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winter 2020



**FeedMore**  
**wny**  
**Foundation**





## a message from the president

Dear Friends,

I have such a tremendous amount of gratitude for you, our Western New York community. You have truly stepped up over this past year to help your neighbors in their time of greatest need.

You've stepped up through both your time and your generosity.

When we began to see a flood of need in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a matching flood of volunteers ready and willing to help. Even in the midst of personal challenges, you made financial support of FeedMore a priority. I'm here to tell you it's making a tremendous difference.

Of course, many uncertainties remain while the need for food in our community continues to rise. We've seen an almost 60 percent increase in demand for our home-delivered meal program and an almost 50 percent increase in our partner agency visits.

At the same time, it's becoming increasingly difficult for FeedMore to purchase enough food at a reasonable price to meet the

increased need across Western New York.

But as we head into the holiday season and a new year, I remain confident that, together with you, we will be able to feed even more children, families and seniors than ever before.

I hope you take the opportunity to read through the following pages to learn how your gifts are already being used to make a profound difference across our community. Neighbors like William (page 7) are thanking you for the gift of food for them — and their furry companions.

Thank you for making this holiday season so much brighter across Western New York. I'm so grateful to partner with you!

Warmly,

Tara A. Ellis  
President & CEO

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## james shares thanks for you

As a former professional cook at a local Greek restaurant, James is a connoisseur of good, wholesome food — something he's especially grateful to enjoy each day in his retirement thanks to your generosity.

James, 63, formerly worked as a custodian for the Buffalo Public Schools before working as a cook. Poor health required him to retire early, but he says he loves to be able to cook occasionally and still recalls recipes from years ago.

But James now lives on a fixed income and has to buy expensive prescriptions on top of paying his bills, leaving little left over for food. That's why he's so grateful for the home-delivered meals he receives each day through FeedMore.

**“They're very pleasant people.”**

“They're so pleasant and friendly,” James says of the volunteers who deliver his meals each day.

That extra contact with people — at a safe distance of six feet — has been especially meaningful for James since his dear friend and roommate became ill late last year. His friend had to move into a nursing home where he contracted the COVID-19 virus and later passed away.



James

James recently celebrated his birthday and was touched when the person delivering his meals brought him a card and a gift.

“They're very pleasant people,” he says.

Soon, James plans to marry a lifelong friend who he reunited with several years ago. He says he's thankful to start this new chapter with her, and grateful

to you for keeping him healthier along the way with nutritious food.

“FeedMore is a beautiful system, very organized and always on time,” James says.

Thanks to your generosity, countless more people, just like James, can have nutritious food on the table this holiday season. Thank you!





**you give  
hope to  
your neighbors  
in need!**

### Planned Giving

With a planned gift to FeedMore, you can make sure your assets are shared in a way that best aligns with your values — and make a difference across Western New York long into the future. There are a variety of ways you can help provide food for our neighbors in need for years to come. These include specific bequests through your will, naming FeedMore WNY as a life insurance beneficiary or one of the many other options that best suits your personal plans and wishes.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to us about including FeedMore in your important estate planning, please contact Pamela Chrzanowski, Donor Engagement Director, at (716) 822-2005 ext.3051 or [pchrzanowski@feedmorewny.org](mailto:pchrzanowski@feedmorewny.org).

### Hunger Heroes Club

The Hunger Heroes Club is a monthly giving program that allows you to easily help neighbors experiencing hunger year-round with regular

monthly donations to the FeedMore WNY Foundation from your credit card, debit card, checking or savings account. Your ongoing support will help the FeedMore WNY Foundation plan for the year ahead, budgeting and allocating resources to make sure the people we serve have consistent access to nutritious foods. To learn more about our Hunger Heroes Club, please contact Pamela Chrzanowski, Donor Engagement Director, (716) 822-2005 ext.3051 or [pchrzanowski@feedmorewny.org](mailto:pchrzanowski@feedmorewny.org).



Andrew

## thank you, andrew!

Andrew has a long history of volunteerism, but ever since the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread, he's spent his hours of volunteer service working to make sure more of his neighbors have nutritious meals on the table.

"I'm very thankful to have good health to be able to volunteer," he says.

Formerly, Andrew says he volunteered with a local nonprofit who had to close its doors in March. Before he left there, they told him about the need FeedMore had for volunteers.

Since March, Andrew volunteers twice each week, helping to make the bags of food for FeedMore's backpack program, assembling

and sealing boxes and sorting dried goods and fresh produce.

Andrew says his fellow FeedMore volunteers are like family, and he enjoys getting out and being around other people in a safe environment. Andrew has a vision impairment but says that doesn't stop him from helping his community.

**"I'm very thankful to have good health to be able to volunteer."**

"My opportunity with my challenge of vision [is to] give back to other people that have

more challenges because of the pandemic and have worse situations than I do," he says. "I can at least do my part to give back."

Andrew also encourages others in the community who might be considering volunteering with FeedMore — especially during this time of heightened need.

"Don't be shy," he says. "Just make the call because you will be accepted with open arms."

Thank you, Andrew and all of our amazing volunteers for helping to make sure more of your neighbors have nutritious food on the table this holiday season. Your gift of time makes an incredible difference.

## companion calls keep neighbors connected!

Social isolation is hard on all of us. But it can be particularly challenging for people who are homebound and live alone.

It's more important now than ever to offer not only nutritious food to our neighbors, but also friendship. Social distancing requirements have meant a crucial daily delivery of 'food and friendship' has become more focused on food. There's still a lot of care, but more distance, less talking and no physical contact.

That's why we're asking volunteers to consider signing up to make 'companion calls' to vulnerable neighbors who receive delivered meals. We'll provide some frequently asked questions about the program; however these calls are not scripted and are simply about connection and friendship.

For more information about how you can be a part of this critical program, please contact Sara Carlson at [scarlson@feedmorewny.org](mailto:scarlson@feedmorewny.org) or at 822-2002 ext. 3029.

## you help feed people and pets alike

William's mere mention of his cat's name is all you need to hear to know how beloved the feline is — and William wants to thank you for making sure they're both eating well-balanced meals each day.

"It's a lifesaver," William says of the food he receives for him and his cat, Boris, thanks to your generosity.

William enjoys home-delivered meals through FeedMore, and Boris also receives food through FeedMore's AniMeals program to supplement what William is able to purchase.

Boris, William shares, first came to live with him after William's

doctor recommended a pet for companionship. He describes Boris as a "big black cat with white fur underneath his chin and luminescent yellow eyes."

**"I'm so grateful every day."**

"He loves me," William says of Boris. "He's my companion."

William receives some SNAP benefits and says his friends shop for groceries for him weekly. But it's thanks to you that he can supplement the groceries he

can afford with home-delivered, nutritious meals each day.

At the same time, he knows Boris is getting the nutrition he needs, so the two can enjoy as much time together as possible.

"I don't know what I'd do without it," William says of the food they receive. "I'm so grateful every day."

Thank you for making sure that our neighbors and their companions can have nutritious food on the table — and in their bowls — each day this holiday season and throughout the year!



William



## “they’ve taken care of the whole city.”

For neighbors like Allyson and her family, one of the best gifts they can receive this holiday season is the one you’re helping provide: nutritious food.

“It’s helped us tremendously,” Allyson says of your generous gifts. “It’s helped us in a dire time.”

Allyson shares that as a 9/11 survivor, she suffered from medical problems that led to the end of her 25-year career as a substance abuse and domestic violence counselor. Now she relies on a fixed Social Security Disability income.

With her limited budget each month, she says there’s little money left over for groceries after she pays her rent, electricity, gas and phone bills.

**“it’s helped us in a dire time.”**

“The rent keeps going up and up,” she says.

Thankfully, Allyson can go to the Community Missions Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry to pick up nutritious groceries for her and her grandchildren, Giavonna, 7, and Errol, 10.

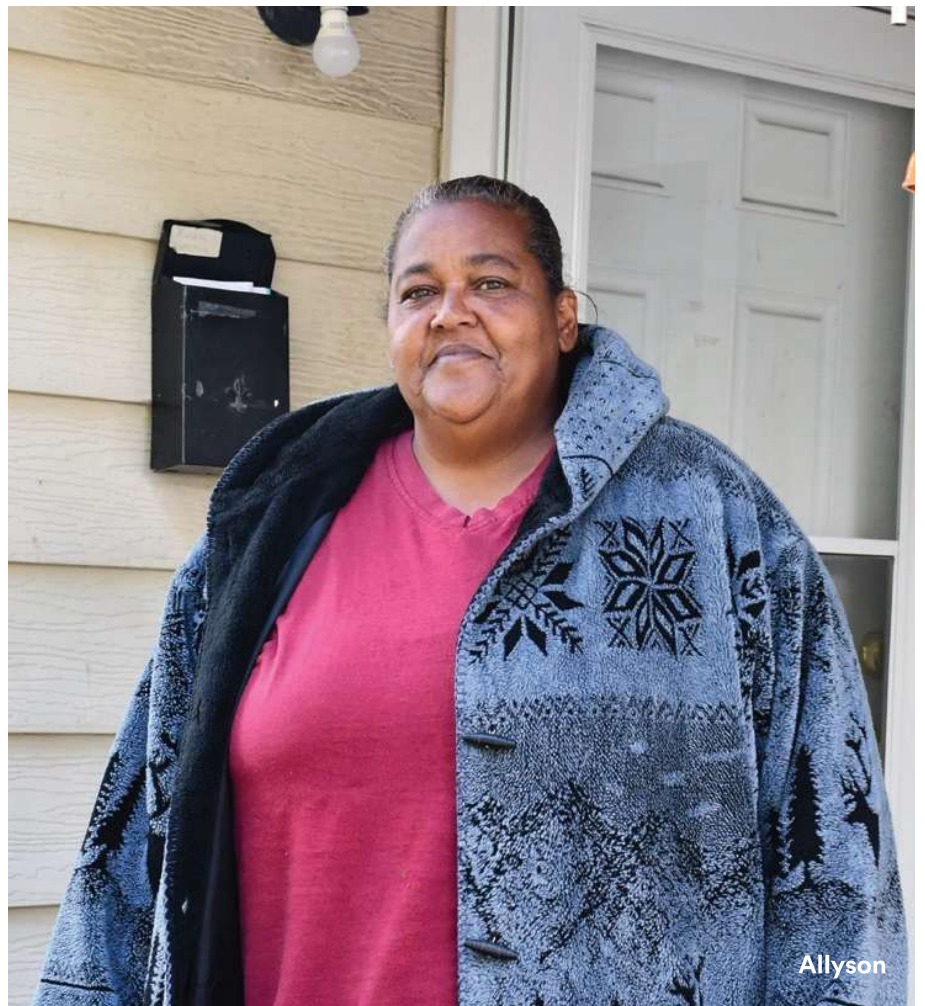
“Community Missions gives you stuff that’s healthy and that you

can really make meals out of,” she says. “It’s plentiful.”

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Allyson says she’s been especially grateful to donors like you for continuing to make food available through FeedMore partner agencies like Community Missions.

“I have the utmost respect for them because during this pandemic, they’ve taken care of the whole city,” she says of the food pantry.

Thank you for sharing hope at a time of unprecedented need. You are truly making holidays brighter for our neighbors facing hunger!



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