Dear Friends,

As we continue to respond to guest, staff and community needs of COVID-19, I find that there is much to share and be grateful for.

First, I am thankful to report that staff and residents remain in good health. We continue to administer daily health screenings and frequent disinfectant schedules to maintain safe and clean congregate environments and have maintained our alternative shelter site to provide stable housing to many who would otherwise remain unsheltered and highly vulnerable during this pandemic. We're maintaining all standards consistent with CDC guidelines including updates to symptom screenings, quarantine/isolation protocols and community outreach strategies and will continue to do so as we plan for long-term recovery.

Secondly, I must share how grateful we are for the consistent stream of incoming Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and in-kind resources including food and cleaning supplies. Thanks to continued donations from all of you and our regional partners and funders, we have been able to maintain operation of all of our programs and services over the past several months without compromise of health and safety for all.

With your support, we continue our work in alleviating homelessness and hunger in our community. During this time when so many new stories of housing insecurity are being written, we stand strong, together.

Sincerely,

Jenn Paradis
Executive Director
The Beth-El Center has maintained consistent alternative programming including serving two meals per day seven days a week to food insecure community members. With review of services over the past several months, it is evident that we are now serving many new individuals and families who have not previously utilized emergency food services in Milford.

**Increased Food Demand**

Contributing factors to the increased food need include the additional food costs of households due to children being home from school, significant increases in unemployment and the increased need for food due to closures in day programs and community centers. We continue to partner with other community groups and municipal departments including many of our fearless faith leaders as well as private donors who have worked with local restaurants to arrange for meal delivery to individuals and families living in shelter. Additionally, we coordinate with Milford Board of Education and Health and Human Services Department, Milford Food Bank and new groups like Purple Pantry Boxes to ensure limited duplication and increased resource sharing.

**Serving Additional Clients at Motel 6**

Due to the increase in daily food distribution and the additional sheltering of 37 clients at Motel 6, we have experienced a 48% **increase in food demand during April and May**. Thankfully, special events like the Woodruff YMCA Stuff-A-Bus and on-going in-kind donations from individual community members and groups, as well as funds from a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), we have meet these increased food needs.

**Read More**

**In-Kind Donation List**

To support our Meals-to-Go, during the temporary absence of our hot meal services, check out the list of items needed in addition to our standard food and supply lists:

**Donations Needed**
Client Testimonial

As a part of our collaboration with Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and participating realtors throughout the state, our clients answered questions about what stable housing means to them. We are thankful to be able to share one of the responses in this newsletter and more in future newsletters.

What makes you special?

“If you asked me a year ago “what makes you special”, I probably could not have answered you! I am a leader, not a follower and what makes me special is that I have greatness inside of me and where I am is exactly where I am meant to be.”

What is important to you?

“What’s important to me is love, happiness, connection, creation and kindness. It means a better connection with my children.”

What does stable housing mean to you?

“Housing affects almost every part of my life. With your help my family can achieve the strength and stability and independence I need to build a better life for my children and I. Having stable housing would reduce overall stress and financial stress for the household. It has been a dream of mine to obtain stable housing and make a home where my family can come and feel the presence of love and security.”

-Father of four, age 43

Birdies for Charity

Every Donation is Matched at 115%!

We’re excited to be participating in The Travelers Golf Championship - Birdies for Charity fundraising program! Whether or not you play golf, you can support our mission to end homelessness and hunger.

The best part is that every Birdies for Charity donation made to the Beth-El Center will be matched at 115%! Your donation will be more than doubled, thanks to matching grants!

Please consider donating [online](#) or by mail now through June 28th. And watch the Travelers Championship on June 25-28 on CBS or the Golf Channel.
Community Resources Survey

Homeless and Unsheltered Multi-Agency Network (HUMAN) is conducting a survey in order to prioritize community resources related to food, employment, housing, utility assistance and healthcare.

Click here to participate in the survey.

Woodruff YMCA Food Drive

We’re so grateful for all of your donations given at the Woodruff Family YMCA's recent food drive! The busload of food, paper products and household supplies will help local families and individuals who are struggling during the pandemic.
Thanks for Giving During The Great Give

Many thanks to all who donated to the Beth-El Center via The Great Give! We're grateful for your support in helping us surpass our goal. Your donations will have a direct impact on the increased food and housing support we're providing to the community during the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks again for your care and generosity!

Please Donate to the Beth-El Center Today!

Beth-El Center, Inc.
support • hope • change

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