

food for thought



Dare
to Care
Food Bank

50 years of serving—and caring—for neighbors in Kentuckiana

August 2020



“We would not be able to serve people without the food from Dare to Care.”

—CAPT. CATHERINE FITZGERALD

The New Albany Salvation Army and friends like you are helping provide food for people in greatest need.

Agency Spotlight

New team takes on disaster response

When the New Albany Salvation Army started working with Dare to Care nine months ago, neither group had any idea the partnership would be tested right away. Today, Capt. Catherine Fitzgerald is certain we were meant to join forces when we did.

“When we saw what was coming, I said to myself, ‘I’m so glad this is in place. We would not be able to serve people without the food from Dare to Care,’” Catherine says.

A veteran of disaster relief, Catherine, in turn, showed Dare to Care how to stay flexible as COVID-19 unfolded. “We set up a system where people call in, place an order, and then come by the next day to pick up a box of food that was safely prepacked,” Catherine explains. “The phones have been ringing off the hook. Lots of people are figuring this out for the first time, lots are seniors. They’re all affected by COVID-19 in different ways.”

With the need increasing by 208%, Catherine soon had to ask Dare to Care for more groceries to distribute. **We were able to meet that need because friends like you have stood by us throughout this emergency!**

“Dare to Care is so good at getting milk, fresh products and so much more,” Catherine says. She is pleased to report that they haven’t had to turn anyone away, and proud to be able to reach neighbors who are homebound, too.

“There’s a family of four, where both parents have immune disorders. No one can leave the house, so we brought fresh, healthy food right to them—along with books and toys for the kids and hygiene kits to help protect the whole family.”

That’s the Dare to Care spirit in action! Thank you, New Albany Salvation Army, for your help and guidance as we provide food for so many people in need.



Inside this Issue

A word of gratitude
from Brian’s desk
.....Pg. 2

Cooking up
compassion
for all
.....Pg. 2-3

Help neighbors
like Janie weather
this storm
.....Pg. 4

daretocare.org

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

From Brian's Desk

It's no exaggeration to say COVID-19 has rocked our world! Dare to Care saw a dramatic increase in the need for food almost immediately. That need has steadily risen as thousands of neighbors have lost jobs and other resources have dried up.



With more people turning to us for help, we had to figure out how to serve them safely. We're used to gathering at our pantries, Kids Cafés and partner agencies. Our volunteers are used to working shoulder to shoulder, too. All of our traditional service models had to be scrapped!

But here's the encouraging part: **we have the most amazing people on our team.**

Our staff has brought ingenuity and determination to each new challenge. They worked with our Kids Café sites to make Grab & Go Meals available. They set up safe mobile pantries. They prepack box after box with healthy foods and shelf-stable goods to give families at our new contact-free, drive-through distributions.

Our partners—like the New Albany Salvation Army and Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries—have been essential, too. We couldn't reach everyone in need without them!

And we are so grateful for the amazing response from the community. Friends like you have rallied around us, enabling us to quickly gear up and get to work.

We're not out of the woods yet; we anticipate a higher level of need may stay with us for up to a year. **But, we are hopeful and confident, thanks to you.**

With gratitude,

Brian Riendeau, Executive Director

Longtime partner doubles their caring efforts

Renee Bryant, Executive Director of Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries, remembers an elderly gentleman who needed help recently.

"He was a veteran with a disabled daughter, and he'd just been laid off. While he came for help with a bill, we told him we could give him a week's supply of food, too."

The senior was stunned. He felt like he would be taking advantage somehow, so Renee had to talk him into accepting the food. "He was in tears when he left," Renee recalls. He hadn't expected to receive so much kindness.

A Dare to Care partner for 32 years, Renee's team has been providing food for more than twice as many people since the pandemic began.

"We're serving more families, bigger families and families we haven't seen before," Renee shares. "Some folks were already in an unstable situation, and others have lost jobs due to COVID-19."

"Dare to Care is providing double the amount of food, and it's helping significantly. We have prepacked boxes ready to go. We add perishables—frozen meats, eggs, cheese, milk, produce—and bring the food to families waiting in our parking lot."

"We're serving more families, bigger families and families we haven't seen before." —RENEE BRYANT

With your help, this treasured Dare to Care partner is reaching neighbors in need with food to sustain them and kindness to reassure them. **Our thanks go out to you, Renee, and everyone at Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries!**



A volunteer helps distribute food provided by Dare to Care into cars.

From the front lines

You help ease the crisis, one neighbor at a time

Since day one of the pandemic, Dare to Care and our partners—including friends like you—have been right there on the front lines. Meeting urgent needs. Providing healthy food. Offering hope to vulnerable neighbors like...

Tasha, a cancer patient. She's completely exhausted by her treatment and has another surgery scheduled. Going outside would put her fragile health in real danger. When she called us to order a food box, she added, "I'll see if I can get someone to come pick it up." We told her there was no need; we could bring it right to her. You could almost hear her jaw drop. "Would you really?" she asked. "It's not out of your way?"

Because friends like you give so generously, we're able to reach even the most vulnerable in our community.

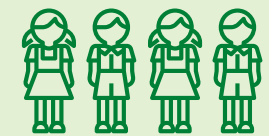
Molly, who lives in her van. "I haven't had food in three days," she told us when she called. Disconnected from the world, she's been afraid to leave her vehicle. She doesn't have any family or friends to rely on for information, let alone food.

Thanks to supporters like you, we could provide Molly with a box full of easy-to-open, nonperishable items, along with some fresh produce. She is so thankful that she reached out and found people who care.



Tasha's and Molly's names and photos have been changed to protect their privacy.

Our work continues during COVID-19



30,645 meals for kids

Grab & Go Meals provided to children at 16 sites since March 16. We also provided food to 32 Backpack Buddy and School Pantry partner schools.

26,520 food boxes



packed for families and seniors thanks to the help of 911 volunteers and the Kentucky National Guard.



5,919,000 pounds of food

Nonperishable items and fresh produce distributed to 185 local pantries, kitchens and shelters since March 16.



264,279 pounds of food

delivered to neighbors through Mobile Pantry and Get Fresh stops.

To give or volunteer, please visit daretocare.org

Welcome to the new Dare to Care Community Kitchen

They say the kitchen is the heart of the home. It's where folks pour all their love into cooking food that comforts and nourishes their families. So much care and thoughtfulness have gone into creating our new Community Kitchen, we think it's destined to become the heart of Kentuckiana!

With the generous support of the Novak Family Foundation, Yum! Brands and friends like you, this new facility opened this summer. Your continued partnership will help us:

- Cook more hot meals for seniors who aren't able to prepare food themselves.

- Prep more ingredients and ready-to-eat dishes for single parents who don't have time to cook when they get home from work.

- Make frozen meals that travel well, so we can get good food to more kids in rural areas.

- Put every square inch of our new kitchen to use to serve more hungry neighbors than ever, as folks continue to recover from the impact of COVID-19.



Visit daretocare.org for photos and more information about the Community Kitchen.

Thank you for helping Dare to Care expand our services in ways that meet the immediate needs of the people we serve. Our outreach is more effective when it's more personal! You can learn more about the Community Kitchen at daretocare.org

Why your giving matters more than ever

Janie is carrying a heavy load. At home, she cares for her daughter, who is going through cancer treatment. While her daughter recovers, Janie is helping to raise her granddaughter, who has special needs. Janie's elderly mom also lives with her. That makes three loved ones—plus Janie herself—who all depend on Janie's slim income.

"Funds are getting very low," she admits. "We're trying to make sure we have enough food, but sometimes I don't even know where my next paycheck is coming from. The company I work for just canceled my shift for this week."

Many of our Kentuckiana neighbors face a similar situation. With family depending on them, they're scrambling to find work. But hundreds of jobs have disappeared for good, and the economy is still so unstable.

That's why your giving matters, now more than ever. You can help prevent families like Janie's from going hungry while they work hard to rebuild their lives.

"We've been thanking the Lord because this food means so much," Janie smiles.

Please give again today to help provide more neighbors like Janie with food for themselves and their loved ones! You can use the form below or visit daretocare.org



Please help provide food for more neighbors like Janie.

New, contact-free, care-filled services

When it became clear how serious COVID-19 would get, our partners had to change the way they operate overnight. With food pantries deemed essential, neighbors in need could still come to us for help. But how could we ensure that everyone—visitors, staff and volunteers—stayed safe? Our partners' solution was perfect: **we'd use a drive-through model.** Families would stay in their cars, and our staff would safely deposit prepacked boxes of food in their trunks. Hunger averted and contact avoided!

But for some folks, the drive-through doesn't work. Our elderly and immunocompromised neighbors shouldn't leave their homes at all—not while the risk to their health remains high. For them, many of our partners literally **go the extra mile**, delivering fresh groceries directly to their doorsteps. We wish you could see the smiles of relief and gratitude when we drive up!

Support from friends like you is a huge part of the reason we've been able to keep up with the changing demands of the pandemic. Thank you for sharing your resources with us in these tough times!

September is Hunger Action Month



Get ready to show your support for your favorite food bank! Next month, Dare to Care will be offering lots of ways for you to get even more involved in ending hunger in our community. You'll be able to sign up to volunteer, spread the word about our work on social media, and even organize a fundraiser of your own. Keep an eye on daretocare.org for details!

Stay connected to the work you support!
Please visit daretocare.org



MY AUGUST GIFT

YES, Brian, I want to help provide food for neighbors facing tremendous need across Kentuckiana.

Enclosed is my gift:

☐ \$150 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ I commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____. My first gift is enclosed.

☐ I've enclosed my employer's matching gift form, thereby increasing my support.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Please make your check payable to: **Dare to Care Food Bank**
PO Box 221619, Louisville, KY 40252-1619 | 502.966.3821

Give online at daretocare.org

Please charge my gift on my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SECURITY # _____

() _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

Your donation is tax deductible as permitted by law. Dare to Care Food Bank will send you a receipt in gratitude for your kindness to the individuals and families in Kentuckiana who rely on us for food.



Dare to Care
Food Bank

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA