



Feeding Philadelphians during COVID-19

There is a crisis of hunger in our city. The impact that COVID-19 is having on our most vulnerable neighbors is seen in the ever-increasing numbers of people needing access to food and medical care throughout Philadelphia. It has become clear to the City, and to many of the organizations serving this population, that a larger and more coordinated effort is necessary to address this growing need and continue providing food and services in a healthy and safe environment.

“Step Up to the Plate” – a collaborative effort of Broad Street Ministry, Project HOME, and Prevention Point Philadelphia – is a central part of the City’s efforts to address this challenge. These organizations worked closely with the Office of Homeless Services to secure two large outdoor sites, allowing meal services to continue while maintaining appropriate social distancing guidelines. These sites are the North Apron of City Hall (located near Project Home’s Hub of Hope outdoor medical clinic), and an outdoor lot at the intersection of East Clearfield and Ruth Streets in Kensington, near Prevention Point Philadelphia.

Three local catering companies: Catering by Design, 12th Street Catering, and Herb Scott Catering will provide meals at cost. By collaborating with catering companies, Step Up to the Plate allows its partners to turn their focus towards staffing, logistical, and care concerns for their guests. The current projection is to serve 1,000 takeaway packaged meals per day (each package containing lunch and dinner, for a total of 2,000 meals provided per day) and to be operational by the week of April 13. In addition, The Wawa Foundation has agreed to donate 1,400 meals a week to shelter partners throughout the seven-week initiative.

At both sites, COVID-19-related health care services and resources will be available for those experiencing homelessness. In Center City, Project HOME’s Hub of Hope staff will provide services. In Kensington, services will be provided by Prevention Point Philadelphia.

Broad Street Ministry is a broad-minded faith community with an aspiration to create a more just world through civic engagement. Project HOME empowers individuals to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness through affordable housing, employment, health care, and education. Prevention Point Philadelphia is a non-profit public health and social services organization that works to reduce the harms associated with drug use. By working together, in concert with City of Philadelphia leadership, these organizations believe they can provide a higher level of necessary service to our city’s most vulnerable citizens, and increase the likelihood of effective social distancing.

Step Up to the Plate is a partnership of Broad Street Ministry, Prevention Point Philadelphia, Project HOME, and the City of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services. Catering partners are Catering by Design, 12th Street Catering, Herb Scott Catering, and The Wawa Foundation. Additional partners are Muslims Serve, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and Center City District. Funding for Step Up to the Plate is provided by Connelly Foundation, Haas Charitable Trust, Hummingbird Foundation, Independence Foundation, JBJ Soul Foundation, Neubauer Family Foundation, Philadelphia Health Partnership, Philadelphia Foundation, the PHL COVID-19 Fund, and William Penn Foundation.

We believe this work is essential and timely, and we so greatly appreciate your willingness to consider this proposal. Thank you for considering stepping up alongside us. For in-kind or financial donations to support Step Up to the Plate, reach out to kfritz@independencefoundation.org.

