

Thank You For Standing with Our Community

For 40 years, Martha's Table has worked to address inequities in our nation's capital. The traumatic events of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic collapse, and the murder of Black citizens at the hands of those sworn to protect them only reinforce the continued importance of our work. Especially in these challenging times, we are rooted in our mission to support strong children, strong families, and strong communities.

We are humbled to work alongside you as we stand behind the children, families, and neighbors who make our community so strong. We will continue to step up when our community needs us most, keeping our doors open and using all the tools available to us to bring equitable access to the educational, health & wellness, and family resources needed to live and thrive in our nation's capital.



Our Mission:

Martha's Table supports strong children, strong families, and strong communities in Washington, D.C., by increasing access to quality education, healthy food, and family resources.

Our Vision:

We envision a city in which all Washingtonians—regardless of the zip code they live in—have the opportunity to thrive.

Take Action: Our budget was not prepared for the spike in demand for our programs or the uncertain times ahead. We need your help to ensure no neighbor goes without access to critical healthy food or resources. Set up a recurring donation today to help keep our neighbors strong year-round. Visit www.marthastable.org/give.

In This Together... with Strong Neighbors

People are hurting. Our community is hurting. But our souls have been recharged by the outpour of positive energy from our neighbors.

These stories of resilience in the face of such overwhelming challenge need to be shared.

Meet Wanda. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the childcare center she worked at closed. Like too many in our city right now, she unexpectedly found herself without an income. With so much uncertainty ahead, neighbors like Wanda should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from.

Thankfully, our community is strong and awareness of our programs spread quickly. Wanda heard about Martha's Table from a friend and quickly made plans to stop by.

"It's a blessing to be here to get this food," she shared after picking up her pre-packed bag of healthy groceries. **"And people here are so very nice!"**

Over and over, neighbors share their gratitude and express a sigh of relief at our welcoming program offering easy access to fresh, healthy food.

So, we want to pass on the message of gratitude from the thousands of neighbors who have turned to Martha's Table: *from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.*

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With your support, we went from distributing groceries to 8,000 residents each month, to over 8,000 residents each week. Thank you for helping keep D.C. strong.



In This Together...with a Commitment to Our Mission

On March 13, we announced our commitment to doubling down on our mission to meet the sharp spike in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. With your help, we more than delivered on this commitment—expanding our food programs by over 400%.

4,592

volunteer hours fueled our impact

103,463

bags of healthy food served to students, families, and seniors

137

families enrolled in our education programs supported with direct cash assistance

16-week

supply of diapers, wipes, and formula distributed to families

1,732,000

pounds of healthy food distributed

March 16, 2020 – June 15, 2020

Take Action: Are you looking for ways to stay connected to our community while maintaining physical distancing? Volunteer with us to ensure we can support every neighbor who comes to Martha's Table.

Visit www.marthastable.org/volunteer to learn more about how we are keeping volunteers safe and how you can help.

In This Together...with Helping Hands

You Are Making the Impossible Possible

No person should go without access to healthy food, especially during a pandemic. When Martha's Table saw a 400% increase in need for healthy food in March, we faced a massive challenge: how do we expand our already-robust operations to five times their size—all with a fraction of the hands-on support to ensure everyone involved stays healthy and properly distanced?

This nearly overnight scaling of our programs was made possible through generous donations—funding hundreds of thousands of pounds of food purchases each week—selfless hours contributed by volunteers, and endless words of encouragement that have kept the spirits of our team and neighbors high.

YOU made it possible for neighbors to have a place to turn to for help—no questions asked. Below is a peek into the daily schedule of the imperative work you are fueling.



Wow—4,592 volunteer work hours contributed in just three months! Special shout out to Team Rubicon, an organization that deploys military veterans as volunteers when a crisis hits.

Hi! I'm Johanna with Team MT. On Tuesdays and Fridays, I serve as the Day Captain for our COVID-19 operations. Read how our small-but-mighty team distributes up to 2,000 bags of groceries to neighbors each day.



Day in the Life of Johanna

8:00 AM – First Volunteers Arrive:

I give volunteers an orientation, then we roll up our sleeves and get to work—with our gloves and face masks on!

8:30 AM – Did Someone Order 20,000 Pounds of Food?

We work together to unload and organize thousands of pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables, and shelf-stable items. Our volunteers work to unload the packages and organize them into physically distanced stations in our headquarters.

9:30 AM – Morning Delivery to

The Maycroft in NW: My teammate delivers a van full of 500 bags of groceries to restock our Northwest D.C. location.

10:00 AM – Pack, Pack, Pack: From 10 am through 4 pm, our small but mighty group of volunteers sets up an assembly line to create up to 2,000 bags of groceries for our distribution sites.



In This Together... with Strong Families

Your support provides critical resources to the 137 families with children enrolled in our education programs.

Jalisa, who is the mother of three-year-old, Elyjah, moved to our Southeast D.C. community in 2018. She was excited when our headquarters, The Commons, opened, and she promptly enrolled Elyjah in our education program. Over the past two years, she has become increasingly involved with our work. "Because of Martha's Table, I'm actually in the home buyers' program. I found the program during a Community Dinner event at The Commons," she shared.

Sadly, like many, Jalisa was laid off from the dental practice where she works when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March. Now, Jalisa is grappling with the uncertainty of when she will be back to work. **"I've been down, and what you are doing has lifted my spirits. I feel that someone cares,"** Jalisa said with relief.

Because of you, our families are kept strong during this crisis with direct cash assistance, grocery gift cards, supplies of diapers, wipes and formula, and lesson plans to guide at-home learning.

"To receive a stipend from your child's school...it's like, wow! With the groceries and the delicious meals...it's huge. Martha's Table cares about us," Jalisa says. **"I'm a parent who tries to be prepared. With the stipend Martha's Table is providing for families, I can take this financial support and have peace of mind. I can pay a bill or save some of the money for my children down the road."**



99%

of families said the cash assistance from Martha's Table was "very helpful/helpful"

94%

of families have used the cash towards housing or utilities costs

11:00 AM – Markets Open at The Commons and The Maycroft – Our grab-and-go markets are open from 11 am until 4 pm in Northwest and Southeast D.C. for any neighbor in need of healthy food. Guests are welcomed by volunteers and invited to take a bag of groceries at no-cost...with no questions asked.

12:00 PM – Markets Open at School Meal Sites – In place of our usual Joyful Food Markets held each month at 53 elementary schools, we are providing no-cost grocery bags daily at school meal sites to support students and their families.

12:30 PM – Markets Open at Community Sites – In response to the pandemic, Martha's Table opened 12 new distribution locations in our community, with a particular focus on supporting seniors and residents with limited transportation access.



1:00 PM – Second Shift Volunteers Arrive – Afternoon volunteers relieve our morning crew and get to work packing groceries.

2:30 PM – Afternoon Delivery to The Maycroft in NW – A second delivery of groceries is sent to replenish our market in Northwest D.C., where we have an average of 750 visitors each day.

3:00 PM – Pack Meals for McKenna's Wagon – Our longest running program, McKenna's Wagon, serves a nightly meal downtown to neighbors experiencing hunger or housing insecurity. With delicious, warm, pre-packed meals, our patrons are grateful for the continued support during COVID-19.

4:00 PM – That's a Wrap – Our volunteers help clean up the grocery bagging stations, I tally the number of neighbors we served that day, and we set up for another busy day of service ahead!



...with Strong Neighbors (Continued)

The strength of our neighbors has also been a source of inspiration to keep delivering on our mission with our McKenna's Wagon program. Robbie, a member of our volunteer engagement team, has been serving meals with McKenna's Wagon for over three years—even prior to joining Martha's Table full time. **But things have been different since COVID-19.**

It is now common for neighbors passing by our McKenna's Wagon van to offer a donation—rolling down their window at a stoplight or bringing their bike to a halt to donate some of the cash they have on them.

But one recent donor really stood out.

Robbie recognized the person as someone who had come regularly to receive a meal from McKenna's Wagon with his friends. This time, he was alone and didn't go in line for a meal. After all the guests received their food, the man approached and asked, "Do you take cash?" Robbie explained that it was no-cost and welcomed him to take a meal.

"No, I want to give you something," the man said. Then, he shared that his friend had sadly passed away recently and left him with his remaining possessions, including \$60 cash.

He choked up and explained, **"He was the one who brought me here in the first place—I've been able to eat because of him and because of you."** He then turned his pockets inside out and found \$23.

He handed Robbie his only twenty-dollar bill and insisted on making the donation in memory of his friend.

We have a deep appreciation for this neighbor. These have been trying times, but we are so proud to be part of this resilient and generous community. Thank you for standing with our neighbors to keep D.C. strong.



Along with up to 250 warm meals, we distribute 1,000 sandwiches each night on McKenna's Wagon. Visit our website to learn more about how to donate sandwiches.

Take Action: We have loved all the creative ways supporters have found to raise funds and awareness of Martha's Table with their family and friends—from virtual magic shows to birthday fundraisers. Interested in creating your own personal fundraising page? Visit www.marthastable.org/give and click "Create Personal Fundraising Page."

In This Together... All Year Round

We are so grateful for the donors who have stepped up to support our community when it is needed most. But we know our work does not stop when we get through this pandemic. Month-in and month-out, Martha's Table is committed to providing high-quality education, healthy food, and family resources in Washington, D.C.

Especially in these uncertain times, Martha's Table is kept strong by the 189 supporters who have committed to sustaining, monthly donations. Their actions demonstrate their commitment to the children and families in our community. We invite you to join our growing number of sustaining donors today by setting up a recurring donation online by visiting www.marthastable.org/give.



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