



2024 ANNUAL APPEAL

# Caring for Friends

A Caring Community Filled with Caring People



## Chairman's Message

THOUGHTS OF PEACE HOPE AND JOY

*The Holiday Season from Thanksgiving to New Year is the best time of the year for most people filled with Peace, Hope, and Joy. It is a time filled with family and friends and the greatest time for Volunteering and Giving. In the darkest days of winter, we literally light up the world, decorate our homes, and gather with our friends to celebrate the season, a new birth, and hope for the future in the new year. Religious, spiritual, secular, atheist, humanist, or corporate, rich or poor, we all find a way to enjoy the season.*

*We all want Peace in our lives, in our families, and in our country. It's harder to find Peace if you are elderly, sick, disabled, or poor. Many of the neighbors we serve want the Peace of not being hungry or the simple Peace and security of receiving meals regularly when they cannot cook and knowing there is someone who cares. Our Caring Community provides that to our seniors.*

*Hope is what keeps everyone going. For seniors, hope gets harder as friends die, disability and pain increases, isolation and loneliness grow. Rita, our founder used to call it "the quiet desperation of the forgotten and hungry". Individuals and families in need lose hope as their situation does not improve over time. Hope comes from knowing "someone cares" and they will be there when needed. Our Caring Community provides a little light in their darkness, and Hope for so many.*

*Joy in each one of us. Think of Tiny Tim in the Christmas Carol. It's the magic of the season that no matter what the circumstances almost all people find Joy this season. It may be the holiday meal of turkey and stuffing for our homebound or the holiday meals we cater and serve low-income seniors in their buildings, but I can promise you, Our Caring Community brings a little bit of Joy to ALL the friends we serve every day, and more on the holiday. Our Caring Cards are so very important to our friends they are often saved on refrigerators, walls, and tables of the homebound we serve. Seniors show us the saved cards when we serve at senior homes. Every year we receive our cards back with letters of thanks from families or friends of friends who pass. The Joy that comes from our Caring Cards, a conversation, a touch from a friend is amazing.*

*2024 has been a very difficult year for Caring for Friends financially due to the economic impact on the finances of our donors and neighbors in need that we help. But Together we managed to provide both food and friendship to more friends this year. On behalf of our Friends and neighbors in need whom we serve, the volunteers and donors like you who make this all possible, and our dedicated staff, I want to Thank You for Caring for our homebound seniors, disabled, veterans, children, and families in need.*

*Mostly I want to Thank You for sharing your LOVE this year with people you never met, do not see, whose situation and lives are quite different, but you Care for these Friends anyway. That is the definition of Love thy Neighbor. We are making a difference in people's lives.*

*I wish you and your family Peace today and every day, Hope for the future of you and your loved ones, and Joy this Holiday Season.*

Vince

Vincent Schiavone  
Caring for Friends

**Wishing Peace**  
Volunteer TOGETHER

**Giving Hope**  
Donate TOGETHER

**Celebrating Joy**  
Care TOGETHER



## Meet Mike & Eddie

This month our CEO Vince Schiavone had the opportunity to meet two friends in our Caring Pantry. Ed McMonagle and Mike Magarity knew each other in high school, La Salle Class of 1974. They were not close friends but knew each other at that time.

The school began preparations for their 50th Anniversary (coinciding with Caring for Friends 50th), and the two reconnected. Each shared where they were in life and discovered they both had medical issues requiring them to exercise more. Ed has chronic back pain, and Mike has had a series of accidents causing a disability and inability to work.

A renewed friendship formed as they began to walk/limp together for their health each morning.

Ed had a history with Caring for Friends through his mother. She needed meals following her husband's death. So, Ed decided to help his friend out by becoming a home-delivered meal friend. The second trip to the warehouse he brought Mike along to see where his meals were coming from.

Both men have a deep appreciation for Caring for Friends. Mike stated that he plans to "pay it forward" once he gets back on his feet and deliver for someone else in need. He feels that having someone who cares and helps without being asked is what keeps his spirits up. Both Ed and Caring for Friends have done just that.



Support Caring for Friends Today





# Caring Together: Thanksgiving 2024

## Over 4000 Turkeys Distributed!

Caring for Friends takes our mission of feeding those in need very seriously. There is no larger day for us than Thanksgiving. It is so much more than just delivering food. It is about delivering hope to those living in poverty and in need of a helping hand.

This year, by partnering with over 300 pantries and countless elected officials we were able to extend our reach further than ever before. In addition to the frozen turkeys and boxes of "fixings" we made over 10,000 Thanksgiving meals in our kitchen. These were packed and frozen for distribution throughout the 5-county Philadelphia area.

We worked on distribution events with other organizations with a like-minded mission. It was cold and rainy, and the lines spread around the block but the smiles and gratitude on the faces of those receiving items was enough to say "let's do more next year."

Folks donated turkeys, gave generously and volunteered time. We even had a school show up with a school bus full of donated shelf stable items!

Lastly, we brought hot pre-Thanksgiving lunch to 12+ senior low-income housing facilities. Here the need is deeply felt as frail elderly live in studio apartments, alone. Time spent with these individuals is as much needed as food. We provide food AND friendship.

If we plan to increase our distribution next year we will need your financial support. Reach out to Marti Berk at [mberk@caringsforfriends.org](mailto:mberk@caringsforfriends.org) TODAY!



## Volunteer Together Kohelet Yeshiva HS



Over 50 10th-11th grade students and teachers from Kohelet Yeshiva High School volunteered at Caring for Friends in December. This school, a co-ed Jewish Orthodox High School located in Merion Station, plans only two trips each year for volunteering. In 2024 both trips were to Caring for Friends...one during MLK Day and this month. When asked what drew them to CFF, the Director of Student Affairs, Julia, stated that they enjoyed the meaningful experience. They love having a location where they can bring a large group during the school day.

*Ofek Bar-Or (Junior Class Representative): "Volunteering at Caring for Friends was an incredibly rewarding experience that allowed us to make a significant positive impact on our community. We dedicated our time packaging over 1,500 meals for local individuals living in poverty. This initiative not only ensures that many stomachs were fed, but it also fosters strong and lasting friendships."*

If you know a school that wants a fabulous volunteer experience, contact Hannah at [volunteer@caringsforfriends.org](mailto:volunteer@caringsforfriends.org).

## Giving Together Consider a Financial Gift

There are many ways to support Caring for Friends, now and in the future. Our goal is to make the process both personal and simple. Allow us to customize a giving plan that works for your family or organization.

We ask that you speak to your financial team about establishing a planned giving/bequest as many have done throughout the years. Remembering Caring for Friends in a will or honoring a special occasion with a donation in honor of someone is an excellent way to show your support. Caring for Friends also accepts gifts of stocks, bonds and property.

Recurring giving is the best way to support us. Simply select weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly giving through our easy-to-use online portal on our website. By providing consistent donations to Caring for Friends you ensure that we are sustainable for the future.

If your employer has a match giving program or a company foundation, please reach out to us. Some companies allow staff to nominate a charity for annual gifts. Please remember us. Many larger organizations will match the giving of their employees. This is an excellent way for you to both increase your donation and introduce your company to your favorite charity.

Recently we have had organizations select us as the beneficiary of a fundraising event. Consider nominating us and we would be happy to attend the event, speak or send materials.

There are many ways to support this wonderful organization. When you think of the mission...feeding seniors, homebound, veterans and homeless...it is an easier ask than you think. **Contact Marti Berk, Development Director, at [mberk@caringsforfriends.org](mailto:mberk@caringsforfriends.org) or 267-874-2391 to discuss a gift to this amazing charity.**

----- Cut Here and Mail In -----

### PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

*At this urgent time, your tax deductible donation helps provide meals and friendly visits to isolated seniors, homebound client friends, and other individuals in the 5-county Phila region.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First/Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Check  Credit Card

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (3 digits on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Recurring
    - Weekly
    - Monthly
    - Annually
  - One-Time
- \$1000
  - \$500
  - \$250
  - Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$150
  - \$75
  - \$25



Scan QR code for easy online donations.



Mail to: CARING FOR FRIENDS  
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or 267-874-2391