



Spring 2023

newsletter

Hello Friends,

This year, Shepherd's Table is celebrating 40 years of serving our neighbors in need and showing the power of community giving. We ended 2022 focused on serving the whole person and fulfilling the whole need. Our anniversary year has started with a reminder that food insecurity is still very prevalent and access to daily necessities is more critical than ever, as we have seen a 43% increase in meals served daily in this first quarter.

This increased need comes at a crucial time as we see pandemic programs start to wind down. This includes the end of emergency Supplemental



Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments that provide families with more monthly assistance to buy food. Inflated costs of food and other staples are also very present

and are increasing the burden on people already struggling. Similarly, moratoriums on evictions have expired while rents continue to escalate.

At Shepherd's Table, we pride ourselves on the immediate impact we can make; we ensure

that our clients and meal guests have everything they might need for that day or week. That could be access to three hot, nutritious meals, clean socks and underwear, a new pair of pants, or help with an ID application. Additionally, we have been advocating with our clients and meal guests at the local and state level, supporting legislation that would combat food and housing insecurity and access to behavioral health.

We continue to have much hope for our community because every day, we see examples of meal guests and clients rising out of the quicksand of homelessness and hunger and leveraging our free meals and social services to create a pathway toward self-sufficiency. We could not do what we do without the generous support of thousands of donors and volunteers who are as much a part of the Shepherd's Table community as the people we serve.

We hope you will all join us in our 40th Anniversary celebrations; stay tuned!

Sincerely,

Manny Hidalgo, Executive Director

Save the Date!

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the Silver Spring Civic Center from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. We are so excited to honor the individuals and our community that have made it possible for us to impact the lives of so many. We will have great food, drinks, silent and live auctions, and music! We welcome you to join us in support of our mission; if you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please email Daniella Burgos at dburgos@shepherdstable.org or call (301) 585-6463 x205 to become an event sponsor or donate an auction item.

Program Updates: Fulfilling the Need

This year we began a monthly Community Listening Session where we invite clients to share their feedback, ideas, and experiences with Shepherd's Table/Progress Place as a whole. Representatives from Shepherd's Table and our Progress Place partner, Interfaith Works, facilitate discussion and take notes, allowing clients to be heard. Then, the conversation is compiled and broken down into action items. From one of our first listening sessions, we learned that there was a great deal of stress and anxiety about the end of "Seasonal Shelter," which allows for emergency/low-

barrier overflow shelters to be set up to ensure everyone has a place to sleep inside during the pandemic and extreme cold or hot weather months. March 31st marked the end of the "Seasonal Shelter" in Montgomery County. This change can be difficult for many of our clients, who are facing the challenge of finding new housing solutions or other places to shelter.

Thanks to our community, who jumped into donation and outreach activities, we were able to distribute through our Resource Center - 51 pieces of luggage, 66 sleeping bags, 29 backpacks and 32 sleeping mats before March 31st. If you want to learn more about the needs of our clients and meal guests and how you can help, please check out our social media and the wish lists on our website under WAYS TO DONATE.





Volunteer Highlight: It's Always Volunteer Appreciation Day

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month but here at Shepherd's Table; we know that it is always Volunteer Appreciation Day. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Their dedication and hard work make a huge difference in the lives of those we serve.

Meet Carlos Botts, one of our amazing volunteers. When Carlos and his wife Marsha retired, they knew they wanted to give back to the community somehow but weren't sure where they would volunteer yet. Lucky for us, one night, while watching the news, Shepherd's Table was highlighted, and they decided to come to check us out. After doing so, they were so impressed with what they saw and knew that this was where they were going to devote their time and compassion.

Carlos started in the kitchen serving meals and helping with meal prep. "I like cleaning the dishes for some reason," he says with a laugh. He also helped in the clothes closet for a while, but when he heard about our Urban Garden, he knew that was where he wanted to dedicate some of his time. The garden reminds him of his grandfather, who first taught him about dirt and the benefits of being one with nature. Carlos is now learning about sustainable gardening practices and the importance of native plants, and he's excited to be a part of the harvesting process in the coming weeks.

Carlos' commitment to giving back comes from his own experiences growing up. "If you're in a place where you can help somebody else get back on their feet, you're supposed to do that. You gotta do that", Carlos says. Carlos finds it rewarding to see former clients in the neighborhood and find out they have their own place.



Other Ways To Give

The tax filing deadline has passed, and savings for next year might be top of mind right now. If you are 70.5 and older, you can make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA account. This kind of donation sustains our mission and may help you reduce your future tax burden.

Access this information and other planned giving resources on our website under [WAYS TO DONATE](#) or contact Daniella Burgos at dburgos@shepherdstable.org or call (301) 585-6463 x205



Shepherd's Table

TOGETHER MEETING NEEDS. CHANGING LIVES.

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OUR STAFF

Manny Hidalgo Executive Director	Mindy Hoffmann Volunteer Coordinator
Haile Gebregziabher Deputy Executive Director	Paola Ortiz Lead Chef
Daniella Burgos Director of Development & Communications	Gary Bullock Chef
Jerome Chambers Director of Social Services	Dao Huynh Chef
Christina Moore Director of Meal Services	Russell "Ruggz" Smoot Chef
Evert Vargas Social Services Program Manager	Willie Thompson Chef
Tinsae Adugna Social Services Program Associate	Abdoulaye Sylla Chef
Brenna Olson Advocacy Coordinator	Sonji Owens Business Manager
Victoria Benesch Communications Associate	Mohamed Banya Senior Operations Assistant
Kara von der Stitt Development Associate	Roberto Maravilla Operations Assistant
Sharon Flynn Philanthropic Gifts Advisor	Robert Savoy Operations Assistant
Debbie Boger Urban Garden Coordinator	Nancy Martinez Operations Assistant & Receptionist

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