



Step Up to the Plate Field Report – Week Two

Prepared by Mike Dahl, Broad Street Ministry

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Despite having to overcome a few blips, including bad weather and running out of meals on a couple of days, we were able to **successfully deliver 18,660 meals in Center City, Kensington, North Philadelphia, and Germantown.** Due to increasing demand, we upped the number of bags delivered daily to Center City from 600 to 700 and to Kensington from 400 to 550 (with two meals in each bag). We will continue to monitor and rightsize the bag count as the weeks progress. Social distancing efforts in all locations are running fairly smoothly, with the biggest challenge being when the meals first begin to be served. All of the parties involved, from the City to the nonprofits to the caterers, continue to problem solve daily to ensure that our service is as hospitable and safe as we can make it under the circumstances.

Other highlights include:

- Planning is underway in earnest to set up a third major hub in South Philadelphia. SEAMACC has agreed to take the lead on this effort, with considerable support from the City. The goal currently is to begin delivering 500 meals daily to this new site the week of May 4.
- Project Home's medical team at the Hub of Hope significantly expanded their screening efforts this week for guests in line for the meal in Center City. Going forward, these efforts will be strengthened by volunteer nursing students from CCoP.
- Philadelphia FIGHT is opening up a new testing site in Kensington close to where the meals are being served.
- Prevention Point Philadelphia is leveraging the contributions of numerous volunteers each day in Kensington and to date this effort has been running smoothly.
- Dietz and Watson made a sizeable in-kind donation of turkey, which will help to lower the meal costs for the next few weeks
- Guests at all sites have been inquiring about accessing additional critical services, including assistance with filing for their stimulus checks, clothing, and housing assistance. Representatives from the nonprofits and City are convening a group to brainstorm how these services might be able to be provided safely at the meal sites.

[Step Up to the Plate](#) is a collaboration between Broad Street Ministry, Project HOME, and Prevention Point Philadelphia to ensure access to food and medical care for Philadelphians experiencing homelessness during COVID-19.