ABOUT MIRIAM’S KITCHEN

Founded in 1983 as a soup kitchen, Miriam’s Kitchen has evolved over the years to provide more than meals. Today, Miriam’s Kitchen is a critical player in the fight to end chronic and veteran homelessness in Washington, DC. On the direct services level, we help our guests improve their health, increase their income and obtain housing through a range of programs and partnerships. And at the systems level, we work with leaders across the city to make instances of homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The coronavirus reminds us of our deep interdependence and that our entire community’s health is affected when just one of our neighbors is unwell. Yet thousands of our neighbors experiencing homelessness in DC lack basic access to soap and water or a safe place to call home and are unable to adhere to the basic protocols of washing your hands and staying home when you are sick.

Miriam’s Kitchen acted early to keep our guests experiencing homelessness and wider community healthy, safe and informed. The COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency on March 13; However, beginning March 12 Miriam’s Kitchen made drastic changes to programs--canceling volunteer shifts, serving meals in to-go containers, and installing tents and portable bathrooms with sinks on-site.

Our commitment to our guests and creative leadership enabled Miriam’s Kitchen to provide uninterrupted services to our guests.

We have been incredibly grateful for the caring community who have supported our work on the front lines and enabled us adapt programs as needed in this new environment.

Committed supporters like you have helped us endure government shutdowns, weather-related emergencies and more. As the need for our emergency response efforts continues, your unwavering compassion for your neighbors in need continues to give us hope that things will be okay.

We can’t thank you enough for giving us the strength to continue serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

This report details what your support has made possible since March 16, 2020

Learn more by visiting miriamskitchen.org/covid-19-response
COVID-19 Emergency Response Impact Report
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Your support has helped tackle food insecurity
- 40,975 healthy, fresh, hot meals served in to-go containers
- 2,547 frozen meals delivered to housing residents
- 818 no-contact deliveries of groceries and essentials to housing residents so they can shelter in place
- 6,434 meals delivered by Street Outreach across nearly half of DC
- Only high-quality ingredients used for every meal

Your support has helped prevent the spread of COVID-19
- 8,086 materials including personal protection equipment like hand sanitizers and masks distributed
- 4,009 screenings for COVID-19 symptoms
- 17 clients connected to PEP-V social distancing sites
- 183 health and coronavirus screenings provided on-site, in partnership with Unity Health Care

Your support has helped guests have a safe, permanent home to shelter in place
- 55 people moved into housing
- Continuing to support 208 residents so they can safely shelter in place
- Helping guests navigate the housing system so they can have a safe place to call home
- 56 phones purchased for clients so they can access case managers and other support systems
COVID-19 Emergency Response Impact Report

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Your support has helped deliver guest-centered services

- Improved health by connecting 138 guests to mental health services and 109 guests to physical health services, as well as providing 3,025 wellness checks
- Increased income by helping 8 guests obtain their SSI/SSDI and 153 guests apply for their stimulus checks
- Provided 49 art therapy telehealth sessions and activity kits

Your support has helped increase investments to end homelessness, empower guests, and advance equity

- Together with our partners and guests, our budget advocacy secured resources that will end homelessness for 320 households, fully fund homeless street outreach, and provide critical services like Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and homelessness prevention.
- Continued working with partners through the ICH Emergency Shelter Response and Operations Work Group to plan for the combination of COVID-19 and winter.
- Participated in efforts to pass the REACH Act, a bill to further racial equity in DC government, in partnership with the DC Initiative on Racial Equity.
In the news

www.miriamskitchen.org/mk-in-the-news

- ABC: ‘I get to go to sleep in a soft bed.’ After 2 years on the streets, a DC man finds a home.

- ABC: John Gonzalez reports live from Miriam’s Kitchen on their coronavirus response efforts

- The Atlantic: Who will run the soup kitchens?

- BBC WorldNews: "Balancing need with risks"

- The Chronicle of Philanthropy: Big changes for nonprofits that rely on volunteers

- The Kojo Nnamdi Show: How is D.C. Protecting those Facing Homelessness from Coronavirus?

- NBC NEWS4 at 11: Shomari Stone spotlights Miriam’s Kitchen’s COVID-19 response

- PBS NewsHour: Why ‘closing was not an option’ for this charity organization

- The Washington Post: ‘No way I’m going into a shelter’: Will coronavirus put more homeless on the streets?

- The Washington Post: Review by food critic, Tom Sietsema – At Miriam’s Kitchen, a great mission starts with a good