

October 13, 2020



It is always my obligation to you as stakeholders in this organization to keep you informed about what we are doing during these challenging times as Open Hands Midway deals with the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects it continues to have on all of us. As this situation changes, often on a daily basis, I promise to share the latest updates regarding what we are doing now to serve our beloved community.

At all programs and events you will notice our staff and volunteers wearing face coverings and cautiously practicing physical distancing as we prioritize the safety of everyone who serves at or attends any of our meal and food programs. Open Hands Midway has elected to require face coverings by everyone as part of the Governor's Executive Order. Part of the order allows businesses to mandate face coverings even in situations where face coverings are not otherwise required. We will include this to mean all guests waiting outside to enter our facility.

Our Monday and Wednesday meal programs are currently being provided with take-out meals only. We give away fresh produce and bakery items during the hours we are serving meals. Our food shelf is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month with pre-packaged non-perishable foods. We are limiting the number of people into our facility at any given time to 25 (including staff and volunteers). The process for these services is very different from what many have been accustomed to and is adjusted as deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of all.

Few things give us greater pleasure than serving guests at our meal and food shelf programs. While the pandemic is far from over, we are making strides each day for a better tomorrow. Although 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 those 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. If you or someone you know is facing a food shortage, please feel free to contact us and we will help make arrangements for them to receive food service.

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 this community. 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 dedicated to seeing us through this. We will keep our doors open for service while closely tracking federal and local guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). I am optimistic we will come out of this crisis as strong as we were coming into it. 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 have so faithfully provided since 2009. We have always exhibited the attitude of kindness towards guests and volunteers alike. We are reminded that presently this attitude is exceedingly important. Together we will get through this with your continued support.

Be well, be safe, and be blessed!

Kay Kuehn  
Executive Director