



THE SHARING PLACE, INC.
A FOOD MINISTRY OF
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
440-448 HOBOKEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306
(201) 963-5518

THE REV. JESSICA LAMBERT, PRESIDENT
JIM L. NELSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NADA MICHAEL, SITE MANAGER

Jim L. Nelson, Executive Director of The Sharing Place, Inc. since 2013, coordinates the work of its food pantry and related engagement in the community. The Sharing Place, located at St Paul Lutheran Church in Jersey City, has provided food to needy Hudson County households since 1982. Through its Project Reach, Sharing Place members receive information and/or encounter a continuum of human services provided by partner organizations and local agencies. Nelson emphasizes the participants' stories of resilience and voices of hope.

He shares a passion for balancing direct service with participatory community development, using food justice as a bridge for understanding the relationships among issues and initiatives. For example, Sharing Place members mirror the county families who are making tough budget choices between food and housing expenses, food and medicine, food and utilities, food and education, and so forth. Seen through a human rights lens, the false choices reveal strains on efforts towards a healthier community. The Sharing Place serves in a spirit of dignity-for-all.

Nelson incorporates professional experience in other small non-profit organizations, as well as administrative work on university campuses. He served as associate director for student affairs with the Adlai Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development at Illinois State University (working with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers/Fellows involved in graduate degree programs in economics, political science or sociology). He is also a past leader of Non-Governmental Organizations based at the Church Center for the United Nations. A common thread is efforts to bridge projects that are local and global in scope.

Shortly after Namibia's independence from South Africa, Jim Nelson taught at ELCIN Nkurenkuru High School, and was involved in school-community partnerships for nation-building, and the linkages among human rights education, environmental awareness, health.

Nelson has lived with his family in Jersey City for ten years. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN), and interdisciplinary master's degree in International Development at Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX). He is active with Jersey City public schools as a parent of a kindergarten child.

MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK OF LET'S CELEBRATE
AFFILIATE OF THE ELCA CHURCH AND SOCIETY LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES
PARTNER AGENCY OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NEW JERSEY