



"The children are the future, and if we don't focus on our young people, what kind of future will we have?"

—Ms. Charlene Hursey, Martha's Table Neighbor

The Time is Now...To Invest in The Futures of 500 Children!

When a child enrolls at Martha's Table, our caring teachers help them prepare to thrive in kindergarten...and beyond! This holiday season, we're *so excited* to share a new impactful initiative to invest in the future of D.C. children. Your support will help fund **\$1,000 child savings accounts for 100 children each year.**

This new program is part of our commitment to go ALL IN for a thriving D.C. over the next five years. To guide our planning, we had over 1,000 meaningful conversations with neighbors, like Ms. Charlene Hursey, a longtime resident of our Southeast D.C. neighborhood.

"I just thought child savings accounts were an excellent, excellent, excellent idea," Ms. Charlene Hursey, our neighbor and Community Advisory Council member, exclaimed. **"Long-term, that will be a substantial amount of money and will help a child go to college or career training. It will help them step into a career!"**

Our D.C. community is at a turning point. Hardships have grown deeper since the pandemic. Martha's Table is ALL IN for a thriving D.C. Will you join us?

Learn more about our plan to go ALL IN for a thriving D.C. on page 3.

Take Action: You have already shown how deeply you care for your community. At Martha's Table, we continue to support families with quality education, family resources, and **over 5,000 bags of healthy groceries every single week.** Your gift today will help us continue to be all in for our D.C. neighbors when it matters the most!

Visit www.marthastable.org/donate

The Time is Now...To Be All In With Our Families!

Ms. LaToya first found Martha's Table all the way back in 2008. Her oldest child was just 5 years old, and had recently enrolled at a charter school near our old home on 14th Street NW. The school didn't offer afternoon care, so she turned to Martha's Table.

"I've had three more children after her," Ms. LaToya shared. **"All of them went to Martha's Table. I LOVE Martha's Table. I don't want my kids to be anywhere else!"**

With support from kind neighbors like you, Ms. LaToya and her children have continued to grow strong as a family. As a mom, she knows Martha's Table will stand with her through every season, helping her be a strong caregiver for her kids.

"They give out baskets at Thanksgiving and at Christmas, they help with gifts for my family," Ms. LaToya celebrated. **"With groceries, they give us both food and tips about nutrition. They have been a tremendous help!"**

As students at Martha's Table, all of Ms. LaToya's children built their foundational learning blocks before they even stepped foot into a kindergarten classroom. With the support of our Martha's Table teachers, she said her kids learned their numbers, the letters of the alphabet, and how to read and write words.

At Martha's Table, everyone in our community is like a second family, and we're so grateful to see our neighbors thrive every day!



"I love it because they're very family-oriented. They care so much about my children. They're like a second mom or a father figure—that's why I love it so much!"

—Ms. LaToya, mother of children in our education program

The Time is Now...For Strong Fathers Like Mr. Kibler!

At Martha's Table, we believe in the power of investing in strong fathers, like Mr. Kibler, in our community. Through our Fathers to the Front program, Mr. Kibler has been able to connect with other male caregivers for support.

"We talk about things and discuss things as fathers—what we can do to better ourselves, be better partners, fathers, and just better men in general," he shared.

Being a parent to a young learner in our early education center, Mr. Kibler and his wife, Ms. Gabrielle, know that Martha's Table will always be ALL IN for their whole family.

Your support doesn't stop at providing high-quality early education for children. You help ensure parents have the resources they need to thrive—from no-cost healthy groceries to career support to connections with other parents and caregivers. "It has been a blessing to be part of Martha's Table," Mr. Kibler said with a smile.

Fathers and male caregivers like Mr. Kibler are a blessing to the Martha's Table community! Thank you for helping us ensure *all parents* and families have the support they need to *thrive* for their children every day.



"Being a father to two sons that are 2 and 9-years-old...it's the best thing that ever happened to me. I do everything I can. I work hard to provide them with a better life... It has been a blessing to be part of Martha's Table."

—Mr. Kibler, father of a child in our education program

"I like our guests to know that there are people consistently out here to be there for them. Every once in a while, when someone recognizes me... it's equally rewarding!"

—Ms. Kelsey Holden, McKenna's Wagon Volunteer



The Time is Now...For a D.C. Free from Hunger

If you find yourself in downtown D.C. around 5:00pm, chances are you may catch a glimpse of the big blue Martha's Table van! That's McKenna's Wagon—our oldest running program. We bring hot meals, sandwiches, and healthy snacks to hundreds of neighbors, *365 nights a year!*

Fueled by regular volunteers, McKenna's is a source of nutrition, human connection, and hope during difficult times.

Ms. Kelsey Holden first started driving the wagon in 2015. She shared how important it's been for neighbors to know that they can count on Martha's Table for a hot meal each night.

"There've been a few times when folks have come across us by accident," she shared. "We tell them we're here 365 days a year, and they're like 'WOW...really?'"

"I'm always struck by how the folks we're serving look out for one another. When they come to the front of the line, they really support first-time guests, and that's so energizing!"

With all of our programs, we are committed to respecting the dignity of each neighbor. "The meals have just been amazing during the pandemic," Ms. Holden reflected, "We know we're serving healthy, high-quality food!"

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Did you know each McKenna's Wagon meal is prepared with love by our chefs and volunteers? Learn more at www.marthastable.org/volunteer.

Take Action: Join our community of over 400 (and counting!) Apple Corps members. Your monthly gift will ensure year-round access to the healthy food, quality education, and family resources to help our neighbors remain strong. Visit marthastable.org/monthly.

Take Action: Help Martha's Table support bright futures for children like Ms. LaToya's by supporting our **first-ever child savings account program for our young learners!** Your gift today will directly impact tomorrow's generation of our leaders. Visit www.marthastable.org/donate to help our children have the opportunity to *thrive*.


The Time is Now...To Celebrate YOUR Year of Impact!

This holiday season, we have so much to be thankful for! While the pandemic continued to impact Washington, D.C., Martha's Table has been all in for our neighbors every single day of the year. We could not do any of this without **you!**

What does your impact look like for our community in 2021?




Enough fresh groceries to put over **1.5 million nutritious meals** on tables across Washington, D.C...


500+ families supported with direct cash assistance, weekly groceries, and family resources through THRIVE East of the River...




100+ young children growing and thriving in our classrooms...


3,500 Thanksgiving meals served at our annual Community Harvest Dinner...




Over 200 neighbors experiencing housing instability receive hot meals, sandwiches, and snacks every single night...


Thousands of winter coats distributed just last month to help families prepare for colder weather... and so much more!

The Time is Now To Invest in The Futures of 500+ Children!

(Continued)

"We're not just standing beside our neighbors," shared President & CEO Kim R. Ford, "We're actually standing behind them; our neighbors are leading, and we are amplifying their voices along the way!"

For neighbors like Ms. Charlene Hursey, a bright future for her community means one where *every* neighbor gets a voice at the table.

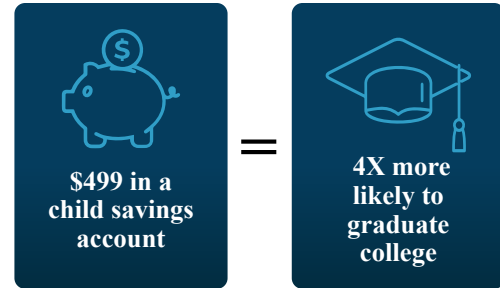
Hers was one of the many strong community voices that helped us to build a strategic plan that will ensure *every* Washingtonian has the opportunity to thrive.

We feel the fierce urgency of now, and we are deeply investing in our community where it matters most. With your help, we will:

- 🍎 distribute **TWICE as much healthy food** compared to before the pandemic
- 🍎 expand to support children with **quality education programs from cradle to career**
- 🍎 continue critical **direct cash assistance** to keep families financially stable
- 🍎 expand how we support our neighbors' **physical and emotional wellness** beyond healthy food
- 🍎 provide grants to grassroots initiatives and **foster relationships with neighborhood leaders** like Ms. Hursey!

Ms. Hursey's experience as a caring neighbor in our Southeast D.C. community for two decades helped Martha's Table chart our path forward. Together, we will keep our community strong for years to come!

"I applaud Martha's Table," she lovingly shared. "You cannot do anything by yourself; you need other people to do it with you!" We are excited to continue this work alongside the neighbors who keep us fueled every single day.



"Martha's Table is very good at paying attention to what's going on in the community and listening to the people."

—Ms. Charlene Hursey, Martha's Table Neighbor

The Time is Now for a D.C. free from hunger!

(Continued)

For longtime driver Ms. Lynne Vollmer, the true impact of McKenna's Wagon is often felt on some of the toughest days.

"We really get to know people at each stop, and when people leave, we're hopeful that means something has gone well for them," Lynne said. "No one volunteers for recognition, but the guests we're serving truly are appreciative, particularly in the worst weather...on the worst nights!"

Throughout the pandemic, we have found inspiration in the way our neighbors step up for one another. With help from caring people like you, we continue to shine a light on the very best D.C. has to offer.

"It's the difference between being hungry and not hungry," Lynne noticed. "And there are people who are there every single night. But there are a lot of people who are being served by Martha's Table that we don't see. There are people that wait around at the end of the night to grab extra meals to take to people who can't come out."

Making sure over 200 hot meals, nearly 1,000 sandwiches, and hundreds of healthy snacks reach our neighbors each night is no small task...and it is only possible with the help of volunteers and supporters like you. Thank you!

121,538

meals distributed to guests of
McKenna's Wagon

25,629

hours contributed by
volunteers to fuel our mission

January 1 - November 15, 2021



"For volunteers, it brings you in touch with your community...you see things you never would and understand things in ways you never could."

—Lynne Vollmer, McKenna's Wagon Volunteer



Take Action: Did you know that every single night, in addition to a hot meal, Martha's Table shares homemade sandwiches with over **200 neighbors experiencing hunger or housing instability** downtown? From the comfort of your own home, you can help us provide access to healthy meals and snacks 365 days a year. **To learn more and schedule your sandwich donation, visit www.marthastable.org/sandwiches today!**



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The Commons

2375 Elvans Road SE
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2204 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20020

202-846-1043
info@marthastable.org
www.marthastable.org

Please send all monetary gifts to our new PO Box:
PO Box 70970
Washington, DC 20024