



St. Vincent Meals on Wheels
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March 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are incredibly grateful for each one of you and your love and support for our mission here at St. Vincent Meals on Wheels to deliver food and love to the homebound seniors and other vulnerable clients we serve. We hope that, amid this emerging COVID 19 situation, that you and your loved ones are remaining safe, healthy and calm.

Because we are all aware of the extreme risk this virus poses for those we are honored to serve, the leadership team and staff here at St. Vincent Meals on Wheels has engaged in a thorough Emergency Scenario Planning process to guide us as we continue delivering food and love in ways that are the most efficient and safe for those we serve.

As you know, hot meals and daily wellness/love checks are a hallmark of our program. However, one of the strongest guidelines from our Public Health officials has been to practice social distancing, especially with those most vulnerable to this virus, which includes the precious seniors we serve. For that reason, our plans must include lessening the frequency with which we deliver to our homebound neighbors and delivering multiple meals with each delivery. We will continue, as long as possible, to have hot meal delivery to our clients on their delivery day. Where needed, we will provide cold, shelf stable and /or frozen options for the days we are not delivering to them, but each person we serve will receive all their meals. Please keep in mind that this is for the senior's protection. In addition, we are altering the delivery interactions to best maintain the 6-foot minimum personal space recommended by the CDC, also for the senior's protection.

We have done extensive training, with our staff and volunteers who are delivering, on how to best keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy during this time. Because we are aware of potential supply and workforce shortages that may impact us as the situation evolves, we are ordering, producing and creating a stockpile of frozen meals, shelf stable meals, and the components of cold meals so we have alternatives to ensure we are able to continue feeding our seniors. We are their safety net and their family. They know they can depend on us. All this effort is focused on maintaining the critical lifeline services that we provide to our homebound clients while maintaining our focus on delivery with love.

In the days to come we will all be challenged and called upon to support one another. That is what we do in a time of crisis. As always, we know we can count on you to support our seniors in whatever way you are able. There will be additional strains on our resources to ensure we consistently and safely meet the needs of the vulnerable clients that we serve, and likely more seniors may need our help. We deeply appreciate your help in supporting these efforts.

In the midst of this storm of crisis, we are incredibly grateful for you and the entire community of love that surrounds our program. We appreciate your prayers for our seniors, our staff, volunteers and the entire program.

We pray for your continued health and safety during this challenging time. And please, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Warmly,

Veronica Dover
CEO/Executive Director



St. Vincent Senior Citizen Nutrition Program

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