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Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County for Community Shares

The Animal Protective League (APL) is unique among Central Illinois animal-rescue organizations because our first priority is caring for the most vulnerable cats and dogs—ones that are sick, injured, stray, or have been surrendered to animal control agencies, placing them at risk for euthanasia. Each year we take in 2,000 or more and adopt them into new, loving homes. Our mission to end the euthanasia of healthy cats and dogs prompted us to open a high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in 2006 where our veterinarians perform more than 12,000 surgeries each year to help curb the overpopulation that drives abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

APL's services are open to all individuals, regardless of income level. The spay/neuter clinic's services, which include monthly wellness clinics, are intended to encourage pet owners of limited means to keep their pets vaccinated against communicable diseases. While many of our clinic users are from Sangamon County, we extend the reach of our spay/neuter services by providing transportation for rescue groups and animal-control facilities within a 90-mile radius of Springfield.

In our shelter, our staff cares for as many as 150 cats and dogs each day, 365 days a year. Veterinarians oversee their care, providing lifesaving surgeries when a stray cat or dog has been injured, while animal attendants administer medications and medical treatments that speed healing. Many of the animals entering our doors only require such routine care as vaccinations, a steady diet, and shelter until new homes are found. Foster caretakers—volunteers who take the very young, the very scared, and the very old into their homes—help us save hundreds of kittens and puppies as well as adult cats and dogs.

Mindful that providing support to pet owners can help keep their animal companions in their homes, APL offers a pet-food-bank, emergency services when pet owners have no other option for treatment, and very-low-cost spay/neuter. Our humane educators reach out to groups of children to teach a new generation how to be kind to all animals.

Although we have continued to operate both our shelter and spay/neuter clinic without interruption during the pandemic, we have lost important sources of income as well as opportunities to engage our volunteers. To maintain social distancing for the safety of our staff and the public, we have limited the number of visitors to the shelter by requiring appointments to view adoptable animals. That has significantly reduced "browsing" for new pets, which in turn has reduced the number of adoptions and the income we receive from adoption fees. All of our in-person fundraising has been cancelled, resulting in the loss of considerable revenue.

More pet owners are using our low-cost spay/neuter services in 2020 than during the same period last year. While the number of people using our pet-food-bank is virtually unchanged from 2019, two church foodbanks and one senior citizens group requested pet food from us that they are distributing to their clients. We are continuing to provide wellness services, although we have altered the format of our monthly walk-in clinics to limit person-to-person contact.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, APL continues to provide services that rescue, protect, and support animals and the people who love them.



Arts of Life artist Aria Carter partnered with Kendra Scott to make a custom five piece mini collection inspired by her love for everything fashion. Aria's artwork and collection were on display at the Old Orchard boutique for the month of September and were featured on WGN.





Champaign County Health Care Consumers Testimonial

At Champaign County Health Care Consumers we offer services to anyone who is in need of an advocate to assist with navigating their health care coverage. Champaign County is our primary service area and with a diverse population partly due to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the growing immigrant population we have a mix of new and long-standing community members. We can assist families who are experiencing for the first time what it means to get insurance for themselves as well as offer other supporting services that they might not be aware of. Our clients span generations. We have helped provide people care from birth to end of life. Currently we have capacity to accommodate English and Spanish speakers but have built ties in the community with other organizations to bridge the language barrier even further.

Some of the services we provide are signing up for insurance through the healthcare marketplace (Healthcare.gov), Medicaid through the State of Illinois (abe.illinois.gov), and hospital financial assistance for our local health care providers. Even though we are focused on Champaign County we are connected to a larger network of Community Health Workers which can sometimes mean we are working with clients in other counties and even other states. We do our best to refer clients to partner agencies and make sure that people are receiving the best help they can get if we are unable to assist. In addition to those main services we also offer linkage to dental, vision, and other public benefits such as Supplemental Food Assistance (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), emergency prescription funds, Medicare Part D enrollments (prescription coverage) and more.

With COVID-19 forcing changes in our community we have had to adapt our way of offering services. Our staff is equipped to continue providing one on one appointments with clients over the phone, via email, and video calls. We have adapted our outreach as well but have also maintained communication via mail because we know that even with the technology at our disposal not all of our clients have access to the same communication platforms. We have explored additional funding and services due to COVID relief funds becoming available and are working towards making sure that the most vulnerable populations in our community are looked after. We have been able to expand financial assistance for prescriptions and medical devices to clients that have been in need. We continue to work through every individuals' needs to make sure that the healthcare system works for them not against them.

Champaign County Humane Society Testimonial

CCHS has been honored to serve Champaign County for well over 70 years. Adoptions here are as much about people as they are about animals. With a commitment to placing shelter animals in new permanent homes, our adoption counselors go to great lengths to learn what each adopter is looking for in a pet to find the best possible match. We don't stop there. We have an animal behavior specialist on staff to answer any follow-up questions and provide ongoing support. We also provide affordable dog and puppy training classes to help new dog owners learn basic training techniques to help their dogs become happy and well-behaved family companions.

On the intake side, we are the only open-admission animal shelter and adoption center in Champaign County, which means we accept all companion animals in need of a new home without question.

Our Medical Department includes a veterinarian, five staff members, and prior to COVID, several interns and volunteers. In addition to basic medical care, our Medical Department provides life-saving surgeries and treatments. Long term care and rehabilitation following serious illness or injury is made possible by our dedicated foster volunteers.

Last year, more than 550 volunteers donated more than 23,000 hours of their time to our cause. That's more than 11 full-time positions.

We have a small staff, around 20-25, and prior to COVID-19, we relied heavily on our volunteers to keep operations running. Our volunteers helped in every aspect of our mission, from scrubbing cages and food bowls, to walking dogs (even on holidays and in all kinds of weather), to fundraising, photography, and even the most mundane administrative tasks. Volunteers also socialized our small animals and provided cats with time outside of cages for play and exercise.

Due to COVID-19, we have not been able to have our volunteers at the shelter. Our medical, animal care, and adoption staff have been working tirelessly to keep operations running and fill the gaps. We have learned that regardless of COVID-19, people love animals and want to adopt them. In fact, in August 2020, we adopted out over 140 cats, one of our best months on record.

The demands for our services are high, and we miss our volunteers. Donations are critical during this time to support our operations and staff.

Forever Home Feline Ranch

Here is a love story from one of our adopters.

It's been 8 years since I've had a cat and I recently started thinking of adding one to my family. Honest, when COVID-19 shelter-at-home orders came, I thought about it even more. I looked at available cats online; I considered getting a new kitten from a breeder; I casually asked a friend to keep an eye out for a Siamese at the Forever Home Feline Ranch. It couldn't be any cat. It had to be the right cat.

When I saw a picture of a beautiful blue-eyed, 4-year-old cat that was declawed, neutered and chipped, I began to think maybe she's the one. I looked at her picture repeatedly. I sent the picture to my daughter and said I think I'm going to adopt this cat. I had really already decided.

It's important to say that my 6-year-old granddaughter very much wants a cat, but they have a dog and her little brother is allergic to cats. When the day came to meet our Pearl, I decided to take her along as a surprise. She was so excited when she realized we were adopting a cat, it's a good thing we both immediately fell in love. If you asked me granddaughter, Pearl is "our" cat (hers and mine) and Pearl just happens to live at me house.

Soon after coming home with us, we began to think Pearl had spent some time living outside; so we purchased a harness and leash. She's been outside a few times, some more successful than others. Pearl is super playful and curious. Open a cabinet or closet or even the dryer and she is climbing in! She endlessly plays fetch with a favorite toy. She likes to be near me, following me throughout the house. She enjoys laying across the back of the couch while watching birds and bunnies in the yard.

Over the past month, FaceTime chats with the grandkids have morphed into watching Pearl play. Pearl has quickly become a beloved part of our family.





GILDA'S CLUB CHICAGO: OVERVIEW

Gilda's Club Chicago (GCC) addresses the wide spectrum of needs faced by individuals and families impacted by cancer in the Chicago area. Created in 1998, GCC provides participants with a comprehensive program that helps develop greater social connections, decrease stress, and allow individuals to feel in control of their diagnosis and treatment and ultimately experience an improved quality of life. GCC utilizes a patient-centered approach, reflected in more than 300 monthly events and activities that served 7,005 individuals from throughout the Chicago area in 2019.

The challenges faced by GCC participants are very individual and can vary widely – from financial and psychological issues to education around wellness and treatment. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded this stress and demonstrated the critical need for GCC services, as research consistently shows that heightened stress can have numerous negative impacts on the ability of cancer patients to remain engaged in treatment and communicate effectively with their medical team. GCC programs have been proven to have a significant impact on quality of life metrics; according to a recent survey, 96% of participants would recommend GCC services to others; 86% felt more connected to others sharing similar issues; 79% reported having a better quality of life; and 79% reported feeling more empowered to manage their illness (or that of a loved one).

GCC has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by creating a full monthly schedule of online services, most delivered live, including targeted peer support groups, educational workshops on treatment-related topics, mind-body activities, exercise, meditation and yoga classes, social events, and art therapy – creating a vibrant virtual community that has grown in its ability to reach new participants. And once GCC's Clubhouse and hospital sites are allowed to reopen to in-person services, this enhanced online option will continue to be offered, ensuring that individuals can access services throughout their continuum of care and without having to travel to Clubhouse sites during debilitating treatment regimes. Online services also allow GCC to provide additional opportunities for those who live and are being treated in under-resourced Chicago communities where there may be numerous barriers to in-person participation.

To continue serving participants during COVID-19 and beyond, GCC needs to maintain its current operational budget in addition to investing in updated and unbudgeted technology, including new computers, cameras and monitors in group rooms, microphones, and software. To meet this need, we reply entirely on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundation supporters who believe that what we are doing is important, today more than ever. Gilda's Club Chicago continued to be committed to creating a community of caring for all those impacted by cancer – ensuring that we are there for those in need during these unprecedented times and beyond.

LIFEAFTERHATE

As the first organization in North America founded and led by formers¹, Life After Hate is committed to helping people leave the violent far-right to connect with humanity and lead compassionate lives. We envision a world that allows people to change and contribute to society without violence. Being a former is not the only requirement to become an expert on the complex psychosocial aspects of violent far-right extremism (VFRE) and ways in which to combat it; being a former shapes this expertise. Decades of personal experience and growth are complemented by extensive formalized training and academic instruction in social work, mental health, and other related fields. Our work is further bolstered through strategic partnerships with leading subject matter experts and organizations focused on understanding and addressing VFRE.

Our services. Our flagship program is ExitUSA, which helps those at risk of (further) influence by violent far-right and its members. ExitUSA helps individuals undergo a change process, to understand and replace the hateful ideology they espoused with positive alternatives. Exit programs recognize that the "former" - one who has left the movement

and renounced VFRE ideology - can play a valuable role in countering VFRE narratives and mentoring others through their respective exit process. Formers are often recognized as "credible" voices, and can increase credibility and trustworthiness of an exit intervention.²

Participation in ExitUSA is voluntary and predicated by the client's risk, needs, and goals as well as their desire to change. Cases are categorized as response (i.e., short-term) or support (i.e., long-term), with the latter often requiring 70+ interactions. Once the primary intervention concludes, clients may (and most do) continue engagement with ExitUSA aftercare services and support, which includes a secure online Community Forum, a new life skills development initiative, and specialized training for formers so that they may mentor others who are exiting, among other complementary efforts. Post-Charlottesville (2017) family intervention emerged as a new trend in ExitUSA. These cases require a shift in approach as initial contact is with a family member, usually a parent or significant other, concerned about their loved one's VFRE engagement or flirtation with the ideology.

As part of our Education & Outreach program, we deliver community presentations and interviews across the country. On average, we are only able to fulfill about one-third of all requests each year due to limited resources. Requests hailed from nearly all states, icnlduing Illinois, and from schools, universities, religious and community groups, and government. Efforts are tailored to meet the specific needs of the group; for example, what to do when a hate group comes to town, how to support exit, and how to create grassroots partnerships to counter local VFRE efforts and propaganda. We also give interviews on similar topics, notably on NPR and its affiliates and many local radio and television stations. A highlight of 2019 was being invited to testify before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties during its hearings on Confronting White Supremacy in June.

Impact of COVID. As a result of social isolation and uncertainty brought about by COVID, Life After Hate is experiencing several operational and programmatic challenges. We are mindful that white supremacist ideology is likely to flourish as we see its proponents use the pandemic to advance their hateful ideology and fuel recruitment efforts. New ExitUSA cases are increasing; for example, in June 2020 we managed 43 new cases (18 individual; 25 family), which is double the monthly average. While ExitUSA caseload increases, individual giving - traditionally our largest source revenue - has decreased by more than half due to economic and other impacts of COVID. Education & Outreach efforts have shifted fully online/virtual through the end of 2020 due to travel and other related restrictions and we must now adapt our novel VFRE cultural competency co-responder training from in-person to online for local law enforcement, mental health providers, religious leaders, and other community members.

Please visit our website (www.lifeafterhate.org), our Platinum-level Guidestar profile (https://www.guidestar.org/profile/45-3039640), or email us (info@lifeafterhate.org) for more information. Thank you!

Impact of Your Support

Since our founding in 2011, Life After Hate has helped hundreds of men, women, and families grapple with violent far-right hate groups, of which more than 500 were in the aftermath of the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville in August 2017.

We have conducted more than 400 community presentations and interviews to help galvanize community support for exit and re-integration and to demonstrate change is possible to someone contemplating exit (as well as to the broader community). In 2019 alone we reached 1+ million people across all online platforms.

ExitUSA Client Testimonial

"The staff at ExitUSA are honest about their intentions. They're helping me sort through some of the worst problems in my life. Their empathy and experience makes it possible to connect with them in a way that I cannot with even my own family. They're not trying to shame or indoctrinate me - they're helping me find a genuine alternative to hatred." - Dan



¹ Formers are those who have left VFRE and renounced VFRE ideology

Radicalization Awareness Network, Exit Academy Ex Post Paper, Setting Up An Exit Intervention, 2017. https://ec.europa.eu/homeaffairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we do/networks/radicalisation awareness network/about-ran/ranexit/docs/ran exit setting up exit intervention berlin 13-14 022017 en.pdf



Impact

Meals on Wheels Chicago raises funds to ensure seniors and individuals with disabilities benefit from nutritious meal programs that improve their quality of life and maximize independence. We envision a community in which all basic needs are met and barriers to achieving independence are eliminated.

It starts with a meal, but what we provide is so much more. Our clients are some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and the home meal delivery program provides meaningful connections that help them maintain their independence and dignity.

Programs We Fund

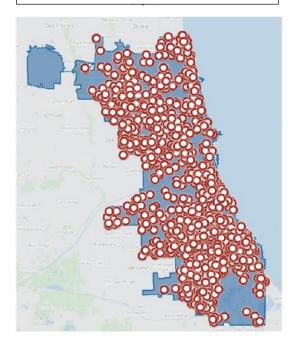
- Holiday Meals Program: The Holiday Meals Delivery Program for Chicago's Senior Citizens addresses unmet nutritional needs on six federal holidays, delivering meals to homebound seniors over the age of 60. In doing so, MOWC provides clients with nutrition and a greater measure of independence to help stabilize their home environments.
- Home Delivered Meals for Individuals with Disabilities: For individuals with disabilities under the age of 60, the HDMID program offers in-home weekday meal service for those challenged by the preparation of meals in addition to meals delivered on the six federal holidays.
- The Emergency Meals Fund: When budget allows, Meals on Wheels Chicago provides funding for emergency, shelf-stable meals. These are delivered to HMP and HDMID clients to serve as back-up meals if regular delivery service is interrupted by extreme weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Congregate Senior Meal Program: This program supplements the City of Chicago's congregate lunches at the six main senior centers and the smaller satellite locations, where approximately 30,000 seniors are fed each year. For many seniors, this lunch may be their only meal of the day and their only social interaction. Corporations also provide funding for an additional take-home meal for later that evening.

Current Program Enrollment and COVID's impact

The current health crisis created an unprecedented surge in demand for the home meal delivery program. Almost overnight, the program saw enrollment increase by 67% and almost 10,500 individuals are now regularly receiving meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels Chicago serves a very diverse community, with 66% of clients self-reporting as minority (African American, Hispanic, Asian). Most clients live at or below the poverty level (65%), and an increasing number are above the age of 85 (26% in 2019). We aim to relieve some of the financial hardship caused by social and economic injustices that exist in our society. The program serves clients in all 77 community areas in Chicago.

Seniors who were previously not considered homebound now qualify for the program as guidance from health and government officials keeps them isolated at home in order to avoid infection. Those who either shopped for themselves or who had family help with the shopping are now in need of assistance, and our program has helped them adapt to the "new normal." We anticipate enrollment to continue to grow, both due to normal factors (larger portion if the population is living longer and retirement savings aren't going as far) as well as continued fallout from COVID-19 and the economic downturn. To learn more please visit www.mealsonwheelschicago.org

Meals on Wheels Chicago Service map 2020





SUPPORT

SSHC's programs are funded by:

- Cook County CDBG Program
- HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives & Housing Counseling Programs
- Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Local Financial Institutions
- Municipal Contributions
- Private Foundations
- Individual Donations

Interested in making a donation?

Donate electronically via our website or send checks payable to South Suburban Housing Center south suburban housing center

18220 Harwood Avenue, Suite 1 Homewood, IL 60430

(708) 957 4674 | Fax (708) 957-4761
 General Inquiries Extension 102
 Spanish-Speaking Extension 104

- www.SouthSuburbanHousingCenter.org
- sshc.contact@gmail.com
- www.facebook.com/SSHousingCenter/
- @SSHousingCenter

John R. Petruszak, Executive Director Melanie King, President, Board of Directors

Incorporated 1975 Private, Not-For-Profit, Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization

south suburban housing center

A Regional Fair Housing & HUD-Approved Counseling Agency

"We're one people and we all live in the same house; not the American house, but the world house."

- John Lewis



Photograph by Bernard J. Kleina

OUR MISSION

South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC) is dedicated to the promotion of a unitary housing market that:

- Eliminates discrimination based on race or other protected group status
- Fosters stable, long-term diverse communities

SERVICE AREA

Our primary service area is the 63 communities composing Chicago's Southern & Southwestern Suburbs in Cook County & Northern Will County. Our fair housing program coverage extends to additional municipalities throughout Will, Kankakee, Lake (IN) counties, & other areas that request assistance.

A summarized list of our service area is on our website, www.SouthSuburbanHousingCenter.org.

LIST OF OUR PROGRAMS

Housing Counseling Services

- Our HUD-certified counselors assist individuals and families to sustain housing through:
 - Homebuyer Education
 - Pre-Purchase Counseling
 - Mortgage Delinquency & Foreclosure Counseling & Workshops
 - Post-Purchase Counseling
 - Regional Housing Resource Fairs
 - Rental Referral Information (looking for housing, homelessness prevention)

Fair Housing Compliance

Housing discrimination complaint processing:

- Intake & initial fair housing complaint consultation for all protected classes
- Mediation & other informal resolution
- Legal assistance in filing formal actions
- Assisting persons with disabilities to obtain reasonable accommodations or modifications
- Referral information for non-discriminatory housing matters (landlord-tenant, taxes, services for those with disabilities)

CONTACTS

Fair Housing Education

SSHC provides training, advice, technical assistance, and presentations on fair housing and fair lending issues to the following groups:

- Municipal Staff & Officials
- Civic & Church Groups
- Realtors, Mortgage Lenders, Rental Management, Builders, Architects, Insurance Agents
- Housing Providers
- Public Service & Housing Advocacy Groups
- General Public

Fair Housing Testing

SSHC conducts fair housing investigations to monitor the market for violations :

- Real Estate & Rental Management Agents
- Homeowners Insurance Agents
- Mortgage Lenders
- Real Estate Appraisers
- Multi-Family Development Architects & Builders for Accessible Design & Construction
- Banks & GSE's for Maintenance & Marketing of Abandoned Foreclosed Properties

Pre-Purchase Counseling Russelyn Williams Ext. 109, rwilliams@southsuburban.net
Mortgage Default/Delinquency Intake Kiturah Baker Ext. 102, kbaker@southsuburban.net
Fair Housing Complaint Intake Mackenzie Dye, Ext. 108, mackenzie@southsuburban.net
Fair Housing Volunteer Tester Program Emily Newsom, Ext. 111, emily@southsuburban.net

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INLAND BANK

Join us for our FREE, complete online homebuyer education course:

SESSION ONE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

TIME: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Welcome & Introduction to SSHC Fair Housing Basics Are You Ready to Buy a Home? Managing Your Money Understanding Credit

SESSION TWO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Obtaining a Mortgage Loan Your Homebuying Team Protecting Your Investments

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE!

THINGS TO KNOW:

Participants MUST complete both online sessions and receive one-on-one housing counseling to receive a certificate of completion.

SSHC is a regional fair housing & HUD-approved counseling agency.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Russelyn Williams rwilliams@southsubruban.net (708) 957-4674 ext. 109



WEFT Community Radio is dedicated to the important part we play in the lives of our local and global neighbors. We take pride that people, local businesses and small grants fund WEFT. We are grateful for our grassroots support.

WEFT is 100% volunteer-driven. Our tech support volunteers troubleshoot and fix technology on the spot. Keeping us on the air is a priority for them. Early in 2020, a small group of volunteers planned for and installed a new broadcast antenna, after its rented location was condemned. New equipment was mounted on a nearby tower at an expense of almost \$50,000, covered by donations from listeners.

Typically, WEFT raises most of its donations through the contributions of individual listeners during March and September pledge drives, accounting for \$30,000 total for the year if all goes wellnot a lot to run a non-profit for going on 40 years. When the pandemic arrived in March, it changed life at WEFT in a variety of ways. We ultimately cancelled both of our pledge drives for the fiscal year out of concern for our volunteers and listeners but continued to inform everyone with critical information and resources through our website, public service announcements, news and interviews.

Except for a few volunteers who produced shows in the studio, a dedicated group of volunteers formed the Remote Access Team (RAT) and provided much of our programming. The RAT took responsibility for connecting with show hosts, some who produced their programs at home for later play at the station. Through their creativity, WEFT was temporarily converted to a mainly remote operation, staying on the air 24 hours a day with few on-site volunteers. WEFT continues to serve our communities, both over the airwaves and online without interruption as volunteers venture into the work of radio again.

In some ways, WEFTs relationship with the pandemic has helped us to stretch, to grow, and to become stronger than ever before. The many committees that keep the station running, meet via Zoom. At last count, 12 committees have met or scheduled to meet in September. Programming, Music, Financial Development, Social Media, the Board of Directors and others continue to problem solve and make WEFT work on the proverbial shoestring.

In times of crisis, small businesses, non-profits, local musicians, and countless others face enormous challenges. Supporting each other will help us come out as better people and stronger communities. For that, WEFT plays a vital role.

WEFTs strength is producing *Ear Art with Heart*. WEFT volunteers provide the *Heart*. WEFTies are neighbors, workmates, friends and acquaintances. They are crossing guards, musicians, electricians, artists, professors, students, Moms, Dads, retirees, pastors, lawyers, computer technicians, waiters, engineers and more. They represent the diverse array of people that WEFT serves.

Ear Art with Heart means that our volunteers unequivocally love the music they play and research the topics they discuss. They do more than just play music. They curate. They do it for themselves, for sure, because its fun to be on the radio, but mainly they do it for the community! They expose listeners to music or information never heard on commercial radio, a mission that WEFT hopes to continue for another 40 years.

Wesley Food Pantry, Urbana IL

The mission of the Wesley Food Pantry is to alleviate food insecurity by providing a week's worth of nutritious groceries. The pantry has two food distribution sites, one in Urbana on the University of Illinois campus, and the other in Champaign at Parkland Community College. Both locations are open to all residents of Champaign County. Before the pandemic, we operated on a "client-choice model" which means pantry guests can select the food items their families most need and will eat. This model respects the dignity of the shopper, giving them license to make decisions about their family's tastes. Volunteers assist clients in registering, selecting, packing, and transporting their groceries to their vehicles. In the first half of 2020, we have provided food to over 1500 families including 1000 children.

The Wesley Food Pantry has adopted a food nutrition policy with the goal of supporting shoppers to make balanced, healthy food choices. Using the federal MyPlate guidelines and Feeding America's *Foods to Encourage*, we acquire, purchase, and distribute healthy food. In some cases, the food provided in the pantry plays a key role in helping guests manage chronic conditions like diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure.

When the quarantine began, the Wesley Food Pantry made a commitment to continue to be a resource for our food insecure neighbors in whatever way we had available to us. Our operations have continued weekly at both locations throughout the pandemic. As of September 2020, we operate as a drive through pantry. Guests are still allowed to choose items from a list in the drive through lane to keep some of the choice-model benefits at our distributions.