



To all our devoted employees, volunteers and donors,

These are certainly trying times. There is so much need and anxiety in our community due to the COVID-19 virus. But each and every day I am blown away by the kindness, fortitude and generosity of so many people that I am so blessed to come into contact with. Difficult times bring out the best in people! So many of you have called, emailed, volunteered and are constantly asking what you can do to help! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

It has been our goal to keep all of our programs open and active during this time of crisis. The clients we serve need us now more than ever and the demand for our services is increasing exponentially. It is also paramount that we safeguard the health and safety of our employees and volunteers who have been nothing short of heroic as conditions become more difficult with each passing day! Below are a few updates on our local Catholic Charities programs.

- New Covenant Center remains open daily serving “take-out” lunch and dinner 7 days per week! We are providing a record 250 meals each day (a 30+% increase in three weeks) for the poor, homeless and hungry. Not only have we met the increased demand at our food café but we have been the clear leader in addressing food insecurity issues in the greater Stamford community. We are providing an additional 100 to 200 meals each day to many local non-profits, including homeless shelters Pacific House and Inspirica, Building One Community, ARI Center for Special Needs, and Malta House among others. Generous volunteers help assemble take-out meals and continue to provide pre-made sandwiches for our neighbors in need. The New Covenant food pantry is open three days per week providing 10 days of groceries to low income families many of whom have recently lost their jobs. It’s devastating to see so many people in need of basic food resources!
- Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport is open 6 days per week serving breakfast and lunch in a take-out format as well as providing groceries via our food pantry. Demand for our daily meals has increased significantly during the crisis and our employees are working hard to meet the need from our traditional clients as well as providing excess food to the Bridgeport YMCA shelters and other local churches. I fear this need will only continue to grow!
- Morning Glory Breakfast program is providing food to homeless families and individuals who were recently moved to local Danbury motels when the Dorothy Day and City of Danbury shelters were temporarily forced to close. Imagine being homeless and dealing with this crisis!

- Demand for our Meals on Wheels service providing food to homebound elderly in lower Fairfield County has skyrocketed in the past month. We are so proud of our Meals on Wheels drivers who have more than doubled the number of meals they deliver each day to provide nutritious meals to our elderly neighbors who are in the most “at risk” categories for this deadly virus. Our drivers are the only human beings most of our elderly clients see each day. Please contact us if you know any elderly residents in need of daily meals!
- Our Immigration Services team continues to meet with clients telephonically or via ZOOM to provide DOJ accredited legal assistance on obtaining green cards, DACA renewals, citizenship applications and ESL referrals. Many immigrants have been hit particularly hard by this crisis.
- Our Behavioral Health Counseling practice is open performing client sessions via phone and telehealth. Unfortunately demand for our services continues to grow as depression and anxiety levels increase. We are available to help!
- Our Homeless Outreach Team, Community Support and Housing Case management teams, New Heights Life skills team, and Adoption Services practice are currently working remotely and providing help and creating hope for many of our most vulnerable neighbors.
- Room to Grow Pre-School is temporarily closed due to state mandated school closures but our teachers remain in contact with families and are providing online learning activities for our students.

Our mission is to help those in need regardless of religion, race, or ability to pay. We have been providing services in Fairfield County for 103 years. Please follow the link below if you would like to partner with us in the work we are doing.

<https://www.ccfairfield.org/updates-on-our-response-to-covid-19/>

Please know how very GRATEFUL I am for your help and support. You are the angels among us who help us treat every human being, especially those who are most vulnerable, with the love and respect they deserve.

Follow us on social media for updates on our daily activities.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families during this difficult time.

Be safe and be well!



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