



COVID-19 CRISIS

Maintaining Human Connection
while Social Distancing

Your support creates a community of compassion

A Message from our Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all the ways you've reached out in generosity to Face to Face. I am truly humbled and so very grateful.

I have spent a great deal of time over the past weeks thinking about the future. For the people we serve at Face to Face, the Social Determinants of Health:

- Quality jobs leading to economic stability
- Quality education
- Access to health care
- Quality neighborhoods

were already sorely lacking. The impact of the coronavirus on communities of color and the economically disadvantaged is staggering.

Throughout these weeks, I have reflected on the meaning and efficacy of our values of hospitality, mutuality and transformation. In response to the virus, we changed our entire model of providing services and so many of you joined us by donating financially and providing lifesaving food, masks and supplies. The hospitality has been palpable.

As we move slowly into the post-corona world, I believe that our commitment to mutuality will be more critical than ever. We will need to assess what defines "good" for our families and ourselves. Then, we will have to have the courage to seek the same for others. The Social Determinants of Health can guide our choices both for ourselves and others. Transformation is possible, I believe, if we take stock of the inequities that are all too visible in our Germantown neighborhood and decide that we will continue to act together to make our society – and our world- a better place. Hospitality is a great starting place. Real mutuality will be the key to transformation.

In hope,



Squatting in Quarantine

Ricky isn't homeless but he is squatting in his family's old rental property. All his relatives passed away in the last 2 years and he's the only surviving member of his family. His SSI benefits stopped, and he is no longer receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Alone, hungry and quarantined, Ricky called Face to Face's Social Services



Center for help. After several telephone conversations with the social worker, he shared his struggles of loneliness, despair and need for help. The pandemic has made it difficult to make any progress on new housing or accessing benefits. It became apparent to the social worker that Ricky desperately needed some basic essential items. When Ricky received a bag full of pantry items, socks, underwear, fresh t-shirts and toiletries he cried. He said he was so thankful for the emotional support and supplies. Your support provided that care and compassion.

Your Gifts Help Save Lives

Prevention is Key for African Americans



COVID-19 is impacting the African American populations at higher, disproportional rates. Preventing the coronavirus infection is key to avoid health complications and death. Because of your crafty skills and generosity, hundreds of STOP THE SPREAD kits have been distributed. These critical kits contain a home-made mask, hand sanitizer, tissues, soap and prevention instructions.



"Thank you for the mask and for the information about how to stay healthy. I didn't know that high blood pressure could be a problem if I got the virus."

Alvin recently heard about Face to Face from a neighbor in his building. Concerned about his health, he was thankful to learn about ways to avoid the virus.

Tele-Services

Your generosity has allowed our social worker and attorney to be available by telephone to assist clients with specific social and legal needs. These critical services continue to help the vulnerable during these stressful times.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALLEVIATING HUNGER

Dining Room Services Move to Grab-and-Go Food packages

These unprecedented times call for creative, alternative ways to serve the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Because of your outpouring of support, Face to Face has been able to transform the dining room into a large pantry. The round tables have been replaced with wire shelves that are filled with your generous donations of nutritious non-perishable pantry items. On Friday,



March 20, 2020, while practicing social distancing and the CDC safety guidelines, Face to Face began distributing food packages in the parking lot twice a week. They include a fresh meal, Carversville Farm produce and eggs, bread and several days' worth of nutritionally balanced pantry items and toiletry kits.



In mid-April, thanks to a collaboration with our generous counterpart, Broad Street Ministry, we began participating in the city wide "Step Up to the Plate" campaign which brought us generous partnerships with Wawa and Jose Garces Group. These alliances have extended our distribution to three days per week and furthered our reach to the homebound with Oak Street Health and Emlen Arms senior apartments residents.



Our regular guests and new community members continue to connect and express gratitude even amidst the new indignities of poverty that have arisen in this crisis.

Due to an abundance of caution and for the health of our guests and staff, we currently do not have any volunteer shifts.



Client Comments

Ike



"I live in North Philadelphia and take 2 buses to get to here. I appreciate everything you do for me. It's beautiful"

Eric



"Face to Face is such a blessing. Everything is great"

Quan



"It's been rough. My kids are in a shelter with their father and I've been staying with friends. Thanks for the coat, food and all your help."

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Your Support Transforms Families

Mercy Neighborhood Ministry Preschool families have received supportive services from our family liaison throughout the school year. Monthly educational workshops and a free, weekly, produce market provided a venue for sharing resources and casual conversations. These interactions helped build trust, strengthened relationships and allow us to gain insight into the families' needs. One workshop was presented by the Children's Scholarship Fund: in a relaxed setting, a representative reviewed the Fund's scholarship application process and their goal of helping families access quality, safe schools. With our family liaison's encouragement and persistence, six children applied to and were awarded scholarships from this fund.

Zoen was one of the recipients. After moving from North Carolina to Philadelphia with his family,

Zoen was enrolled at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries Preschool at Face to Face in the Fall. Throughout the year, he thrived in the classroom with his cheerful personality and entertained the audience with his memorable performance as Santa Claus in the Christmas show. His teacher describes him as a mature, smart and responsible 5-year-old. While Zoen made progress in the classroom, our family liaison worked with his mom to explore options for his future education. After receiving information and encouragement from our family liaison, Zoen's mom explored Germantown Friends School. She filled out the application, attended a parent admission's interview and took Zoen on his playdate evaluation.

We are excited to share that at least seven children will be attending high performing schools in September 2020. Thanks to your support,



they will be entering kindergarten at DePaul Catholic School, Wissahickon Charter School, Global Leadership Academy, and Zoen will be attending Germantown Friends School.

With your help, Face to Face can commit to following the students and families throughout their school years and continue to deepen our partnerships with quality school representatives. Your support can help to empower families to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Wish List

Accepting donations on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

IMPORTANT! Email Becky Messa at Becky@FacetoFaceGermantown.org to schedule donation delivery.

MOST NEEDED

PEANUT BUTTER (24oz)
TUNA FISH
CANNED CHICKEN
RED TOMATO SAUCE
MACARONI AND CHEESE
HEARTY SOUPS
CHILI
BEANS
APPLESAUCE (JARS)
SHELF STABLE MILK
(IE. ALMOND, CANNED)

OTHER

JELLY
RICE
PASTA
VEGETABLES
CEREALS
GRANOLA BARS
FRUIT CUPS
DRIED FRUIT
PUDDING
TRAIL MIX/SNACKS

TOILETRIES

DEODORANT
HAND SANITIZER
SOAP
TISSUES (TRAVEL PACK)
TOOTHPASTE
TOOTHBRUSH
DIAPERS (SIZE 4&5)
HAND MADE MASKS

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