

Nourishing Hope



Dear Sally,

Over the past few weeks, I've thought of you often. As we transformed our programs to suit this new, virus-altered world, it was your past support that gave us the stability to re-invent ourselves and continue serving.

Now, as we face a surge of food requests unlike anything we've seen before, your support is critical. With your help, our most vulnerable community members will always have food to put on the table.

Families safe at home, thanks to mobile grocery delivery



Volunteering, social distance style: Ben works alone to pack up members' groceries.

When we realized that upholding social distancing guidelines would be impossible at CSC, we closed our market to shoppers. **The same day, we began mobile grocery delivery.** Now that we've found our stride, our volunteers are delivering **two weeks of groceries to 150 homes each week** – that's over 14,000 pounds distributed each week, to over 400 households in total, some with as many as 12 family members.

Each weekday, staff and volunteers are on standby to take calls, ensuring that deliveries are appropriate for each family, and include add-ons like dog food and toilet paper. For members who don't speak English, **fluent volunteers are available to help in seven languages.**

While we're still serving many of our pre-existing members, we're also helping hundreds of new families across twelve zip codes. **In the first week of grocery deliveries, we took over 300 calls.** Some of these folks used to rely on other food pantries, which are now closed. **Many others have never needed a food bank before.**

Members new and old have thanked us for offering groceries in a safe way. Our member Dolly, who lives with her son and grandson, told us last week that at her age, she is afraid to leave home. **She called our food delivery service her "answered prayer from heaven."**

Supporting houseless members

Of course, we're also getting groceries to our houseless members. Once a week, a hardy crew of volunteers with cargo bikes head out to **distribute food to over 60 people in hard-to-reach camps.**

Throughout this pandemic, we've continued serving six meals a week to 40-80 people. In a carefully spaced line, members wait in front of CSC to pick up their mail, a meal, and a bag of groceries – **and to exchange a few friendly words with our program staff.**

With increased costs due to food shortages and broken supply chains, the moral imperative to give our frontline staff hazard pay for risking their health every day, and the rising tide of need we face this year, **we need your help.**

In times like these, so many can fall through the cracks. You can help us ensure that our most vulnerable community members stay safe and healthy – everyone from seniors, to immigrants, to people living outside, and of course, newly unemployed workers. **Can you help them by making a gift to CSC today?**

Always in gratitude,

Debra Mason
Executive Director

P.S. We know this is a difficult time for everyone, and I want you to know that if you are in need, we are here for you! Please reach out. **Meanwhile, there are others among us who have unexpected room in our budgets,** thanks to stimulus checks and cancelled vacations. If you are in the position to help, will you join our Nourish Hope campaign with a meaningful donation? **Your generosity today will save lives.**



Member Gary picks up a lunch and a bag of groceries from staff member Celess Roman.