



Shepherd's Table
TOGETHER MEETING NEEDS. CHANGING LIVES.

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NEWSLETTER



july 2020

Dining Room: RE-OPENING PLAN POST COVID-19

On July 6th, Shepherd's Table began testing out a re-opening plan for the dining room with occupancy limits and social distancing guidelines.

Our dining room has limited seating of 30 meal guests at a time, with only 2 meal guests per table. Face masks and social distancing are required. Everyone is required to apply hand sanitizer before entering the room, including staff and volunteers.

All meals are still served in to-go containers both inside and outside of our building. Meal guests can choose to eat inside, outside, or take the food with them.

"I miss eating and talking to other friends in the dining room. I like that it's open," a meal guest shared.



Shepherd's Table will continuously monitor and evaluate the plan. We may pivot back to outdoor dining only if we feel that the safety of staff, volunteers, and clients, is in jeopardy.



We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we re-open with a focus on service and keeping our community safe. For more details regarding our re-opening plan, please visit [our website](#).

Beyond The Table:

BRINGING OUR MEALS BEYOND SILVER SPRING

Last month, Shepherd's Table launched a pilot program called "Beyond the Table" that brought our prepared meals to other communities in need outside of Downtown Silver Spring.

The idea for the program came out of an identified need for prepared meals in communities hit hard by COVID-19 and unemployment due to the pandemic. In Montgomery County, we identified Aspen Hill as the greatest area of need, based on Census data and COVID-19 infection rates. Partnering with CASA of Maryland and the Office of Councilmember Evan Glass, we formulated a plan to get the meals to North Gate Local Park. With the support of the Executive Committee, we launched this pilot program as an expansion of what we do best: provide nutritious meals. We rented a van, purchased a tent, secured the right permits and licenses, and our Chefs prepared extra meals 3 times a week for this special meal distribution.

Between June 15th to July 3rd, our team handed out a total of 971 free prepared meals at North Gate Local Park, Aspen Hill. We were there every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, providing meals and face masks for individuals and families in need. Our Lead Chef, Keith White shared, "We saw a significant need in this community. The number of women and especially children was much higher than the community we serve at Progress Place. It's been an honor and privilege to serve this community."



During our last week of the program, the week of July 6th, we served meals at three different sites in Prince George's County: 2 locations in Riverdale and 1 in New Carrollton. With the support and partnership of the Office of Councilmember Dannielle Glaros, we served over 200 meals per day. This was our first time



serving outside of Montgomery County, and we were received very well.

At Tanglewood Park in Riverdale, we served 274 meals - a new record for Shepherd's Table. As we served prepared meals, a team from Christian Life Center was providing boxes of fresh produce, which helped create a greater level of

enthusiasm from meal guests and volunteers alike. At Parkview Gardens Apartments, we served 225 meals, which was another high number. The last day, we served 210 meals in New Carrollton to a very grateful community.

Manny shared that, "[. . .] "Beyond the Table" is Shepherd's Table's answer to reducing food insecurity in neighborhoods outside of Silver Spring. It will allow us to reach a population that isn't homeless but still dealing with hunger and crippling poverty." He also shared that "Beyond the Table" has the potential to grow and become a part of Shepherd's Table's main programs.



SAVE THE DATE!
OUR VIRTUAL EVENT IS ON
OCTOBER 3RD, 2020

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Volunteer Spotlight:

JAN WEETJENS

Jan Weetjens, a regular volunteer in the Resource Center and meal program, can be heard conversing with clients in a variety of languages: French, Spanish and English. A Belgian national, Jan retired from the World Bank, with field experience in Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. As he searched for volunteer opportunities close to home, he found Shepherd's Table and connected strongly with its mission.

When he's not volunteering, Jan keeps busy with leadership and life coaching (www.valleyleadershipcoaching.com), and also studies and meditates.



What he likes most about Shepherd's Table is that "People are treated like customers. It's a small thing but very meaningful to me: whenever possible, people are offered with a choice: do you prefer the chicken or the beef? This deodorant or that one? It validates the person, their dignity, their agency, and their right to choose."

Jan enjoys being part of a team that tries to make a difference for people who find themselves in situations of hardship. He appreciates it when he can relate to somebody in their mother

tongue, and is moved by all the acts of kindness he sees when volunteering at Shepherd's Table. He enjoys seeing people take care of each other, including a couple that just got engaged. "It's beautiful to witness that."

Jan has continued volunteering throughout COVID-19, as he knows the need is there, and feels safe due to the serious approach Shepherd's Table has taken to mitigating the risk for everyone. He enjoys meeting people from all different backgrounds and ages and experiences, volunteers and clients alike. "It is one of the joys of working at Shepherd's Table."

He believes that Shepherd's Table strives for excellence, and really sees the person and their needs: how can we be as responsive, caring and loving as possible to this person? "I get so much out of being able to connect with people. My own humanity gets affirmed when I'm here."

HELP US WITH OUR AMAZON WISH LIST:

<https://amzn.to/2X3mxkv>



Our GRATITUDE

In deep gratitude for your support through COVID-19:

- Montgomery County
- Silver Spring Cares
- Embassy of the State of Qatar
- Greater Washington Community Foundation
- EagleBank Foundation
- Tower Companies
- Washington Gas
- GEICO
- Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
- Whole Foods Market
- Takoma Foundation
- Hanes
- Costco
- Silver Spring Freshfarm Market
- Dutch Country Farmer's Market
- AUI Fine Foods
- Saval Foods
- Sam Chodorow/Midwood Bakery

We are so thankful for all our volunteers, restaurant partners, home-made mask and sandwich makers, numerous individual donors and houses of worship that supported our mission during this critical time. We are so grateful for your generosity-we are in this together. **THANK YOU!**



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8106 Georgia Ave,
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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

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