MARCH Food Drive

Help fight hunger in St. Paul

February 22, 2021

John Smith
1234 Smith Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear John,

Did you know that food insecurity in Minnesota increased after the 2008 economic downturn and never returned to pre-2008 levels, even more than a decade later? Now with the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has spiked again, pushing more families into crisis.

The pandemic and its far-reaching effects like job losses and underemployment have made it more challenging for families to pay for basic needs like rent and food. And for families already experiencing food insecurity, it's become even more difficult. As the pandemic continues, the inability to cover these costs only grows.

Jerry lost his cooking job back in March due to the pandemic. As a senior, he qualifies for social security. But after paying his rent he only has $100 left from his monthly payment and he's having trouble making ends meet.

The food market at Neighborhood House has made it possible for him to get the food he needs and even have some left over to share with his neighbors. Since the spring he's been putting out a box of food in the common area of his apartment building for others. "Now there are different neighbors who are setting out food," Jerry says. **"These times are when people got to pull together."**

With a nearly 25% increase in the number of people needing help accessing food, it's crucial that our food markets continue to be a source of healthy foods for families in the midst of this health crisis—**and you can help.**

Will you make a gift today so that families can get the foods they need to stay healthy this year? A donation of $36 covers the cost of groceries for a family of four for one week.

The only way we can move forward as a community is *as a community*. Neighbor helping neighbor—just like Jerry. Your support and partnership in our efforts is how St. Paul will begin to recover from the impacts of this pandemic and make a more equitable community for all.

Your gift will provide healthy, fresh, and culturally-appropriate foods to our diverse group of more than 16,000 participants who come from more than 40 countries. You will help people maintain their dignity and culture during a time that has challenged their finances, their hearts, and their dreams.

The need is now and the need will *continue* as our economy and community rebuild and heal in the months and years to come.

It's important that you give today. As part of a statewide campaign, **the more money we raise from now until April 11, the more money Minnesota FoodShare will donate to our food markets** at the end of March Food Drive. And the more money we can raise, the more people that can be helped.

If you are able, please help today. You can make a difference for St. Paul families facing food insecurity.

Thank you for your support,

Nancy Q. Brady
President

Neighborhood House™

179 Robie Street East | St. Paul, MN 55107 | 651.789.2500 | www.neighb.org

The impacts of the pandemic have made it more challenging for people to pay for basic needs. When families struggle to pay for rent, mortgage, and utilities, they also struggle to pay for food.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, in Ramsey County...

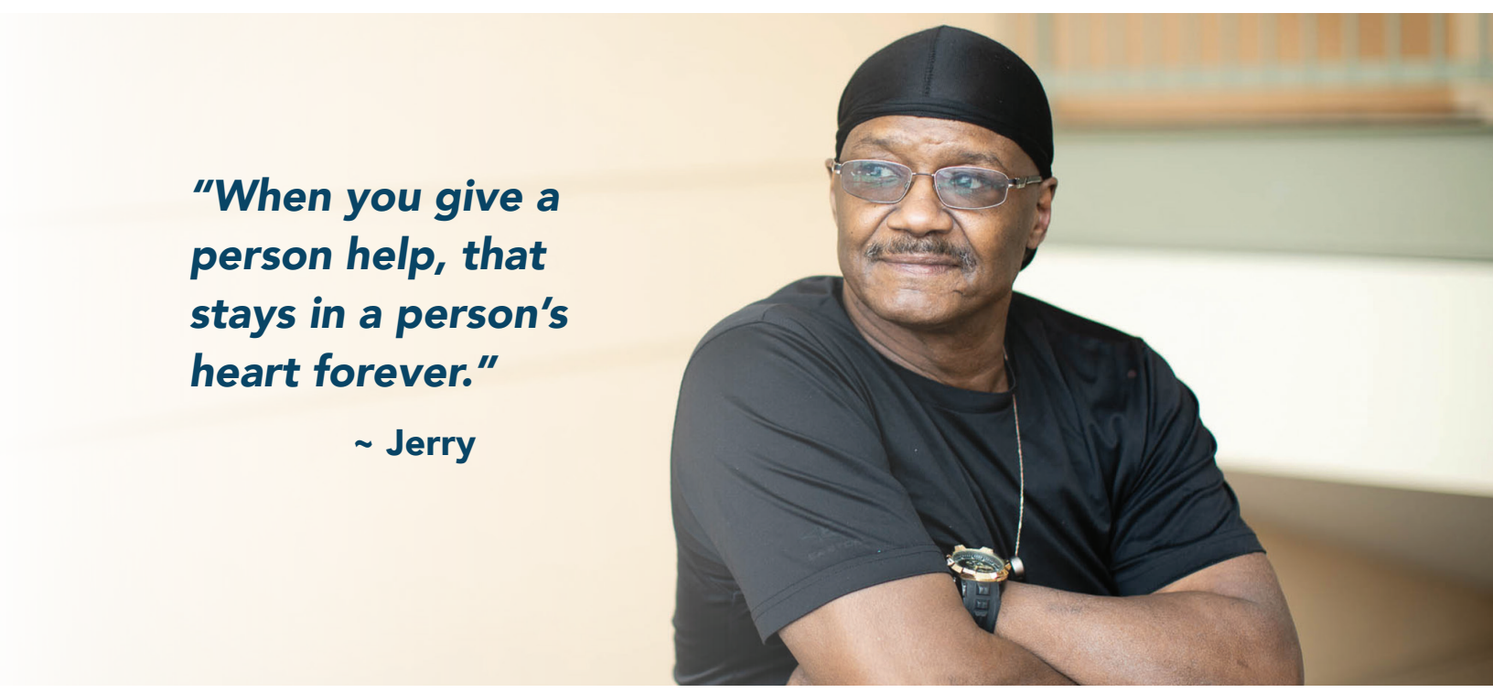
Homelessness has increased 10 times

Nearly 40% of the labor force has applied for unemployment benefits

Our Housing Stability program has seen triple the number of requests for help paying rent and utilities

Our food markets have seen a 25% increase in new participants

You can provide fresh and culturally-appropriate foods, as well as household items like hygiene and baby products, so that families can stay nourished, healthy, and have peace of mind as they work toward financial recovery.



"When you give a person help, that stays in a person's heart forever."

~ Jerry

Make a gift to help families today and in the months to come.

$36 provides groceries for a family of four for one week

$72 provides groceries for a family of four for two weeks

$150 provides groceries for a family of four for one month

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