

# FEEDING HOPE



MEALS. COMFORT. KINDNESS.

FALL/WINTER 2020

## Signs of the Time

**Fresh meals reduce stress for working parents and their children, thanks to you.**

**S**tress began piling up on Leo when the pandemic hit. His hours were cut and he picked up part-time work in order to pay rent on time as other bills started to fall behind.

He needed a sign that things were going to turn toward a positive direction. He just didn't expect one to come so literally.

"I was driving by and a gentleman was waving a sign that read 'Free meals,'" explained Leo.

**For the past few weeks, one of the biggest stressors on Leo and his family has been lifted with free, healthy meals from Loaves & Fishes.** He drives by and picks up to-go meals for his family including his two sons, ages six and three.

"Our family enjoys the meals," said Leo. "I would like to thank you for helping us during this critical time. These meals make life a lot easier."

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*You are helping families like Leo's rest easier knowing they have access to consistent, nutritious meals.*



*For working parents like Amanda, your support offers relief.*

**A**manda is balancing life with three young children while her husband is deployed overseas with the military. She counts on the meals to free up stress. "My husband has been deployed for 360 days," said Amanda. "I work and am solo parenting right now, so this is super helpful."

**"These meals serve a multitude of people. It certainly helps me."**

Being a member of River Heights Vineyard Church for 12 years, Amanda has seen firsthand how many people this service benefits in the community.

**"I know there are a lot of low-income households that benefit from receiving the free meals. I just think it's really important."**

**\$9 out of every \$10 donated to Loaves and Fishes goes directly to our meals**

# A Gift For Many...

*It is remarkable how quickly we can come together when time and need are of the essence.*

I tear up when I think of the last six months (ask the staff, I am a crier). No one stepped back when the pandemic began; everyone leaned in and worked harder than ever before. Your support has been pivotal in helping us build systems and infrastructure so that we are in a strong position to scale rapidly and responsibly.

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**"You've helped us lay the groundwork for many more years of serving our community."**

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In July, Loaves & Fishes drafted an agreement with Urban Ventures to have full use of their commercial kitchen. The space will be used by our staff to cook large quantities of our rescued food. Those entrees will be reheated and distributed at our community dining sites. The commissary kitchen has been in our strategic plan for years, yet it was cost prohibitive. This partnership is a dream come true.

At the same time, we learned that our long-standing partnership with St. Stephen's School in Minneapolis will come to an end in December. Within days we made plans with Peace House and AVIVO – both are just a few blocks from the school. We are relieved knowing that our meals in south Minneapolis will continue without interruption, especially with winter just around the corner.

We end each staff meeting with guest stories, so I will leave you with one. I brought a meal to a woman in Eagan. She rolled down her car window and we chatted, masks in place and physically distanced. That day was her first visit to Loaves & Fishes.



Her husband had just passed away and she said it was so hard to do anything, let alone cook for herself. I placed the chicken dinner on the passenger seat. She smelled it and said, "It's like a present, I can't wait to open it when I get home."

**Thank you for making certain that if anyone is hungry, they receive a present - a hot and healthy meal prepared with love.**

With Gratitude,

Cathy Maes, Executive Director

# Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars to support your hungry neighbors in need.

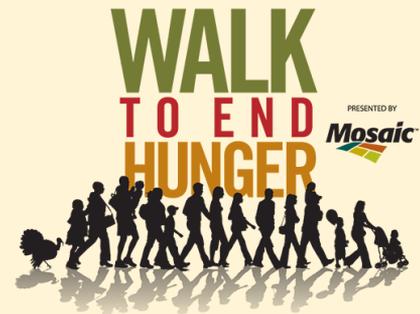


**Join us for Minnesota's annual day of giving on Thursday, November 19th!**

It's your chance to give locally and create change right here in Minnesota.

When you give to Loaves & Fishes, **your gift will be DOUBLED** thanks to matching funds from the following generous sponsors: BI Worldwide, Tempworks Software, Quality Bicycle Products and an anonymous Family Foundation.

Visit  
[givemn.org/loavesandfishesmnmn](http://givemn.org/loavesandfishesmnmn)  
for more information



The Walk to End Hunger is a family-friendly walk held on Thanksgiving morning. This year it's going virtual!

Walk anywhere, participate virtually and donate to help feed the 1 in 8 Minnesotans experiencing hunger.

Sign up online today at  
[www.walktoendhunger.org](http://www.walktoendhunger.org)  
and walk for Team Loaves & Fishes!

Give online today: [loavesandfishesmnmn.networkforgood.com](http://loavesandfishesmnmn.networkforgood.com) or with the enclosed giving envelope

# Relief to Local Neighborhoods

**New Bethel guests give and receive help in the form of free, healthy meals.**

Roxanne and Jonathan have been together for 13 years. Not only do they count on the free, healthy meals at New Bethel Baptist church, but they also help deliver meals around the neighborhood to people who can't get out.

"Let me put it to you this way. If you haven't had a meal, but you can hold off until 5:30, then you are guaranteed to eat," Jonathan explained. "If you can't move around, there are people that will move around for you, such as ourselves. Loaves & Fishes helps us out so we try to help out too."

**What if the neighborhood didn't have the Loaves & Fishes community meal site?**

After taking a long pause to think about that question Jonathan answered, "If we didn't have this meal, we would have to try to make something out of nothing. Everything helps and this meal here helps in a big way."



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*Your gift enables Roxanne and Jonathan to help themselves and their community.*

# Memorable Night Leaves Lasting Impact on Longtime Supporter

**"If my kids can't be here tonight then I don't have anything to feed them."**

MaryFrances Schurb was on the Loaves & Fishes Board of Directors for 15 years and remains a loyal donor to this day. Her support goes back to one meaningful evening when she was helping serve dinner in St. Paul.

The serving team was just about to call for seconds when a gentleman, still in his work clothes, came running in.

"He asked, 'Have you done seconds yet?' We were just about to and he said, 'Please just a minute.' Behind him was his wife, still in her scrubs, and their three children," MaryFrances explained. "Clearly they were both working, but he said, 'If my kids can't be here tonight then I don't have anything to feed them.'"

That night has kept her coming back to the mission. "It's about families who are trying to provide for their children. Often working parents." said MaryFrances.

A connection with a current board member got MaryFrances her start when she decided she wanted to find a way to get more involved in community outreach. She said a love of cooking and bringing people together at a common table

were factors for getting involved. Even though her board tenure is now over, MaryFrances continues to give a few times a year through her Donor-Advised Fund. She designates the money to be used as the staff sees fit, as she believes they know how to best use the donation.



*Cathy Maes (left) pictured with MaryFrances Schurb (right).*

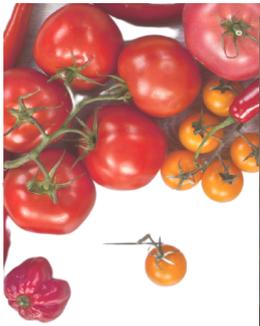
**"This work is for our community," said MaryFrances. "It's for people who go hungry. Nobody should be hungry."**

## A Simple Way to Help End Hunger

**A Donor-Advised Fund is a flexible, tax efficient way to feed Minnesotans in need. Simply contact your DAF administrator and request a gift be made to Loaves & Fishes.**



**Your gift of support has carried us through months of increased demand**



## Culinary Program's Unique Volunteer Experience

A group from MICC, a nonprofit vocational and life skills training program for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders, have become familiar faces at our Brooklyn United Methodist Church meal site.

The group of three, along with Culinary Instructor Scott Schneider, treat the experience like they are in a full-time restaurant and our site coordinator Andrew Scott has embraced his teaching role. A recent trip saw the group prepare a white fish with rice, watermelon and salad along with mint and dill.

**"This volunteer experience teaches the students the skills they need for work."**

**The experience at Loaves & Fishes has been crucial for the MICC students as they struggled to get into an actual restaurant due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

"I have learned things that would have helped in past jobs," Gordon, one of the students said. Another student, Hudson, added, "I learned the plating is important to make the dishes look appetizing."

The crew also thanked Andrew for lessons in making lists, cutting techniques and cleaning as you go to save time in the end. The partnership has been an awarding experience for not only the MICC students, but for all of us and our guests.

"The point of the program is to prepare the students for job readiness," said Schneider. "This volunteer experience teaches the guys the skills they need for work out in the real world."



Learn how to become a volunteer at: [loavesandfishesmn.org/volunteer](http://loavesandfishesmn.org/volunteer)

## WHAT YOU'VE MADE POSSIBLE THIS YEAR SO FAR:

During the past nine months, you've helped us to serve more meals and rescue more food **than EVER BEFORE.**

**THANK YOU!**

### MEALS SERVED

3,000,000 Meals

1,500,000 Meals



All of 2019

Through nine months of 2020

### FOOD RESCUED

4,000,000 Pounds

2,000,000 Pounds



All of 2019

Through nine months of 2020



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