



## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

### How Shepherd's Table Is Responding To The COVID-19: "No Matter What, Our Meals Must Go On!"

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Shepherd's Table is committed to continue serving our community while also taking extra precautions to minimize virus transmission and preserve the health and safety of our meal guests, clients, volunteers, and staff.

As we have not missed a meal in 36 years, we are doing everything we can to continue meeting the needs of those we serve, who have nowhere else to turn. Since Monday, March 16th, we continue providing meals twice a day in to-go boxes outside of our building.

While our Resource Center is opening twice during the day, providing mail, toiletries, bus tokens, blankets and more, we had to temporarily close our Clothes Closet on March 18th and March 25th.

This has helped us prevent any potential spread of the pandemic among our meal guests and clients, as well as reducing the number of volunteers needed per meal service.

We will continue monitoring the news and working closely with the County to develop appropriate plans for the situation ahead.

### Special Thanks To Our Staff and Volunteers

While the last few weeks have been stressful for us all and we know there is still uncertainty ahead, we cannot stress enough how thankful we are for our amazing staff and volunteers, who never stop working hard to make our programs possible. We appreciate every single person's help as we continue operating and providing our services for our community during this tough time.



Fortunately, despite having our number of volunteers reduced for safety reasons, we are never short of helping hands. We would also like to thank our community for being generous and supportive, as we absorb additional program costs, estimated at \$10,000 per month. Every single donation made during this time has helped our services go on.

Although we recognize the days ahead are going to be very challenging, we are going to remain true to the very heart of our purpose—compassion. We will never stop caring and helping our community. Let's stay connected and strong together!



## We Need Your Help! Support Us By Donating Today

With over 80,710 residents in Montgomery County already at risk for hunger every day, we anticipate that the number is only going to rise with the economic uncertainty that will surely follow.

Please consider donating today to support us. We need your help to continue our services for as long as they are needed.



TO MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION:

<https://shepherdstable.networkforgood.com/>



PURCHASE FROM AMAZON WISH LIST:

<https://www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/>



You can also send in a check to Shepherd's Table, 8106 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

## Please Consider Helping Us With These Items:



- Sandwiches (PBJ, turkey and cheese are preferred, but other deli meats are accepted)



- Frozen casseroles



- Milk boxes in quart size and juice boxes (10 oz preferred). We estimate needing about 1,400 for the next 2 weeks. If you have other sizes, we will take them!



- Wrapped, disposable cutlery (forks and spoons)
- Disposable to-go containers
- Wipes and hand sanitizers



For questions, please reach out to our Director of Operations, Haile Gebregziabher, at [haileg@shepherdstable.org](mailto:haileg@shepherdstable.org) or 301-585-6463 x1

## Celebrating Our First Garden Day

On Sunday, March 8th, Shepherd's Table held our very first Garden Day to expand our urban garden.

The garden was originally a small project started by our chef, Christina Moore, with hopes to reconstruct and transform the unused space behind our building into something more useful. According to Christina, having a small garden would provide us with a supply of fresh herbs and produce, which help improve the free meals that we serve to the community. The event was a major success, with the participation of over 50 volunteers from Master Gardeners, Silver Spring United Methodist Church youth groups, Boy Scouts and the community.

At the end of the day, the volunteers were able to clear all the large plants from the back area and replanted them inside the fenced-in area in the building's front. We also cleared all the debris from the garden, and assembled all the garden tables for future planting. Our volunteers shoveled and planted non-stop from noon until 4PM.

Everything harvested from the garden will be used to better serve our free meals to the community, and may one day be used to train clients in gardening and landscaping skills. We would like to thank Meadow Farms Nurseries, Ruppert Landscaping, Kensington Strosniders, Old Takoma ACE Hardware, and others for your donation of items.

This project will help us to better serve our meal guests experiencing hunger and homelessness. We are truly thankful for all the hard work that every volunteer put in that day, and are excited for the future.



## Our "From Garden to Table" Spring Event is Postponed

With the current situation of COVID-19, our fundraising spring event "From Garden To Table" on May 2nd has unfortunately been postponed until further notice. We will do our best to communicate the new time and date when it's available. If you are one of our sponsors, your sponsorship will continue when the event's new

date is confirmed. If you purchased tickets for the event, your tickets are still valid for the event's new date and time. If you cannot attend on the new date, we will gladly issue you a refund. For up-to-date information, you can visit our website's [Events](#) page.



# Shepherd's Table

TOGETHER MEETING NEEDS. CHANGING LIVES.

8106 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
3684  
SUBURBAN, MD

## STAFF

**Manny Hidalgo**  
Executive Director

**Haile Gebregziabher**  
Director of Operations

**Evert Vargas**  
Resource Center Director

**Penlope Kwarikunda**  
Resource Center  
Associate

**Jilna Kothary**  
Director of Development  
& Communications

**Sibyl Brown**  
Development Associate

**XuanThy Nguyen**  
Communications  
Associate

**Sharon Flynn**  
Donor Relations  
Associate

**Marcy Merti**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Keith White**  
Lead Chef

**Christina Moore**  
Chef

**Gary Bullock**  
Chef

**Tricia McGee**  
Kitchen Assistant

**Sonji Owens**  
Bookkeeper

**Mohamed Banya**  
Senior Program Assistant

**Roberto Maravilla**  
Program Assistant

**Robert Savoy**  
Program Assistant

**Nancy Martinez**  
Receptionist

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