



Taking Bold Action...Since Day One

When the crisis hit D.C., many organizations had to close their doors or reduce operations *just when our community needed help most.*

Because neighbors like you took bold action, Martha's Table was able to step up. We quickly innovated to safely get critical resources into the hands of our neighbors.

We increased our grocery distribution by 400% and introduced weekly pop-up food markets in highly populated areas in the community. **“Our connections in the community increased 10-fold,”** Charlie, a member of our Community Development team, reflected. **“We had neighbors who didn't know how they would provide a meal for their families.”**

When Charlie recently helped out at a pop-up market, he saw a few friends he knew from growing up. They got to talking, and one friend shared, **“Martha's Table has really stepped up. You have really been feeding us. Every time I go to my grandmother's house, she says ‘I have been able to eat healthy meals because of Martha's Table.’ She visits your pop-ups every week.”** We are grateful to YOU for taking bold action for our neighbors.



The need for healthy food in our community is a staggering 5x the usual rate. With your help, we will continue to provide fruits, vegetables, and shelf-stable items to up to 10,000 families each week.

Take Bold Action: The 400% increase in need for our programs has not subsided. Will you increase your support today to help our neighbors this holiday season? Visit marthastable.org/give.

Taking Bold Action... Keeping the Wagon Rolling

Even during a pandemic, McKenna's Wagon has not missed a single night. Every day at 4:30pm, volunteers load a Martha's Table van with 200+ meals and head downtown to support neighbors experiencing hunger or housing insecurity.

But did you know that we provide more than just a warm meal?

Many McKenna's Wagon patrons do not know where their next meal will come from. As we were innovating to meet the 400% increase in need for our grocery program, we faced another challenge: how will we ensure our McKenna's Wagon guests, some of the most vulnerable to the dangers of the COVID-19 crisis, receive the nutritional support they need?

That's when our wonderful community took bold action—organizing virtual sandwich-making parties, weekend church and temple food collections, and donation drives from neighbors, friends, and coworkers.

Because of the outpouring of support since March, every neighbor visiting McKenna's Wagon receives not just a warm meal, but sandwiches, a pack full of nutritious snacks, and a large water bottle and tea.

One local family took bold action by rallying their friends and neighbors to amplify their sandwich-making goals. You'll never guess how many sandwiches they have donated!



In rain, shine, snow, or pandemic, our bright blue van arrives with our volunteers ready to serve warm meals made fresh in our kitchen.


240,000+
sandwiches distributed since
the start of COVID-19





Sandwich making is a great activity for all ages! One of Amber and Sterling's young children gives a 'thumbs up' as they drop off a cart FULL of sandwich donations.

...Keeping the Wagon Rolling (*Continued*)

Amber and Sterling were searching for a way to give back when they learned about our urgent need for sandwiches for McKenna's Wagon. After enjoying making a batch of sandwiches with their kids, they wondered about the potential power of getting their friends and neighbors involved. So, they got the word out.

Word spread quickly, and pretty soon, their group blew past their original goal of 250 sandwiches each week to Martha's Table. Amber and Sterling now give 1,400 sandwiches every week!

"Of the people dropping off sandwiches now, we don't know a lot of them," Amber shared. **"People are just so excited to find ways to help, especially with their families!"**

In fact, so many neighbors are contributing that they purchased four mini-fridges to keep sandwiches cold until their scheduled drop-off at Martha's Table. Their new goal is to donate 20,000 total by the end of the year—and they are almost there...As of November 1, they had provided 17,500 sandwiches!

"The coolest part of it is how this community has been so generous," Amber reflected. Their story reminds us of the POWER of coming together as a community to take bold action. A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has supported our neighbors visiting McKenna's Wagon!

Take Bold Action: As the weather becomes more frigid, the food McKenna's Wagon provides is vital. Take bold action today and arrange a **virtual sandwich-making party to spread hope to our neighbors this holiday season!** Visit marthastable.org/sandwiches to select an available date and time that works for you.

McKenna's Wagon Sandwich Donation Guide

1

Schedule Your Donation:

Check our food donation calendar, select an available date and time that works for you, and sign up. This ensures we have a steady flow of sandwiches and eliminates waste! Invite a friend to join you virtually.

2

Buy Supplies:

To make 100 sandwiches, purchase 10 loaves of bread, 60 ounces (~4 pounds) each of creamy peanut butter *and* jelly. We encourage using whole wheat bread to keep things healthy.

3

Spread the Love:

Pro tip—mix the PB&J in one bowl for quicker spreading! Please **individually wrap** each sandwich in foil or sandwich bags and **label** them 'PB&J'. **Pack** all of your individually wrapped sandwiches in an easy-to-carry box and label the box 'PB&J' with the date they were made.

4

Drop Off at Martha's Table:

Deliver sandwiches to either our Northwest or Southeast location at your scheduled time! Don't forget to wear your mask and keep your distance while on-site.

5

Neighbors Enjoy Your Sandwiches:

Your efforts ensure a neighbor has enough nutritious snacks to keep them fed after visiting McKenna's Wagon. Thank you!

Visit marthastable.org/sandwiches to learn more.



Taking Bold Action... Celebrating Our Community

During a period of great challenge, moments of joy refuel our souls. This Thanksgiving was tough for so many families. **“Families may not have been able to do their typical dinners—we have families who have lost their jobs or are furloughed, families whose SNAP benefits are not going through,”** Charlie, a Martha’s Table team member, shared.

Our neighbors in Southeast D.C. have been especially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis due to deeply rooted inequities. Martha’s Table wanted to celebrate the strength of our tremendous community this holiday season. On November 21st, we held on to the tradition of our Community Harvest Dinner...though things were a bit different this year.

This year, we traded our community dining tables for 2,500 delicious pre-packed Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors to enjoy in their homes. We had contactless meal pick-up stations outside at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which usually hosts the event. We also distributed meals at pop-up sites throughout the community. While we were not able to share the meals at the same table, every neighbor involved came away with much more than a full stomach.

(continued on page 4)

A Look Back on Tradition



Our Community Harvest Dinner tradition is usually a time to share a meal while striking up a conversation with a new neighbor, enjoying performances by local talent, then working off the sweet potato pie with line dancing led by the local troupe the “Panorama Jammers.”

Take Bold Action: We are in extra need of volunteers for our expanded food access programs. Each hour volunteering, our stellar volunteers help provide 2,500 healthy meals to families who need our support. Now that’s an impactful use of time! Sign up today at marthastable.org/volunteer.

Taking Bold Action... Helping Children Thrive

Our teachers are taking bold action by connecting deeply with families in our education program and keeping children engaged and learning.

This fall, we launched our Discovery Play Dates as a way to gather children safely for immersive experiences. Children continue exploring lessons from Discovery Play Dates with at-home learning supported by their teachers.

At a recent Discovery Play Date, one mother stopped at the door and paused. **“He’s not going to want to leave, so I’m giving him a few extra minutes,”** she shared with a teacher.

When she went inside and called for him to pack up, he looked surprised and asked, **“Where are we going?”** She explained they had to go home. Still smiling from his time with classmates and teachers, he asked excitedly, **“But we’re coming back, right?”**

Your support helps children and families thrive. We are honored to be taking bold action to support our families in this unprecedented time to help their children continue to grow and learn.



The childrens’ smiles shined through their masks! With weekly themes, children learned everything autumn: seasonal changes, trees and leaves, apples, and pumpkins.



...Celebrating Our Community (Continued)

We were struck by the reminder of the sheer strength and beauty of our D.C. community at a time when it was most needed.

Hearing the laughter of volunteers as they packed to-go meals, the warm exchanges between neighbors as they picked up their meals, and the joy of holding on to community tradition to help weather this storm.

As we reflect on what we are grateful for, YOU are at the top of our list. When you take bold action to support our neighbors, our community grows stronger.

This holiday season, we are committed to celebrating the beauty of our community. The will of our neighbors to keep helping each other, the strength we have seen in the face of insurmountable challenges...that is what will fuel us through this crisis and beyond. Together, we will fight the challenges of the moment and advance a D.C. in which all Washingtonians can not just get by, but thrive.



We look forward to gathering again for community meals in future years. Until then, we will be practicing our line dancing at home!

Take Bold Action: Martha's Table is working hard for our neighbors month-in and month-out. Our sustaining donors are near and dear to our hearts for their strong commitment to our work. Similar to your monthly subscriptions to streaming services, you can set up a monthly donation to Martha's Table...an easy way to give back! Will you join the 266 (and growing) Martha's Table sustaining donors by setting up a recurring donation online today? Visit marthastable.org/give.

COVID-19 Response By the Numbers

With your partnership, we make a tremendous impact in our community. Your generosity will help us continue to keep D.C. strong this holiday season and through this crisis. Thank you!

March - December 2020

Over 3,000,000 healthy meals provided through our no-cost grocery markets	\$9,000 provided to every family in our education program to prevent financial crisis	400 families supported with direct cash assistance and critical resources through our new THRIVE East of the River partnership	162,000 diapers distributed to families, helping relieve financial pressures
240,000+ sandwiches donated and distributed on McKenna's Wagon	36,120 warm meals served to neighbors experiencing hunger or housing insecurity	21,600 hours of service contributed by our amazing volunteers	100+ children and families supported in their educational journey



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