



**Caring
for Friends™**

**SUMMER 2021
NEWSLETTER**

Sharing food and friendship since 1974

A Note from Our Executive Chairman

The Covid Pandemic is now 15 months old and thanks to masks, vaccines, and a herculean effort by our emergency responders, we appear to be headed to that “new normal” from the standpoint of the disease.

However, from the perspective of a highly active Food Bank serving more than 300 Pantry Partners, we see the COVID Pandemic being replaced by a Food Pandemic.

Food Need Grows 15 Months After COVID!

The Government subsidized USDA Farm to Family Program, which provided 30 lb. boxes of food, shut down in early June. Caring for Friends distributed more than 12,000 of these boxes every week since the fall of 2020.

Usable fresh fruit and produce has become tougher to get even though we are at the produce markets at 7AM, 5 days a week.

We have found solutions... but we need your help!

- We need more **Food** to meet this increased demand and our continued geographic growth.
- We need more **Volunteers** to help prepare and deliver food throughout the 5-county area.
- We need to expand our **Staff** and infrastructure to improve our services to our more than 300 partners.

YOU have made a difference before.

YOU can make a difference again!

We need our friends, fellow donors and corporate partners to please support us with their donations and prayers as we continue to push-back on the food deprivation faced by families, children and seniors in Philadelphia. Anything you can do helps bring us one step closer to dealing with this problem.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! 

V. Schiavone
Vince Schiavone

Your Support Made This Happen! Total Food Distribution In Pounds

JANUARY - MAY 2019

180,528 lbs.

JANUARY - MAY 2020

2,908,006 lbs.

JANUARY - MAY 2021

10,251,128 lbs.

Our Mission: To provide food and friendship to seniors, kids, Veterans and those less fortunate in the 5-County Philadelphia region.

www.caringforfriends.org



In-House News

2020 Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Caring Individual of the Year
Chris Smith

Caring Driver of the Year
Ivan Collier

Caring Visitor of the Year
Joe Palermo

Caring Kitchen Award
Food Friends

Caring Cooking Church of the Year
St. Andrew Episcopal Church of Yardley

Caring School of the Year
St. Joe's Preparatory School

Caring School District of the Year
Lower Merion School District

Caring Company of the Year
Blue Crew at Independence Blue Cross

Caring Community Organization of the Year
The Brothers of Strawberry Mansion

Caring Faith Based Organization of the Year
Reverend Nancy Jackson, Zion AME

Volunteer Appreciation Month Thank You, Thank You!

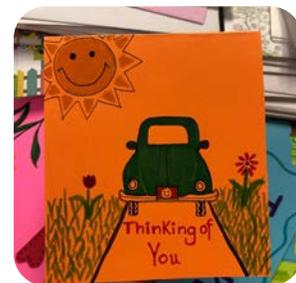
April was Volunteer Recognition month and this year we did it up BIG at Caring for Friends! We recognized 10 different individuals, organizations and groups that have been "all-stars" over the course of the past year. We sincerely thank ALL of our Volunteers for their hard work, dedication and the more than 18,000 hours of service in the past year. Our growth and ability to respond to our community's needs are dependent on our Volunteers and for that we can never say thanks enough.

If you are interested in volunteering, we have lots of opportunities every week. Come and cook in our kitchen or work in our warehouse assembling packages for our pantry partners to distribute. You can even volunteer from home by making "Caring Notes" which we give to all of the seniors we serve each month.

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please check out our website www.caringforfriends.org or contact me directly at bregan@caringforfriends.org and I will be glad to help!

Brittany Regan

Brittany Regan, Volunteer Coordinator



Other Ways to Volunteer!



We encourage phone calls, to check in on our senior client friends.



We welcome your food donations to assist with meal preparations, along with your kindly prepared meals.



We ask all of our volunteer visitors to adopt "contact free" drop-off of meals at your seniors friends' door.



For more information or to sign-up, visit caringforfriends.org/volunteer

Stories from the People and Organizations You Support

100,000+ Meals made by our Volunteers! An amazing record made by some AMAZING Volunteers!

In 2020 when the COVID shutdown began, Caring for Friends put out a call that it needed volunteers to help with our no-cost Senior Meals program and the Community responded! Longtime volunteers William Fretz, Trish McBride and Danielle Flynn stepped up to find more people to come in to help out. Their original goal was to have a regular group of people come and work in the kitchen every Monday night but that quickly expanded to Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, with a revolving group of about 60 volunteers coming in each week.



Longtime volunteer William Fretz, who oversees this group, has been involved with Caring for Friends for more than 20 years, and has taken the leadership role during COVID-19 to show new volunteers the ropes. "I didn't know if we'd ever get enough volunteers," Fretz said of the beginning of the pandemic.

Danielle Flynn, in charge of Volunteer recruitment for this group, is a member of Never Surrender Hope (NSH). A nonprofit organization that provides food, supplies and hope to people experiencing homelessness and addiction. The group delivers food from Caring for Friends to around 20 local recovery homes each weekend.

Flynn used her connections to bring other Never Surrender Hope members into the kitchen, as well as individuals from recovery homes looking to give back, and other Northeast Philadelphia residents who would see her social media posts on local neighborhood pages.

Food Rescue - US Marines Style!

When ships go into dry dock they must remove all frozen food. The SS Wright (T-AVB-3), an Aviation Logistics Support Container Ship that supports US Marine Corps helicopters, had four 20 foot containers of frozen meat, veggies, and sweets that they didn't want to throw away.



staff and volunteers kicked into gear and figured out how to rescue 24,000 lbs of food, taken by crane off the ship. Food that will become senior and shelter meals. A first of its kind for us and another example of ... "When people are hungry the answer is always YES!"

Hank Rossi, a Caring for Friends Board Director, learned of this situation and let us know of the opportunity. Our transportation

Thanks to the SS Wright and crew and all Caring for Friends representatives for this innovative achievement!



Excited to announce a new partnership with the Chester Community Charter School and their new food pantry!

Food Pantry Site Visit

A pantry partner that's more than just a pantry partner

On North Broad Street, as the pandemic wore on, members of **Congregation Rodeph Shalom** noticed



increasing numbers of people seeking food and support. A long-time Caring For Friends partner, the Congregation has been preparing and supplying home cooked meals to residents of the Bethesda Project, a transitional housing program. This, however, was different from anything they had seen. Their members noticed how many more people were on the streets and knew they had to act.

The Congregation reached out to Caring For Friends and began a weekly pick up of Farm to Family boxes to provide over 100 families with basic food supplies. Their program, called **"Breaking Bread on Broad"** is a reflection of the community they serve. With a mix of cultures and languages, the Congregation found volunteers who spoke the languages of their participants so that regular contact and follow up could be established and referral to essential resources could be made. The volunteers were also able to help Caring For Friends ensure the food delivered was culturally appropriate.

Realizing that people facing food insecurity were most likely experiencing other challenges, the Congregation has worked hard to make an impact in the community by offering resources to their neighbors. **Caring For Friends is happy to support our Pantry Partner that is more than just a pantry partner.**

Our Caring Partners & Volunteers Share the Impact of Your Support

“Your contribution of supplies and logistics has helped us provide over 4,400 meals year-to-date. That is over a 20% increase from last year. **With your generous support, seniors, adults, and kids receive free groceries and meals that they need to keep themselves and their loved ones healthy and well at this difficult time.**”

-Louis B., Ministry Lead
St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church
Wallingford, PA
Delaware County

“**Your kindness and care have helped over 200 residents,** consisting of families with children, adults and seniors who are all in great need during these times. Receiving free meals help keep them healthy, well and relieves the stress of worrying if they can afford or receive food in order to help their hunger.”

-Dawn J., Borough Manager
Eddystone, PA
Delaware County

“Caring for Friends’ impact on Delaware County during COVID cannot be understated. **You have made a difference in the lives of so many families, kids, seniors and just ordinary people who need help right now.**”

I hope Caring for Friends can continue their commitment to the residents of Delaware County who are in need now and in the future.

It has been a very rewarding experience for me and I know that together we are making a difference in the lives of so many and impacting the physical and emotional health of the families we serve.”

-Barbara B
Rose Valley, PA
Delaware County

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Make a tax-deductible gift to help provide food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the Philadelphia region.

\$250 makes it possible to deliver food to over 2,500 seniors



\$150 fills freezers with 150 ready-to-heat senior meals



\$75 buys one week of groceries for 50 families



\$25 buys snack bags for 200 kids



PLEASE CUT HERE AND MAIL USING THE SUPPLIED ENVELOPE

YES! I want to help provide food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the Philadelphia region.

DONATE ONLINE:
CARINGFORFRIENDS.ORG/DONATE

I would like to make a donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed please find my donation:

Check (payable to Caring for Friends) Visa Mastercard Discover AmEx

I would like my gift to recur: One-time Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually

My donation is in Honor or Memory of: _____

**Thank
You!**



Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ CVV/CCV _____ Expiration (month / year) _____

Signature _____

Caring for Friends™, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. A copy of our official registration and financial information is available from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.