

“ We are so thankful that you are here to bring these meals. A lot of families in this community are really struggling, especially now. And these meals really make a difference. The food is always delicious! ”



NEWSLETTER

SHEPHERD'S TABLE FEBRUARY 2021



BEYOND THE TABLE:

How Shepherd's Table Is Meeting Needs Beyond Downtown Silver Spring

As the pandemic continues, even more of our neighbors are struggling to get healthy meals on the table for their families. Shepherd's Table launched its new permanent meal program, Beyond the Table, on November 30th, right after Thanksgiving. The prepared meals are provided to families at Parkland Middle School in Montgomery County, and Riverdale Elementary School in Prince George's County.

In its first month, our program staff successfully distributed 3,994 meals, and is currently averaging 187 meals per night - three times a week in Aspen Hill and twice a week in Riverdale.

"In early talks with our school partners, we learned of the staggering number of families that have fallen below the poverty level since the pandemic, but unable to come to our building in Silver Spring for free meals. Beyond the Table brings our delicious and nutritionally complete meals to the members of our community who need us more than ever. It has been an honor to see the increasing positive impact that Beyond the Table is having on our community," Christina Moore, the Director of Special Programs, shared.

As the rate of food insecurity continues to grow, the team has increased the amount of meals distributed to 250 every night in Riverdale. Currently, we are exploring

options for additional sites where this program could serve more families.

Our Executive Director, Manny Hidalgo, thanks everyone for their generosity and willingness to invest in the program. *"Like any new innovative program, it costs time, talent and treasure to pull it off successfully, and we have received all three in droves from our Board of Directors, volunteers, County government, school officials in Montgomery and Prince George's County, partner non-profit agencies and our individual donors. Without you, this would not have been possible, so thank you from the bottom of my heart,"* he said.

OUR IMPACT IN 2020

- 103,122 meals served in total
- 5,643 meals distributed through Beyond the Table
- 376 new clients at Resource Center
- 362 prescriptions filled
- 602 clothes closet visits
- 932 bus tokens distributed
- 20,180 pieces of mail logged in
- 149 eye exams provided
- 101 prescription glasses provided
- 30 legal assistance visits
- 14 glaucoma and cataract treatments



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:



Shepherd's Table has received a generous, 3-year investment in its new programs from the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation. This \$225,000, 3-year commitment is the largest investment by a Foundation in the organization's history. We are grateful for the Clark Foundation's support of our mission, especially during this time of overwhelming need in our community.

"Shepherd's Table provides food access and other vital supports to our neighbors in Montgomery County. The Clark Foundation is proud to invest in their mission to provide these vital services with compassion and respect," said Bob Flanagan, Board Director of the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation.

This grant is in support of our new programs: Beyond the Table, launched in 2020, Urban Garden, and Weekend Day Program. It is an investment in our ability to scale our programs to improve the lives of our clients and meal guests. With the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors, we have successfully expanded our services in the midst of a pandemic.

One of the Clark Foundation's core pillars is to provide members of the greater DC region the best opportunity to thrive. A. James Clark was the president of Clark Construction Group, which transformed the landscape of Washington, DC, with its many projects. Mr. Clark was dedicated to giving back to the communities where he lived and worked.

On behalf of our Shepherd's Table family, a special thanks to the Clark Foundation for its investment in expanded services for its neighbors in need.



ORGANIZATION UPDATE:

Shepherd's Table Celebrated Its 37th Anniversary On December 16th, 2020

On December 16th of last year, Shepherd's Table was honored to celebrate our 37th anniversary. We are also very grateful that our Board of Directors have continued the annual tradition of sponsoring a Bright Meal and volunteering for the organization's anniversary.

It is truly astonishing that it has been thirty seven years since Shepherd's Table first started as a soup kitchen in a small Cape Cod bungalow behind the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. The organization has grown tremendously over the years to meet the

increasing needs of our community. Without you - our amazing volunteers, supporters, and donors, we would not be able to serve over 2,000 clients every year.

We are so grateful to be here, providing meals and services, with the support of the most generous community around us. And we are very excited to celebrate many more years with everyone.

Happy 37th Anniversary, Shepherd's Table family!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: **Roger Caldwell and His Work In Transporting** **Donations to Other People In Need**

Shepherd's Table is blessed to have the generous support of our wonderful community's in-kind donations. When we have a need for anything, whether it is food items, clothing, toiletries, or face masks, our community has always stepped up to quickly fill the need. Sometimes, when we get more than we can use, we share it with other organizations. That is where Roger Caldwell comes in to help.

Roger is a member of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is also a part of their social and community ministry called The Lord's Truck, which helps transport goods weekly from those with extra to those in need. The Lord's Truck has been in operation for over 45 years, and has grown from two drivers to a team of fifteen. Since 2012, Roger has helped transport many donations from Shepherd's Table to other organizations, and vice versa.

Most of the time, Roger picks up extra fresh produce, canned food or clothes from Shepherd's Table and delivers them to other organizations that also need these items. Those organizations range from soup kitchens, food banks, shelters and other community

distribution centers. Roger also regularly picks up donations for Shepherd's Table from Costco and previously, Safeway.

"We never turn down anything. There is always someone out there who might need this. We always find a home for all the donations, and never let any good deeds go to waste," Roger shared.

Roger shared, "One time, I delivered fresh vegetables from Shepherd's Table to the [Colesville Council of Community Congregations](#) (C4). A client received and served them to her mother. Her mother was really surprised and immediately asked, "How did you get this? You cannot afford this. You don't have a job." The client had to explain to her that she received them at C4, thanks to really nice people who donated this fresh produce."

One of the most important things Roger has realized during his work with the Lord's Truck is the wonderful collective effort of different organizations in meeting the needs of our community. "Organizations like Shepherd's Table are very important. They play a crucial role in ensuring that the basic needs of those going through difficult times are met, especially right now."

Thank you for your service, Roger!

Our first virtual event this year *Celebrating Our Community Heroes* is on May 8th, at 7 PM.

We will be celebrating our generosity of our partners and their wonderful contributions. We will have live music, cooking demos and updates on our programs. The event will be streamed on Zoom and Facebook Live. Follow our social media channels and website for more updates.



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