

Media Advisory

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Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County Launches Collaborative New Program to Serve Seniors During COVID-19 Crisis.

WHO: Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County has teamed up with United Way and Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, Tarrant County, Tarrant Area Food Bank, and Catholic Charities Fort Worth.

WHAT: This collaborative effort led by some of Tarrant County's leading charitable organizations was established to provide food to Tarrant County senior citizens during the COVID-19 crisis. These great organizations have teamed up to address food insecurity among this vulnerable population during this difficult time.

Individuals age 60+ and a spouse who do not have enough food to eat during the COVID-19 outbreak or who are experiencing a reduced level of nutritional support from families and friends may receive supplemental food through this exciting new program.

Program participants will receive a weekly home delivery of five frozen meals (per person) from Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County and a 10-lb. box of senior-friendly canned goods and fresh produce from Tarrant Area Food Bank. All items will be delivered by Catholic Charities Fort Worth.

WHEN: Program launches Tuesday, April 14, 2020

WHERE: Meals On Wheels — 5740 Airport FWY, Haltom City, TX 76117
Tarrant Area Food Bank — 2600 Cullen St., Fort Worth, TX 76107

VISUALS:

- Pick up of boxed canned goods and fresh produce at Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Subsequent pick up of frozen meals at Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County
- Home delivery to Tarrant County seniors
- Meal preparation at Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County

IMPORTANT: Contact Jordan Lyle with Meals On Wheels for food pick-up and delivery schedules, to arrange b-roll or live coverage of meal preparation in Meals On Wheels kitchen, or to schedule interviews with Meals On Wheels, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Catholic Charities Fort Worth, and United Way and Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County representatives. Jordan Lyle will coordinate interviews with all agencies.

CTA: Client referrals should be made to Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County online at mealsonwheels.org (click on "Refer A Client" at the top of the homepage) or by calling **817-336-0912**.



CEO QUOTES:

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County

“This collaboration exemplifies the tremendous level of service and compassion that exists within our community. These organizations have a long history of providing critical support to Tarrant County citizens. I am delighted that we can leverage the strengths of these individual organizations into a collaborative effort that will provide lifesaving meals to seniors in need during this crisis. This is just another reason that we say Tarrant County is such a caring place to grow old.”

Carla Jutson
President & CEO

United Way of Tarrant County

“So many of our elderly friends and neighbors are in need as a result of COVID-19, and the need continues to grow very rapidly as the stay-at-home mandate remains,” said Leah King, President and CEO of United Way of Tarrant County. “We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with Meals On Wheels and the other organizations involved, and applaud their efforts to ensure our elderly population receives nutritional meals during this time.”

Leah King
President & CEO

Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County

“We are proud to be part of this unprecedented partnership that will allow us to significantly expand meal production and delivery of food,” said Don Smith, director of the Area Agency on Aging. “This will ensure that all older adults in Tarrant County who do not have a reliable source of nutrition get enough meals or groceries to sustain them through the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Don Smith
Director, Area Agency on Aging

Tarrant Area Food Bank

“We are proud to work together in an unprecedented collaboration between three Tarrant County community cornerstones to serve shut-in seniors in need.”

Julie Butner
President & CEO

Catholic Charities Fort Worth

“When Tarrant Area Food Bank called and said they had an idea, we jumped on board. We have the second largest transportation fleet next to ‘The T,’ and yet most of our rides are nearly empty due to the stay-at-home requirements. This is a perfect opportunity for us to work with these incredible powerhouse nonprofits to pivot and employ our vehicles to take the food where it is most needed.”

Michael P. Grace

Tarrant County

For a couple of weeks now we have been coming together on a call with several of our area organizations and planning in this time of emergency. This is a perfect example of how different agencies on this call have gotten together and developed solutions for not only our current needs, but also anticipating needs that will arise in the coming weeks.

Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley



ABOUT:

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County

Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization that has provided home-delivered meals, professional case management, and other needed items or services to homebound, elderly and disabled residents throughout Tarrant County since it was established in 1973. Its mission is to promote the dignity and independence of older adults, persons with disabilities, and other homebound persons by delivering nutritious meals and providing or coordinating needed services. Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County delivers approximately 1 million meals per year. On average, it serves 2,500 clients per day and delivers approximately 5,000 meals each weekday. Visit mealsonwheels.org.

United Way of Tarrant County

United Way of Tarrant County has worked to improve the lives of those in our communities since 1922. As a nonprofit leader, we bring together individuals, groups, donors and service providers to help solve some of the toughest social issues affecting Tarrant County. Each year, United Way of Tarrant County helps more than 300,000 people through its resources. United Way of Tarrant County has no fees on donor designations, with 100 percent of the donation going to the selected agency or cause.

Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County

United Way of Tarrant County's Area Agency on Aging has a long history of helping older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers in Tarrant County. As part of a network of 629 Area Agencies nationwide and one of 28 in the state of Texas, we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our Tarrant County community and empowering people to thrive independently by creating and implementing innovative, exemplary services; advocating for individuals and families and connecting them to resources that focus on healthy living; and establishing and maintaining support and partnerships for our communities.

Tarrant Area Food Bank

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK (TAFB) empowers communities to eliminate hunger by providing food, education and resources through innovation and collaboration across 13 counties, including Tarrant County. Through a network of 330 partners, TAFB is able to provide access to 600,000 nutritious meals each week to children and adults facing hunger. This work resulted in access to 30 million nutritious meals in fiscal year 2019. Learn more at tafb.org.

Catholic Charities Fort Worth

Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) is a 110 year old learning-focused nonprofit with a belief that ending poverty is possible. Our signature holistic case management, transportation, immigration services, refugee services, and income-generating social enterprises help tens of thousands in our 28 county diocese each year. We strategically challenge the way poverty is addressed nationwide by scrupulously testing our own case management methods through research partnerships, exporting our known-solutions to other non-profits, and serving as a resource for what works. Learn more at catholiccharitiesfortworth.org