

May 26, 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 while Open Hands Midway deals with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the affects 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 the community we so dearly love.

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 and cautiously practicing physical distancing as we prioritize the safety of our guests, volunteers and staff. Our Monday meal program is currently being provided with take-out meals only. Unfortunately there will be no extra food or clothing given away at this time. After a month of temporary closure, we felt it would be beneficial to also add a second weekly meal on Wednesdays by serving grab and go bagged lunches. Our food shelf is open with pre-packaged bags and boxes the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Each of these meal and food service options are being conducted with no-contact walk up service, one guest at a time. The process for these services is very different from what many of our volunteers and guests are accustomed to. We will keep our doors open while closely tracking federal and local guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Few things make us happier than serving guests at our meal and food shelf program. 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 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. 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 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](https://www.openhandsmidway.org/) 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. 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 since 2009. We have always exhibited the attitude of friendship towards guests and volunteers alike. We are reminded that presently this attitude is exceedingly important. 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