Dear MK Community:

Like all of you, we’ve devoted much of this year to navigating a global pandemic while re-assessing the way we function as individuals, and as businesses. During this peculiar, yet enlightening time, I’ve remained extremely proud of our greater community which has enabled us to provide uninterrupted services to our guests experiencing homelessness.

I cannot thank each partner, donor, or advocate enough for helping to keep our doors open – and our programs strong – when our guests need us most.

As many of us began to quarantine, our guests experienced increasingly limited access to food and other critical services. Timely, unrestricted support from our generous donors granted us the ability to adapt to the changing environment. I am deeply grateful for the commitment to our neighbors made by the dedicated Miriam’s Kitchen team – along with selfless volunteers – who raised their hands to serve on the frontlines. Thank you for your quick thinking, creativity and partnership to adjust our guest-centered programs; to close gaps across the system; and to keep our community safe.

Together, you have fueled a comprehensive response that focuses on the immediate and long-term needs of our guests. You’ve also helped to affect change at the systems level in an effort to build a more equitable community where everyone has a safe, permanent place to call home.

Thank you for making Miriam’s Kitchen a trusted resource for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Scott Schenkelberg, President & CEO
YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY.

- 15,365 healthy, fresh, hot meals served in to-go containers
- 1,199 frozen meals delivered to housing residents
- 497 no-contact deliveries of groceries and essentials during quarantine
- 6,295 meals delivered by Street Outreach across nearly half of DC

YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED GUESTS OBTAIN SAFE, PERMANENT HOUSING DURING THE PANDEMIC.

- MK guests attain permanent housing
- 214 residents safely shelter in place by providing ongoing resources
- 23 MK guests obtain phones in support of continued access to resources

YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

- 7,032 personal protection items including hand sanitizers and masks
- 2,377 COVID-19 screenings
- 121 on-site health screenings in partnership with Unity Health Care

YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED DELIVER GUEST-CENTERED SERVICES.

- This year, Miriam’s Kitchen has:
  - performed 1,294 wellness checks for MK guests
  - connected 88 guests to mental health services
  - assisted 65 guests apply for stimulus checks
  - provided 42 art therapy telehealth sessions and activity kits
  - connected 41 guests to physical health services
  - helped 3 guests obtain their SSI/SSDI

YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED DELIVER GUEST-CENTERED SERVICES.
First, tell me what it is that makes you passionate about what you do for Miriam’s Kitchen.

My passion revolves around serving our guests. I love the ability to create an environment where guests feel at home. These people are usually treated as if they’re invisible. So when they walk through our doors, I want them to know that they deserve dignity and respect, and that they’re valued. I’m here to create an environment for them that takes them back to a comforting space.

What kinds of things inspire you when creating a dish or a menu?

I’m inspired by the look and the color. I love to make colorful dishes with complex flavors that keep evolving, that also have different textures. I like elevated comfort food with a depth of flavor.
What’s your favorite meal to prepare for MK guests?
Torrejas with grits, home fries, cheese eggs, and a fabulous fruit salad.

What has been the most challenging part about providing an essential MK service throughout the pandemic?
The most challenging part has been the fiscal strain of having to purchase an increased amount of proteins and fruit to meet dietary standards.

What would you like for your legacy to be as chef? As a person?
As a chef, I’d like my legacy to be that I always put the people who I serve first; that I always created meals that gave them a sense of home, and that brought them comforting memories.
As a person, I would want my legacy to be that I did as much as I could to make a contribution to those who entered my space.

"As a chef, I’d like my legacy to be that I always put the people who I serve first."

"Rising above every obstacle to finish my course."
-Cheryl Bell
After the coronavirus pandemic struck, father and daughter duo, E.J. and Nia, immediately wanted to help those in their community who were most vulnerable. Knowing that our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness were at higher risk, they set out to support local organizations through the power of music. E.J. and Nia partnered with Miriam’s Kitchen and hosted a virtual concert on Sunday, May 17th to bring music to their community and raise money and awareness for Miriam’s Kitchen.

Together, they played piano and sang songs from genres including pop, gospel, R&B, Jazz, and more. Through their virtual concert, which had over 400 views, they were able to reach and exceed their goal of raising $500 for Miriam’s Kitchen. The funds raised were immediately used to ensure that our neighbors experiencing homelessness can remain healthy, safe, and informed during this time of uncertainty. Thank you E.J. and Nia, and your community for spreading joy and supporting our guests!

We are so grateful for passionate supporters like E.J. and Nia. To learn more about how you can turn passion into action to support your neighbors experiencing homelessness, contact Kimberly Heller at: Kimberly.Heller@miriamskitchen.org.

Why did you decide to support Miriam’s Kitchen?

I (E.J.) have been a supporter of Miriam's Kitchen for the past several years ever since I first heard about the great work the organization does. I’ve been teaching Nia about how much of a blessing it is to be able to give of your time, money, and talents to help others. We thought raising money for Miriam's Kitchen would be a great way of using the gifts that we love to help give to an organization and cause that we love.
What was your favorite song that you performed together?

We mutually agreed that "Second Chance" (Hezekiah Walker/LFCC) was our favorite song that we performed together for the concert because it's a reminder and testimony of how God has and does blesses us with second chances despite what we've done or gone through. So grateful for that!!

How did you come up with the idea of hosting a virtual concert?

Nia has really developed as a singer, actress, and dancer over the last couple years. At the beginning of 2020, we made goals to find opportunities for her to showcase and display these talents. When the COVID pandemic began in this country and many of the music venues we were accustomed to go to were shut down, we decided to do a virtual concert one Sunday in April just to give friends and family something positive to do and hear on an afternoon in the midst of all that had been going on.

The feedback and support from that first concert was so great that we decided to do two more virtual concerts, but we wanted both of them to be with a cause and purpose. For the third and final concert of the series, we felt led to make Miriam's Kitchen the organization that we would help raise funds for, and we had such a great time. We have to say a special thanks to all who attended and/or donated to Miriam's Kitchen as we were able to make and exceed our goal!!!

"WE LOVE TO HELP GIVE TO AN ORGANIZATION AND CAUSE THAT WE LOVE."

—E.J.
What inspired you to become an Advocacy Fellow at Miriam’s Kitchen?
I had participated in the Miriam’s Kitchen speaker’s bureau, and since I had done well with engaging with our partners, Ashley from the MK team expressed that it would be a good fit for me to join in this capacity. Once we had this conversation, I was inspired to apply.

What do you believe to be the most important personality trait of an Advocacy Fellow at Miriam’s Kitchen?
Being a team player. There’s much to learn and you need to be willing to collaborate with others because you may wear many hats. You’ll also have the opportunity to interact with leaders in the community.

If there was one policy you could have passed today that would benefit homeless citizens in the District, what would it be?
I would find a way to make the process easier for both low income and homeless individuals to qualify for a voucher, placing emphasis on the homeless population.

During your fellowship, you were able to connect with various leaders within the D.C. area, including Mayor Muriel Bowser. What kinds of lessons did you glean from those interactions?
I learned about the importance of lived experience and how to use that in my interaction with city officials and community members. I learned about the power of advocacy. Sometimes I find that we as a community can feel defeated and unheard, but we do have tools at our disposal to help us overcome this.

Tell us about your future goals as an advocate to end homelessness in the District? In the nation?
I want to continue to spread the word within the community that there is help available. I also want those in positions of power to continue to listen to those who have lived experience. Lastly, I want to further illustrate what it’s like to be at the intersection of being homeless, Black, elderly, LGBTQIA+, and HIV-positive.
Tell us about your role with the Leadership Council, and the organization you represent?
I serve as co-chair of the leadership council. I represent the Altria Group which is headquartered in Richmond, VA. I’ve managed our corporate social responsibility portfolio in DC for 5 years where we’ve supported organizations, including Miriam’s Kitchen, Smithsonian museums, Faith and Politics Org, and the Newseum. At Altria, we believe that supporting community engagement leads to success for all.

Why did you choose to join the Leadership Council?
I was moved by MK’s work and the passion of the team. I love that you all are tackling challenging issues that need to be addressed in our society. I also didn’t want to sit on the sidelines anymore, I wanted to take a leadership position.

In your opinion, why does ending chronic and veteran homelessness makes business sense?
Ending homelessness is a part of ending inequality, and is essential to us having a more inclusive community, and cultural vibrancy which allows us to learn from others.

Why do you find it important to invest in local communities, and what advice would you give to others looking to make a social impact right now?
Local communities is where big impact happens. They are the heartbeat of the country. When you want to create change, it starts locally. My advice to others looking to make an impact would be to discover how you can create change within your own communities. Also, identify your own interests so that you can understand how to find an organization you can support in navigating that particular issue.

Is there a moment in your life that inspires you to lead with impact?
My mother was a small business owner, a single mother, and an active member in our church. Seeing her journey and her daily work to support family really showed me that I can have an impact in our community.
MK ON YOUR SIDE

2020 ADVOCACY WINS

Your support has helped increase investments to end homelessness, empower guests, and advance equity. Thanks to our advocacy and leadership of The Way Home Campaign, the D.C. Council increased funding over the Mayor’s proposed budget to:

- end chronic homelessness for nearly 320 households
- restore cuts to homelessness prevention, outreach, and eviction prevention

Additionally, the Miriam’s Kitchen team has supported 10 individual guests and several guest-led groups in leading advocacy efforts to end homelessness; and has worked alongside the D.C. Initiative on Racial Equity on efforts to pass the REACH Act – a bill to further racial equity in DC government.

BECOME AN MK ADVOCATE

Join Miriam’s Kitchen in our mission to end chronic homelessness in Washington, D.C. by becoming a member of The Way Home Campaign today! By joining The Way Home Campaign, you will have the opportunity to:

- use your voice to educate policymakers, as well as those within your community, about resources and interventions needed to end chronic homelessness
- stay up-to-date about community events and policy related to our fight to end homelessness
- be informed about MK volunteer opportunities

JOIN THE WAY HOME CAMPAIGN AT WWW.THEWAYHOMEDC.ORG.
COVID-19 has created new needs while putting enormous final pressure on all nonprofits. To help stimulate philanthropic giving, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides increased tax incentives for charitable giving for both individuals and corporations. If you are in a financial position to give, here are a few ways you can help support your favorite nonprofit.

**MAKE A GENERAL DONATION**
Visit [www.miriamskitchen.org](http://www.miriamskitchen.org) to make a one-time, or recurring gift.

**DONATE APPRECIATED STOCKS OR MUTUAL FUNDS**
By donating stock instead of selling it, you may be able to deduct the full market value and avoid capital gains tax.

**TRY “BUNCHING”**
With this strategy, you combine two or three years’ worth of gifts into one year, so that itemizing becomes advantageous. By making a substantial gift to a donor advised fund, you can deduct the full gift now and then direct the money over time to your favorite charity.

**IF YOU ARE 70 1/2 OR OLDER, YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TO MIRIAM’S KITCHEN DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA**
This will satisfy part or all of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. And you won’t owe income taxes on the withdrawal.

**NAME MIRIAM’S KITCHEN AS THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY**
You can do this for your retirement plan, donor advised fund, insurance policy, bank account, IRA, etc.

**MAKE A GIFT TO MIRIAM’S KITCHEN IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST**
Below is sample language to get you started:

- To leave a specified amount or percentage of your will: “I give to Miriam’s Kitchen whose administrative offices are located at 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037, a District of Columbia non-profit corporation (tax ID 52-1331552), the sum of $____{or ___% of my estate; or property described herein}, for its general purposes.”

- To make a residuary bequest to Miriam’s Kitchen: “All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give to Miriam’s Kitchen, whose administrative offices are located at 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037, a District of Columbia non-profit corporation (tax ID 52-1331552), for its general purposes.”

Miriam’s Kitchen Tax ID is 52-1331552.
Be sure to consult your tax and financial advisors when planning your gift.
CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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