



Crisis Response Vision

Reorganization of Neighborhood House Resources to Meet Emergent Community Needs

In response to the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 health crisis and in accordance with our community's stay at home order, Neighborhood House has reorganized our staff and operations and mobilized its services to bring remote support directly to our community members. Our crisis response vision is to provide:

- **Food security for all neighbors experiencing financial challenges.** We expect record levels of unemployment and unprecedented levels of food insecurity. We have mobilized our food pantry with the goal of delivering "no contact" food boxes to those in need while supporting social distancing protocols. Our ordering system enables us to accommodate special diets.
- **Connection for all seniors isolated from needed support services.** Seniors are our most medically vulnerable population during the crisis. Research shows that isolation negatively impacts senior health. With the closure of all senior centers and the implementation of social distancing protocols, seniors are cut off from the community like never before. We are leveraging our mobile pantry and transportation network to connect with seniors to provide needed food, to conduct wellness checks, to transport seniors to medical appointments, and to create fellowship and combat isolation.
- **Uninterrupted equitable access to education for our preschoolers.** Our Head Start program prepares children for success in our public school system. Without this vital support, children experiencing poverty do not have equitable access to education. With classrooms closed, we are connecting with parents to share ideas on how to engage children in learning at home, providing activities, and reading books remotely. By doing this, we are supporting positive parenting and helping reduce stress. We are making healthy lunches each day for kids in the programs and their siblings, kids living in affordable housing complexes, and kids 0-18 in the neighborhood. We are also providing boxes with diapers, hygiene products, games, and art supplies.
- **Parenting support for families coping with stress and trauma.** We know that child abuse is more prevalent during times of family and community crisis. We are providing ongoing support to vulnerable families and referrals to parents across our service areas, including our affordable housing program, early childhood education program, and our parenting program.
- **Social/emotional support for our school aged children.** Studies show that children who are without a supportive social network have higher rates of depression and other mental health illnesses. Our school aged teachers are continuing our social emotional learning curriculum remotely, helping our children understand and manage emotions, set



and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions even while isolated because of school closures. Our lessons and activities include video story reading, yoga lessons, and arts and crafts.

We believe our vision will contribute directly to the health and well being of our community during this crisis. To pursue this ambitious vision, we are relying on the talent and passion of our entire workforce. We are standing behind our workers and are making the commitment to NOT lay off any of our 100+ staff members. We are repositioning those whose programs have lost funding as a result of the crisis and creating work teams to support our vision. We are reaching out to government funding avenues, private foundations, and individual donors for support. **We believe that supporting this vision is a good investment, and we need your help to achieve it.** Here is what you can do today:

- **Volunteer:**
 - Join our mobile pantry team. Process orders. Deliver food boxes (no contact protocol). Organize a food/hygiene products drive among your neighbors. Provide translation services.
 - Join our senior support team. Call, drive or run errands for seniors.
 - Join our outreach team. Outreach to businesses and community partners to forge partnerships.
- **Donate:**
 - Your cash donations will enable us to build capacity to mobilize our outreach, avoid layoffs and pivot our staff towards pursuing our vision
 - Food and hygiene supplies will help fill food boxes.

Since the advent of this crisis, we have been inspired by community members stepping forward to help, and we are confident in the power of our community to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Please share as generously as you can of your time and financial resources. And if you need help, please let us know. We are here for you.