

more to
share

spring 2020



FeedMore
wny
Foundation



a message from the president

Dear Friends,

You are simply amazing. As Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank have come together to feed even more of our neighbors in need, your faithful generosity has made a tremendous difference.

Thanks to you, both of these legacy organizations have served critical needs in our community. Coming together makes us stronger and even better equipped to tackle the issues that poverty and hunger create throughout Western New York.

That couldn't be truer than in the crisis we currently face. As countless neighbors face daunting challenges in the wake of COVID-19 due to lost income, health concerns and closed schools, your support is needed now more than ever.

I am humbled and grateful that you continue to step up to help your neighbors in need, even as you confront struggles and uncertainties of your own. Because of friends like you who care about the well-being of all of the members of our community, we can ensure that all food-

insecure Western New Yorkers have safe and consistent access to nutritious food amid the effects of the ongoing pandemic.

In this issue of *More to Share*, I've chosen a few stories to share with you that highlight the immense difference your gifts are making in our community, especially right now. You'll hear from neighbors like Osgood, who says friends like you have proven the "presence of angels." Find out why on page 3.

Thank you sincerely for your support. We rely on donors and volunteers like you daily to make sure we can continue serving our neighbors in need, even as much of our community remains at a standstill. 'Grateful' doesn't even scratch the surface of how honored we are to partner with amazing friends like you.

Warmly,

Tara A. Ellis
President & CEO

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an army veteran thanks you

Osgood, 90, faithfully served his country as a member of the U.S. Army during the Korean War and cared for his community through his work with the Army Corps of Engineers. Now, he's thanking friends like you for making sure he's the one being taken care of.

Fifteen years ago, Osgood was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome. He uses a walker but is limited in how long he can stand and walk. His wife always cooked for the two of them, but ever since she passed away, Osgood says he has struggled to cook for himself.

“you have proven the presence of angels.”

When Osgood moved to Buffalo, he reached out to Meals on Wheels for help with food. A Meals on Wheels representative met with Osgood, and, thanks to the generosity of friends like you, he began receiving meals the very next day.

Before he began receiving food from Meals on Wheels, now a program of FeedMore WNY, Osgood says he mostly ate pop tarts, microwave meals and ham and cheese sandwiches. Now,



Osgood receives a balanced lunch and dinner, five days a week.

“[You] have proven the presence of angels,” Osgood says with overwhelming gratitude for your generosity that makes these meals possible.

Osgood says he also enjoys visiting with the volunteers who bring his meals each day. For people like him who aren't able to get out very often, especially now that they're at high risk for

COVID-19, it can be a real lift to their spirits to see a friendly, familiar face — even from a distance.

Thank you for allowing elderly neighbors like Osgood to continue to thrive with the nutritious meals they need, even in the midst of COVID-19. Because of your faithfulness, our neighbors like Osgood can continue to rely on nutritious meals and healthy food.



Sue and Syvanna



Latarisa



Sandford



Devi family

**you're feeding
neighbors of
all ages**

**COVID-19:
Our Response**

FeedMore WNY continues to follow news surrounding the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and take precautions to ensure the safety of our food supply while continuing to feed our neighbors in need. As the need in the community rises, we need your support. To stay up to date on our response to the crisis and how you can help, follow us on social media at @FeedMoreWNY on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Thank You!

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, you have stepped up to help your neighbors facing hunger, some for the first time. As you rally around our community to respond to those in need, we cannot thank you enough for your generosity and selflessness at such a challenging time. All of us at FeedMore WNY are proud to partner with each and every one of you who help change lives daily!

GivingTuesdayNow

A day of global action, #GivingTuesdayNow, will be held on May 5 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. If you have the means to participate, please join us as we rally around our community to support those who need us most right now. You can get the latest information at www.feedmorewny.org.

feedmore partner opens client-choice food pantry

Your generous gifts are helping fill the shelves of a newly-opened client choice food pantry at The Salvation Army's main campus in downtown Buffalo, a partner agency of FeedMore.

Major Annette Lock says The Salvation Army in Buffalo has had a long-time goal to open a client-choice pantry, giving clients the ability to select their groceries, much like shopping at a grocery store.

"It gives those who come in some control over the situation and some input on what they're receiving," Annette says. "There's a lot more dignity."

That can make a big difference for those looking out for specific dietary needs in their home, or even those who just have specific food preferences. Clients have a wide variety of food to choose from, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

"A majority [of food pantry clients] have been thrilled that they have



A staff member at the Salvation Army pantry

"when we partner together this way, we're all doing what we do better."

a part in the choices they get to make and what they bring home to their families," Annette says, noting an increase in clients served since the re-opening.

All of this is made possible in part through your donations to FeedMore, and the partnership with The Salvation Army in Buffalo.

"We are always looking for ways for people to help us do what we do better and more efficiently,"

Annette says. "When we partner together this way, we're all doing what we do better."

Thank you to The Salvation Army for the critical role you play in giving our neighbors access to healthy food — especially as the need increases during the COVID-19 outbreak. And thank you to donors like you for helping keep pantries like this one stocked and ready to serve our community.

The Hunger Heroes Club is a monthly giving program that allows you to easily assist the FeedMore WNY Foundation year-round with regular monthly donations 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 our clients have consistent access to nutritious foods. To learn more about our Hunger Heroes Club, please contact Strategic Gifts Director Elizabeth Lucas at (716) 822-2005 ext.3090 or elucas@feedmorewny.org.

you help neighbors on fixed incomes

Now that Cynthia is retired and living on a fixed income, she says your support helps her keep her pantry stocked — without having to sacrifice other critical needs, like medicine.

"Are you gonna pay for 'scripts or food," Cynthia says as she recalls the difficult choices she faced before she found out about the food pantry at Living Water Fellowship in Cheektowaga, a partner agency of FeedMore WNY.

Cynthia retired in 2014 and she's lived on her limited Social

Security income ever since. She's diabetic, so nutritious groceries are critical for her health, but it's an ongoing challenge for her to afford groceries on her fixed income.

"Good food is important," she says.

"you're a godsend."

In the past, Cynthia says she sometimes had to decide between paying for her medicine — she takes 16 different

medications daily — or paying for food.

That's why it was such a relief when Cynthia discovered the food pantry nearly three years ago. Thanks to your donations, she no longer has to choose between food and medicine.

Your gifts are such a lifeline to neighbors like Cynthia, especially as they now face new uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for ensuring that more people across Western New York have access to healthy food to support a healthier life.

"You're a godsend," Cynthia says of generous donors like you. "Thanks!"



Cynthia, right, poses with her friend, Michelle, who came with her to the pantry

you give peace of mind to caregivers

“It’s an amazing gift to know that they’re bringing my dad a hot meal every day.”

Donna says her dad, Sam, can typically be found each morning between 10:30 and 11 looking out the window, eagerly anticipating a visit from his Meals on Wheels program volunteer.

She shares that he looks forward to his meals each day, but just as much to the visit from the volunteers who bring them and the time he has to visit with them.

For caregivers like Donna, that assurance that their

loved one has both nutritious meals and companionship each day is a welcome relief for the times when they can’t be there.

“it’s a wonderful gift we have in meals on wheels.”

“It’s a friendly voice that comes in and says hi and delivers his meal,” Donna says. “It definitely brightens my dad’s day.”

It also brightens Donna’s days, just knowing her dad has a caring set of eyes on him during

the day, a friend to talk to and warm, nutritious meals.

“It’s a great, great, great program,” she says.

Because you choose to give, Sam and countless more neighbors like him can have healthy meals, daily companionship and hope for tomorrow through FeedMore, including the Meals on Wheels program. Thank you.

“It’s a wonderful gift we have in Meals on Wheels,” Donna says.



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