Judy Grignon (right), director of Farmers Against Hunger, and volunteers from Camden churches unload blueberries to give to the needy Tuesday at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Camden.

Free blueberries win raves
Fruit distributed in Camden, Browns Mills, Mount Holly

By JEREMY ROSEN
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN

Annie Worthan spent part of her Tuesday afternoon entranced by a sweet, Jersey Fresh blueberry.

Her right hand dipped into a pint of Hammonton blueberries and filled her mouth between smiling bites.

The 45-year-old and her friend Sandra Clarke, 59, stood outside the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Camden and enjoyed blueberries for the first time in years, part of an outreach program to offer fresh produce to people who are in need.

Sandra Clarke, 59, of Camden samples a blueberry.
The fruit was given away Tuesday at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Camden.

"I haven't had this in 10 years," Clarke said. "We come here all the time. We've been waiting for this day."

The women were among a dozen city residents and seven area agencies to share in 1,000 pounds of yellow squash and 720 pints of blueberries from Hammonton that were donated by members of Farmers Against Hunger as part of a weekly service for those in need.

Tuesday was the first time since the program started in 1996 that Hammonton blueberries were distributed, said pro-

See NUTRITION, Page 5B
Nutrition/Fruit helps to feed the needy

Continued from Page 1B

gram director Judy Grignon, noting that 3,500 pints were doled out that day in Camden, Browns NUTRITIONMills, Mount Holly and Trenton.

Grignon said that blueberries, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has ranked No. 1 in antioxidant benefits, are a source of much-needed “healthy food for hungry people.”

“Often adults and children don’t receive nutritious foods from hunger-relief organizations,” she said. “They usually get starchy sugary foods that have chemicals or preservatives. Fresh produce can promote health and address diseases.”

Grignon and Mount Calvary director Emma Gorman said Jersey Fresh produce is available at the church on Penn Street every Tuesday morning for the public.

Also on Tuesdays, city lodges and churches take shares of the produce back to their neighborhoods for distribution to the residents.

Donald Dobbins and other members of the Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church in Camden loaded produce Tuesday in their pickup truck to bring back to their church at 9th Street and Kaighn Avenue.

Dobbins said church members distribute clothes and some of the produce they receive for city residents on Wednesday mornings.

“It’s just anything to help the community,” he said. “That’s all it’s about.”

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