Help Us Get Them Through this Crisis

The new Bread Basket is inspired by the original Daughters of Charity who carried bread to the sick and poor of Paris in the 1600s, along with St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of charity.

Today in Los Angeles, we continue to deliver daily bread to seniors in need, thanks to you. Please take a few minutes to see the impact of your generosity on our homebound neighbors.

With the number of seniors we serve rising weekly due to the COVID-19 crisis, your support is more important than ever.

Please go to stvincentmow.org/BB or use the enclosed envelope.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are on the front lines to give our most vulnerable neighbors food and wellness checks.

Heroic Acts Help Serve Hundreds More Seniors Due to COVID-19

Since 1977, St. Vincent Meals on Wheels has risen to meet the needs of homebound seniors across Los Angeles through earthquakes, civil unrest and wildfires. But the COVID-19 crisis is the greatest challenge we’ve ever faced.

In mid-March, health officials closed all L.A. senior centers that serve meals and asked seniors to stay home. Since then, over 1,500 new seniors have asked us for meal delivery, and more are expected as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds.

Many of the seniors who ask for meals are over 80 years old, in poor health and can’t get food any other way. They are worried and alone, and they rely on St. Vincent for a lifeline of meals and wellness checks.

The response by our staff and volunteers has been heroic.
FROM OUR CEO
You are Saving Lives

It has been an incredible few months here at St. Vincent Meals on Wheels.

The COVID-19 virus created a firestorm of need in vulnerable seniors. Many had just been getting by with the help of family, friends or neighbors—until the crisis found them alone and unable to get food.

Soared and lonely, they called on us in amazing numbers (up to 150 per day). And with your help, we are answering the call for these isolated and hungry seniors.

As I write, over 450 seniors have been added to the program. Sixteen new meal delivery routes have been added. We offer grab and go meals for seniors who have someone to pick meals up at our kitchen. This crisis forced us to build our capacity to meet the needs of so many more seniors in just weeks.

Through it all, the Vincentian values that guide our mission—respect, compassionate service, simplicity, advocacy for the poor, and inventiveness to infinity—have kept us on course and guided our decision making as we meet these new challenges.

Many of the newly added seniors tell us we are literally saving their lives. You are saving their lives. We are grateful to you for surrounding our vulnerable seniors with love and support.

Please keep the health and safety of our staff and volunteers in your prayers. And please pray for our seniors as they self-quarantine and are unable to have family and friends visit. We pray that you and your family remain safe and healthy throughout this crisis.

— Veronica Dover
CEO/Executive Director

Heroic Acts Help Serve Hundreds . . .

They take every precaution to keep shut-in seniors nourished and safe with distanced wellness checks—even as the client list rises to 2,850, and counting.

Health guidelines require us to visit seniors less, so we bring each senior a hot meal, along with frozen meals for the days in between.

Thankfully, St. Vincent’s family of supporters are heroic too, providing urgently needed funding to make thousands more meals and serve every senior in need.

So far donors have enabled the program to double the amount of meals we serve, from 10,000 a week to 20,000 a week.

Partner organizations and corporate friends are also part of our kitchen miracle.

...over 1,500 new seniors have asked us for meal delivery, and more are expected..."
Meals You Send are a Lifeline for Ana

Ana was born in El Salvador 64 years ago. She and her sister came to the U.S. in 1992 to escape the civil war there.

Ana was a domestic worker for many years. She lived with her husband in a small apartment over a retail store in L.A.’s Westlake area.

After he passed away in 2014, Ana’s diabetes worsened and she lost her sight. Although she is blind, Ana still lives alone in the apartment at the top of two flights of stairs.

She has been receiving St. Vincent Meals on Wheels for three years. “These meals help me a lot,” said Ana. “It’s too hard to go downstairs and walk alone down a busy street with uneven pavement.”

Ana gets some help from a kind neighbor, but she relies on her St. Vincent meal delivery runner Paolo for food and a quick friendly visit. “He is such a blessing to me,” she said. “When the store downstairs closed during lockdown, he had to work harder to get up to my apartment, but he never gave up!”

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

“Mr. and Mrs. Halladay had warm and generous hearts. They were fortunate to have been able to make charitable gifts and found so many organizations and people who were in need. They took real joy in being able to share their blessings with those less fortunate.”

This quote from their friend embodies the joyful giving spirit of Franklin and Phyllis Halladay, longtime St. Vincent Meals on Wheels supporters who made a bequest to our program. We are grateful for their legacy of compassion.

If you’ve made provisions for St. Vincent Meals on Wheels in your estate plans, please let us know so we can recognize and honor you…and thank you now.

We’re happy to provide you with a no-obligation consultation on planned giving, including options that can provide you with lifetime income and tax savings.

For more information please contact Daryl Twerdahl at dtwerdahl@stvincentmow.org or (213) 484-7112.

Nicholas J. Labedz
Judith Robbins
Guido P. Walter

We honor these friends whose bequest, intention or planned gift was received between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

ALESSANDRA ALICE MARIE QUINN LEGACY SOCIETY

Please let us thank you now...
Heroes Help Us Serve Hundreds More Seniors Due to COVID-19

Inside

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels is sponsored by the Daughters of Charity Ministry Services Corp.

If you can volunteer, contact Volunteer Director Laura Medina at lmedina@stvincentmow.org.