Strength and Sacrifice

Our community has witnessed eye-opening scenes as the demand for food assistance rises during the COVID-19 pandemic… with thousands of cars lining up daily at our new Rentschler Field drive-thru and expanded distribution at pantries, community kitchens, and Mobile Foodshare sites across the region. Many families are needing our help for the first time in their lives, and the need persists for those already familiar with hardship.

Rentschler Field is only one way we are getting food to our neighbors in need. For nearly 38 years, Foodshare has served a network of partner programs that are committed to helping our community, with people like Noelia Colon who has devoted her life to fight hunger. Noelia is the pantry coordinator at the Human Resources Agency of New Britain (HRA) – a Foodshare partner pantry.

Since this crisis began, Noelia’s children have been living with their grandmother. Noelia is afraid of possibly exposing them to COVID-19 through her work. She is making a sacrifice most mothers cannot imagine: not being with her children. Noelia, her co-worker and two volunteers have been hosting their own drive-thru distribution, serving an average of 150 households each week.

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A Word From Our President  JASON JAKUBOWSKI

So much has changed since my last newsletter update. COVID-19 has unquestionably changed our world, our communities and our lives. To those who have suffered a loss: we extend our sincerest condolences. To those of you who have been on the frontline of the pandemic, we thank you for your selfless service.

COVID-19 has shaken us emotionally and financially. There are many people you likely know who have lost their jobs and are newly food insecure. This crisis has also impacted those who are struggling themselves even as they help others... like Noelia Colon, who is featured on the cover of this newsletter.

We never could have predicted the scale of this pandemic. We never could have predicted the tremendous increase in our food distribution – through our Rentschler Field drive-thru and within our partner program network across Greater Hartford. We never could have predicted that we would need an additional $100,000 a week to purchase and distribute food to help fill the increased need.

But we also never could have predicted the outpouring of support that we received from our community... from generous financial donations to hundreds of homemade masks that helped to protect our frontline team at Foodshare and our community partners.

What is predictable is the faith we have in our community to get us through, and the trust you put in our hands to help make sure no one goes hungry. You have all shown us the meaning of the word community: coming together.

From all of us at Foodshare, we thank you for your support.

You have to see the greater picture, and it’s that you’re helping.” – NOELIA

Effects of COVID-19 In Greater Hartford

COVID-19 has already had a devastating impact on people facing hunger across the country, but new estimates from Feeding America show the stark reality of the pandemic’s long-term impact here in Hartford and Tolland counties:

167,000 Overall food insecurity could increase by 41%, from 119,000 people in 2018 to 167,000 in 2020.

50,000 Kids Child food insecurity rates could increase by 54%. That’s 17,000 more kids than in 2018.

For more information on how you can help your neighbors, please visit our website at www.foodshare.org.

Volunteer Spotlight  MATTHEW LEBEAU

Matt has been volunteering at Foodshare’s drive-thru distribution at Rentschler Field since day one and has even given himself the title of “Self Appointed Essential Volunteer.” Matt is an East Hartford native and newly unemployed. He chose to make the best use of his time by giving back. Matt’s positive spirit and dance moves keep the lines moving as he chants “don’t stop, keep rolling.” He is always smiling under his food-inspired masks knowing that people are grateful for his service. To Matt and all of our resilient volunteers, thank you.
COVID-19 Community Partners

FOODSHARE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO RESPONDED TO OUR NEED FOR HELP DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS:

*as of 06/03/2020

Aetna Foundation
American Eagle Financial Credit Union
Andros, Floyd & Miller, P.C.
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Barings
Big Y Foods, Inc.
Blum Shapiro & Company, LLC
Broadridge Financial Solutions
Campbell Soup Foundation
Chase Enterprises, Inc.
Cigna
CNC Software
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares Foundation
CT Trial Lawyers Association
Edgemoor Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth Ferry Speer Foundation
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Eversource Energy
Fifth Generation, Inc.
Global Atlantic Financial Company
The Hartford Financial Services Group
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company
Hartford Yard Goats
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
iHeartMedia CT
Kaman Corporation
KeyBank Foundation
Liberty Bank Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group
MassMutual Foundation
McLelland Family Foundation
Mycoscience, Inc.
NBC CT / Telemundo CT
The Neag Foundation
Pinnacle - Bloomfield
Pratt & Whitney
Price Chopper’s Golub Foundation
RMJ Associates
Root Center for Advanced Recovery
SFM Charitable Foundation
Stanley Black & Decker
Sun Life Financial
Swiss Re Foundation
Talcott Resolution
Travelers
Tufts Health Plan Foundation
United Way of Central and Northeastern CT Neighbors in Need Fund
UPS
Wakefern Food Corporation
Wayne Eisenbaum Charitable Foundation
Webster Bank N.A.
Werth Family Foundation
WFSB Channel 3
Whole Foods Market
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

Mark Your Calendar

The 37th Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is going virtual!

Sign Up and Learn More ➔ www.foodsharewalk.org

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