and Thanksgiving Dinner, Too

Community Meal and ‘Giving Tree’ at Tuckerton Seaport
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A community Thanksgiving meal is being planned at the Tuckerton Seaport, along with a “giving tree” for donations to families in need at Christmastime.

The whole initiative is called “South Jersey Needs a Little Christmas.” Tuckerton Seaport, in partnership with the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce, ScoJo’s Family Restaurant, Magic 100.1, Real Mom Radio, Jersey Family Fun, and Ocean Tents, has launched an effort to make sure that happens.

“With immediate needs being addressed by FEMA, the Red Cross, insurance companies, and local charities, the Seaport is looking ahead to how we can help bring local families in need together with families who want to give,” said a press release issued by the Seaport, which itself is rebounding from flood damage to its property’s lower levels along Route 9.

The meal is planned for Saturday, Nov. 24 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen’s Museum. There is no charge.

“Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen’s Museum is a community museum, dedicated to serving families. Our family invites all local families, regardless of need, to come together on Thanksgiving Weekend to enjoy a meal together and give thanks,” said Paul Hart, director.

The community meal will be hosted in the Seaport’s front lot under a huge heated tent. There will be entertainment and family activities, including make-and-take crafts for the holidays.

“To those who have been waiting for their opportunity to lend a hand, we are now calling upon you for help. We are looking for donations of food and supplies to make this

Thanksgiving complete. We will also need volunteers to help set up and clean up,” added the press release.

To volunteer or donate, call Brooke Salvanto, the Seaport's development director, at 609-296-8868 or e-mail BrookeS@TuckertonSeaport.org.

“Help us bring the Southern Ocean County community back together and let those in need know that we are all in the rebuilding effort together,” organizers urge.

The giving tree portion of the outreach will allow those who attend the dinner to pick an ornament representing a local family in need, and then buy them a gift and return it to the Seaport by the second weekend in December. The Seaport will take care of getting these gifts to the families.

“If you know of a family in Southern Ocean County who is in need, please let us know (609-296-8868) ... and families in need who have registered with us will be able to pick the gifts up from Santa on December 8th and 9th at the Tuckerton Seaport,” organizers said.

— **Maria Scandale**