In recent communications I have shared how Open Hands Midway is dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it continues to impact all of us. It is always my duty to you as stakeholders in this organization to keep you informed about what we are doing now and how you can continue to support us during these challenging times. Open Hands Midway temporarily closed our meal program and food shelf services from March 27 through April 28. As this situation changes just about daily, I promise to share updates regarding what we are doing now to serve the community we so dearly love.

Our food shelf is now open with pre-packaged bags and boxes the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Our Monday meal program has resumed with take-out meals only. As we continue to practice physical distancing there will be no extra food or clothing given away at this time. Our Board of Directors made the decision to offer an additional day of meal service on Wednesdays, which began on May 6, by offering grab and go bagged lunches. Each of these meal and food service options are being offered with no-contact walk up service. The process in which these services will be conducted is a work in progress as we strive to implement the best possible method we will use. As we welcome back our guests, we want to make sure it is safe to do so. That is why you will see staff and volunteers wearing masks while practicing physical distancing as we prioritize the safety of our guests, volunteers and staff. We will keep our doors open while closely tracking federal and local guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

While we cannot predict the future, we will make informed decisions and plan accordingly to control what we can. We are particularly focused on making food accessible to the individuals and families who are in greatest need. There is no definitive timetable when we will transition from these no-contact walk up services to ‘business as usual.’ Rest assured we are working hard to continue serving our community.

To everyone who has reached out to help Open Hands Midway during this time, thank you. I am confident the actions we are taking are the most beneficial for affected guests, volunteers and staff. The best thing you can do is continue to support Open Hands Midway in any way you feel you are able. Your financial support is always welcome by using the Donate Now buttons on our website at https://www.openhandsmidway.org/

Along with my Board of Directors, I am determined and committed to seeing us through this. I am optimistic we will come out of this crisis as strong as we were coming into it. And I will continue to ensure that Open Hands Midway will be here for many more years to connect our neighbors in need to the services we so faithfully have provided for over 10 years. We are in this together and together we will get through this with your continued support.

Be well, be safe, and be blessed!

Kay Kuehn
Executive Director