



Coronavirus Update: April 27, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM JEFF HASSEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW about how COVID-19 is affecting our people, our programs, our methods of delivering essential services like food and shelter, *and how you can help us continue to serve our Guests.*

Because of you, we CELEBRATE!

We launched two food drive opportunities last week and many of our long-time supporters and many new faces have jumped in with great enthusiasm - safely collecting food for our Guests in their communities - we are so grateful!

The first is **"Porch Pick-up"**, where you organize your neighbors and friends, pick up groceries from their porches and bring them to the Food Pantry. The second is, **"Pop Your Trunk"** where your organization arranges to have the Lazarus House Truck come to a designated drop-off area, and your members fill it with donations.

On another, yet related, note, we celebrate that our Community Resource Specialist, Miguel, is swimming in a "Sea of Diapers", which we understand for most would not be a good thing! At Lazarus House, however, it means that the generosity of our FaceBook and Online Community has exploded and the moms in our programs and those who are visiting the soup kitchen and pantry will have diapers, wipes and snacks for their littles! *#CommunityAlwaysWins*

And, as a matter of update...

This week our Soup Kitchen stabilized their staffing by creating two cook teams that will alternate days to deepen our bench against COVID-19. Hot, nutritious take-out meals will be served for breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday.

Our Guests are doing well in the shelter that the City of Lawrence operates in the Doubletree Hotel in Andover. We continue to provide case management and help the city in supplying items for all Guests as we are able.

The Food Pantry was in operation on Wednesday, providing bags of groceries to 770 Guests using a "grab and go" system. We have designed our food drives to supplement the food that we receive from the Merrimack Valley Food Bank; we are grateful for our partnership with them!

AS A REMINDER OF OUR TEMPORARY PROGRAM CHANGES:

- The Shelter has moved our Guests to a quarantine facility (Doubletree Hotel in Andover) run by the city where families can shelter in their rooms, thus offering an improved option for preventing the spread of the virus
- Soup Kitchen continues using a "meals to go" system Monday to Friday.
- Food Pantry continues Wednesday distribution of groceries to a "groceries to go" format.
- We have closed our Thrift Stores until further notice.
- We have closed our Sewing and Culinary Arts classes until further notice.
- We have suspended our crucial Volunteer Program until further notice.
- Lazarus House leaders continue to make necessary changes, as recommended by the State of Massachusetts and the CDC, to the way we serve, sanitize facilities, use personal protective gear, and operate. We are keeping safety for all at the forefront of our minds and actions.

Thank you so much. It truly is overwhelming to be on the receiving end of your selfless support, encouraging calls and emails and your beautiful hearts for people struggling with material poverty and homelessness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JH', with a large, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the left.

Rev. Jeff Hassel

Executive Director

'Linking Arms... From a Distance'

Thank YOU for your Profound Partnership!

HOW YOU CAN HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR GUESTS

- PRAY for our Guests, the Lawrence Community, and our staff
- [DONATE](#)

LAZARUS HOUSE – A Beacon of Hope in the darkness of poverty and homelessness.

Lazarus House helps women, men, and children living in poverty restore their dignity and self-respect. We offer life-saving services in the areas of food, shelter, clothing, and education.