

United Way #8445 CFC #29262

Fall 2021 Newsletter

We Envision... JOYFUL Food for All!

"Martha's Table has been one of our most important partners for Stokes School during the pandemic," Mr. Ewing-Boyd shared with joy.

Mr. Ewing-Boyd is Stokes School's East End Campus Director and the fuel behind Martha's Table's Joyful Food Market at the Northeast D.C. charter school.

Sadly, when schools are closed—in summer months and during the pandemic—many families are at high risk of food insecurity.

"We want to make sure that the folks who need to eat can eat," Mr. Ewing-Boyd stressed.

That's when you stepped up. With your help, we have continued to get healthy food into the community—even throughout the 2020 virtual school year *and* the critical summer months.

"Our team sat down and said, 'schools are going to close...what are we going to do?" shared Erica, a member of the hard-working Martha's Table Healthy Markets team.

"The transition was great!" Mr. Ewing-Boyd shared. "I have not been in a classroom for a long time. These markets were really the only time I was able to see the students. They were coming with their parents, and I was able to say hello and wave to the kids!"

But the impact of these markets is rooted even deeper in the community.

Continued on Page 3



January-August 2021
1,299,381
pounds of healthy food
distributed
1,082,818
healthy meals provided

"If you're feeding the community, you're feeding children. Kids eat at grandma's, and auntie's, at next-doorneighbor's."

—Erica, MT Team Member

Take Action: You have been a source of strength for our community. At Martha's Table, we continue to support families with **over 5,000 bags of groceries every single week**. **Make a gift today** to help keep fresh fruits and healthy vegetables on kitchen tables across Washington, D.C.! **Visit www.marthastable.org/donate**



"Ahmir brings projects home from Martha's Table and says 'look what I did today!'

—Shaquell, MT Parent

We Envision... BRIGHT Futures for Our Children!

In 2018, Shaquell made a trip to Martha's Table that **changed everything for her and her son.**

Walking by our no-cost clothing store, a flyer in our window caught her eye. It had information about our early education program. "We were one of the first families enrolled in the education program at the new Martha's Table headquarters," Shaquell shared.

From the minute she walked through our doors in Southeast D.C. three years ago, she knew Martha's Table was the best place for her son, Ahmir, to learn and grow.

Just being there in the building, seeing the art on the walls—seeing black children represented in that art," she exclaimed. "I loved knowing he was in a space where he'd see art like that!"

"The teachers have been so accommodating. They understand Ahmir's personality and his needs, and are always patient," Shaquell reflected. "He has grown so much being at Martha's Table—socially and educationally."

In addition to learning with his teacher Ms. Michelle, Ahmir connected with a speech therapist. Our teachers also worked with Shaquell on ways to incorporate Ahmir's speech therapy into his daily routines at home.



We Envision... a STRONG Community!

We are committed to ensuring all Washingtonians can thrive. But we must do more. Last year, Martha's Table listened to and learned from more than 1,000 neighbors to shape our vision for deepened impact. Now, with your help, we are getting to work.

What will your support help accomplish?

- Doubling Access to Fresh Groceries and Clothing
- Expanding Educational Supports for Children at Martha's Table
- Supporting Our Neighbors with Critical Mental Wellness and Family Resources

...and so much more!



...JOYFUL Food for All! (Continued)

Each of our markets uses a model that is designed specifically for the community it supports. At Stokes School's drive-through market, we keep things joyful—families are greeted by fun music and friendly faces. When they leave, their cars are filled with enough fresh groceries to keep their tables full of healthy meals all week long.

"We've been able to distribute well over a ton of produce," Mr. Ewing-Boyd celebrated, "And not just to our own students, we're also able to support the needs of our neighbors," <u>particularly the seasoned citizens who live nearby</u>.

Mr. Ewing-Boyd connected with neighborhood leaders for help getting the food from our markets to the surrounding community. "We have been able to increase the reach by everyone saying 'Hey, I'll take ten grocery bags' and going to the seniors' homes around the block...we go to where folks are. It has been incredibly important for us."

One thing is certain: we couldn't do this work without YOU or our passionate school partners. Thank you for helping Washingtonians experience the JOY of healthy eating this summer and all year round.



"There are a lot of older folks in the area...We have been able to increase our reach by everyone saying 'Hey, I'll take ten grocery bags' and going to the seniors' homes around the block."

—Mr. Ewing-Boyd, MT Partner

Take Action: Did you know that Martha's Table distributes up to 1,000 sandwiches every single night to our neighbors downtown? From the comfort of your own home, you can help us provide access to healthy meals and snacks 365 days a year. **Schedule your sandwich or trail mix donation at www.calendly.com/mtdonations.**

We Envision... Children Ready for School!

Your support helped us hold our biggest back-to-school event ever! This July, we welcomed thousands of neighbors from across Washington, D.C., for a day of joyful fun with music, games, and food for the whole family. Check out a few of our favorite moments from 'Get Ready 4 School' with Martha's Table!





6,000 students and families supported

1,400
backpacks filled with school supplies

100,000+
face masks, water bottles, hand sanitizer, clothing, and more distributed!





Take Action: Our volunteers are at the HEART and SOUL of Martha's Table! We need your help to get fresh groceries, healthy meals, and essential clothing into the hands of our neighbors. With thousands of volunteer shifts every single month, there's an opportunity for EVERYONE! **Learn more at www.marthastable.org/volunteer.**



What's next for Desiree? This fall, she gets to continue learning at Delaware State University! We can't wait to see her achieve her dream of studying forensic biology and one day serve her community. Martha's Table wishes all of our interns the best of luck in their next chapter!

We Envision... Endless OPPORTUNITIES for Older Youth!

For Desiree, an internship at Martha's Table represented a unique opportunity to grow. "I'd heard about Martha's Table, but didn't really know what they did," she reflected. "I just wanted to learn!"

With the support of our Healthy Markets Team, Desiree was able to do just that. She took on important projects, like sharing exciting updates with over 100 Joyful Food Market partners who help us provide fresh groceries to neighbors all year long!

Martha's Table's partnership with Urban Alliance helps to place over 270 D.C. seniors in paid internship opportunities. These talented students get to grow on the job without having to choose between earning income and gaining experience through unpaid internships.

After graduating high school in June, Desiree was so excited to continue her internship this summer. "I visited a market at The Commons, and everything was so beautiful and big," she remarked. "It is such a welcoming environment, with SO much going on!"

"Desiree demonstrated so much growth during her short time interning with us," celebrated Donna, Desiree's mentor at Martha's Table.

And the feeling was mutual! "My mentor and I would talk about our goals for the week and celebrate my recent accomplishments," Desiree shared. "It showed that she really cared about my growth!"

We are so proud that 100% of the students in this program celebrated their high school graduation this spring. <u>Thanks to your support</u>, we're making sure older youth in our community, like Desiree, gain the tools they need to *learn and thrive!*

274

D.C. high school students supported with paid internships and professional development

100%

high school graduation rate among students in the program





We Envision... **Year-Round Impact!**

With a monthly gift to Martha's Table, you can make a difference in the lives of children and families all year round. Joining our brand-new "Apple Corps" program is as easy as streaming your favorite TV show... like a subscription that keeps on giving!

Join Our Apple Corps Community

- Exclusive Volunteer Opportunities
- Invites to Informational Events
- Guided Tours to See Programs in ActionImpact Updates All Year Round

Visit marthastable.org/donate today and make a monthly gift.

"I have continued to support Martha's Table as a monthly donor because I think hunger and helping out in D.C. is incredibly important. Everything I've seen from Martha's Table, they do a great job!"

—Andv Redd. MT Apple Corps Member

Take Action: Join our community of over 400 (and counting!) Apple Corps members. Your monthly gift will provide consistent access to healthy food, quality education, and family resources when our neighbors need it the most. Visit marthastable.org/donate.

...BRIGHT Futures for Our Children! (continued)

Although this fall represents new beginnings, Shaquell knows that the relationships she's built with other caregivers, teachers, and team members at Martha's Table are here to stay.

A special time of support for Shaquell came as the pandemic hit D.C. With the generosity of our community members, including you, we were able to take bold action by providing direct cash assistance to each family with a child in our education program.

Just when parents felt the pressure mounting, they also felt your support. "I didn't have to worry about basic necessities, especially when so many others were worried," Shaquell shared with relief. "I was able to give more attention to Ahmir, especially in terms of his education. I felt like the least I could do now is keep going and keep pouring support into him."

After three years of learning and developing at Martha's Table, Shaquell's baby boy is grown up. We are so grateful for supporters like YOU who've helped Ahmir prepare for his next chapter... kindergarten!

Because our community believes in the success of our children, we know they will soar!



"As a parent with a child at Martha's Table...I didn't feel alone!"

—Shaquell, MT Parent

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