



Fall / Winter 2020  
Newsletter

Sharing food and friendship since 1974

## Chairman's Message

DEAR VALUED VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS,

Caring for Friends volunteers and support staff have worked tirelessly through the COVID quarantine and skyrocketing unemployment **to bring enough food to our community to nourish over 130,000 people**. This was only possible due to the steadfast partnership of hundreds of food providers, places of worship and community pantries. Together we made sure that meals and food made it into the homes of people in need.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, Caring for Friends has provided over 1 million pounds of food a month to people in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware and Chester counties.

Our senior client friends need your help. **We urgently need donated meals, volunteers and financial contributions to restock our freezers and shelves.** We must be ready for the flu season that is so dangerous for our seniors, even in years without COVID. **Please consider making a gift today! We need your help now!** If you have given already, we are deeply grateful and send you our thanks.

Our mission is to provide food and friendship to homebound seniors, kids and families and we are doing just that, together. Together we are building a more caring community.

Sincerely,

V. Schiavone

Vincent Schiavone, Executive Chair of the Board



**Each day, truckloads of food went out during the months of the COVID quarantine. We totaled over 1 million pounds of food per month, more than doubling our volumes in 2019, and the year isn't even over yet!**

## VOLUNTEER TODAY!

**"This was such an awesome experience and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to participate!"**

**Thanks to all who coordinated this fantastic event."**

*– Carla, a virtual volunteer from Independence Blue Cross who made Caring Notes.*



For more information or to sign-up, visit [caringforfriends.org/volunteer/](https://www.caringforfriends.org/volunteer/)

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[www.caringforfriends.org](https://www.caringforfriends.org)  
Sign-up for our e-newsletters

## PANTRY PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

"We started partnering with you in early March 2020... In March we served 350. In April, there was an increase of food need, due to the pandemic and also the high rates of employment, our numbers began to quickly increase to 475 per week, a 35.5%-36.5% increase in little more than a month. We are serving a little over 500 people per week (509) now, close to a 41%-45% increase on the need of food weekly. This need is being met because of our collaboration."

– *Ketty Point Jour, Director, Aging Grace*



### AGING GRACE

Aging Grace is one of Caring for Friends 200+ community pantry partners who pick-up food every week for their community.

The Aging Grace Team continues to help feed families and individuals in need within Philadelphia and it's surrounding counties. The Team distributes and deliver food items/ produce, frozen meals and snack packs to families and home-bound, disabled adults and seniors who are unable to pick up and/or purchase the food items that are needed.

On a weekly basis, the Aging Grace Team volunteers their time to help with this blessed cause. Over 500 people, including families receive food items/ products and or frozen meals with snacks weekly.

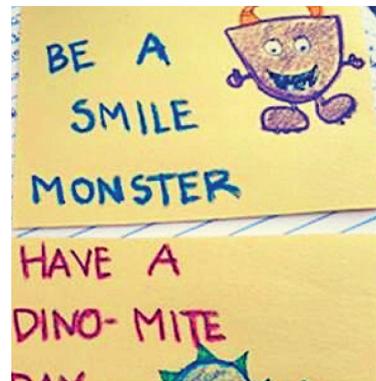
The Aging Grace Team which consist of several churches and small group organizations helps to make this possible.

404 Davisville Road, Suite #3  
Willow Grove, PA 19001  
215-779-8526



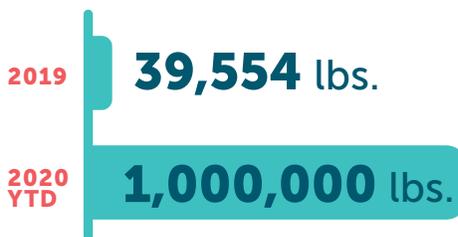
## Blue Crew Virtual Volunteers Get Crafty! 300+ CARING NOTES CRAFTED

Independence Blue Cross's Blue Crew completed their company's first ever Virtual Volunteer Event! Over 70 people, on two separate days, made over 300 Caring Notes for Caring for Friends' Senior Meals and Snack Bags. They got crafty with paper, magazine cut outs, kind words and great team spirit. Their creative Caring Notes and inspiring messages appeared in many of our Senior Meals and Snack Bags. Find out more at [www.caringforfriends.org](http://www.caringforfriends.org).

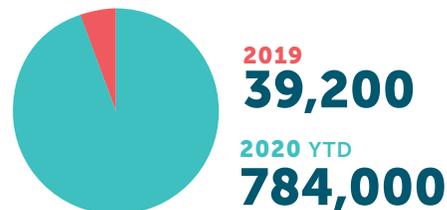


## COVID-19: Impact on Our Community

AVERAGE POUNDS of FOOD DISTRIBUTED PER MONTH:



NUMBER OF SENIOR MEALS SERVED PER MONTH:



**THIS GROWTH REPRESENTS A 2,000% INCREASE IN OUR SUPPORT SERVICES!  
OUR DONOR COMMUNITY HELPS US MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!**

NOW SERVING APPROXIMATELY

**250**

FOOD PANTRIES, SHELTERS & PROGRAMS

FOOD AND CARING ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH:

- Direct One-On-One Delivery
- Community Pantry Network
- Partner Network

## Volunteers Step Up!

TOGETHER WE ARE DRIVING HUNGER OUT OF OUR COMMUNITY!



# Interview with Elaine Levin & her son Alan!

We were enchanted by the Levin family's wisdom about caring for others, involving kids in charity, & Caring for Friends. They allowed us to share their thoughts. Enjoy!

## WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

**Alan:** Well, Mom grew up in Philadelphia near East Wick, by the airport. I grew up in NE Philadelphia in Bells Corner.

## WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE?

**Elaine:** My mother was always 'doing' for other people. Looking back now, I would consider us on the poorer end, but my mother was always doing for others. We had a 3- bedroom house. My parents had one bedroom, my sister and I shared the other and in the third my Mom would take in people from the Jewish Family Service (my mother was on the board). I remember one old lady we took in (as a child anyone who isn't a child is old, she was probably 65). My mother would help her bathe. She took good care of her.

**Alan:** Giving back was a way of life. Growing up you don't realize you don't have a lot, but we never wanted for anything. We made brisket one night, and we had 2 lbs left and Mom said, "Let's make four trays. Green beans! Yes, let's put green beans in this tray too." Then we'd put in the recipe notes, wrapped them and froze them. So easy. It's just how I grew up. I remember my mother telling me it's for senior citizens.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF CARING FOR FRIENDS?

**Elaine:** In 1975, I was president of Jewish Women International and I read about Rita Schiavone (your Founder) in the paper and thought we could get involved. Rita came to B'nai B'rith to talk to us. She said, "While making dinner for your family, you can make one or two meals for others." She showed us trays and paper. I did that for ten years. (The photos are from Elaine's scrapbook from the 1970s!) Another memory is that it was the only time I ever got a ticket! I went to the Y to drop the trays with Alan and there wasn't a place to park. I figured I would run these in and out. My only ticket ever!



Rita Ungaro Schiavone (second from left) receives the 1976 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Oxford Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women. At presentation (from left) are Mrs. Terry Levine, chapter president; Mrs. Schiavone; Mrs. Lennie Weltzmann, senior citizen chairman of B'nai B'rith Women; and Elaine Levin, president of the Bernard L. Levinthal Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women. Mrs. Schiavone is director of Food for Friends.

This photo includes the Founder of CFF (Aids for Friends) and donors.

## WHAT WISDOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO PASS ON?

**Elaine:** You don't have to tell your child something. Kids learn by watching their parents. Things that you don't realize that they notice.

**Alan:** My father was a job creator. He gave people 2nd and 3rd chances. Our family business is a 2nd chance employer, 2nd chances are important. My parents founded the business in the 1970s and I took over 20 years ago. I am retiring in 69 days.



Left to Right: Vincent Schiavone, Elaine Levin, Alan Levin, Fran Levin, Austin Levin, Councilman Bobby Henon visiting Caring for Friends in NE Philadelphia

## 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 2500 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 use the form on the reverse to send in your donation.

Fall/Winter 2020  
www.caringforfriends.org  
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# Caring for Friends

12271 TOWNSEND RD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154

Phone: 215-464-2224  
Fax: 215-464-2507

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

[www.caringforfriends.org](http://www.caringforfriends.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 50  
West Chester, PA

## DONATE NOW TO OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Join the Caring For Friends Legacy Society, create a memory for your family, and help our volunteers provide food and friendship to seniors and homebound client friends for the next 45 years and beyond



To make a gift call  
Jeannette Fournier  
215-464-2224 x119

Please Cut Here and Mail to: Caring for Friends, 12271 Townsend Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154

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

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
[CARINGFORFRIENDS.ORG/DONATE](http://CARINGFORFRIENDS.ORG/DONATE)

### I would like to make a donation of:

\$250    \$150    \$75    \$25    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: \_\_\_\_\_



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.