

Emergency Food in the Time of COVID-19

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

I'm OK, you're OK. But some people are not OK.

Remember the scene in *Little Women* when Marmee asks her daughters to give away their breakfast to a poor family with nothing to eat? Hopefully, you don't need to go without breakfast to help hungry people obtain food. Here are four Philadelphia nonprofit organizations that supply emergency food and other essentials to people in need. Now, more people than ever need emergency food, and are very grateful.

1. Philabundance:

<https://www.philabundance.org/covid19/>

Philabundance is working with the City of Philadelphia to help supply emergency food for individuals and families in need. Philabundance is the Delaware Valley's largest hunger relief organization, distributing food to 90,000 people weekly in nine counties in PA and NJ. Of the people Philabundance serves, 30 percent are children and 16 percent are seniors. Others seeking food assistance include people with disabilities, single parents, veterans, students and low-income working families. *Philabundance, 3616 S. Galloway St. Philadelphia PA 19148*

2. Garces Foundation:

<https://garcesfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/97405-garces-foundation-food-pantry>

The Garces Foundation Food Pantry program

addresses the urgent need for food that unemployed immigrant restaurant workers are now facing. Working with partners in the food-service industry, the foundation provides 800 families each week with fresh, nutritious food, as well as free medical and dental care. As some clients find employment, they are replaced with others in need. *Garces Foundation, 1901 S. 9th St. Suite 205, Philadelphia PA 19148.*

3. Caring for Friends <https://caringforfriends.org/>

Caring for Friends provides food and friendship to 2,000 homebound and medically compromised people, mostly seniors, in the five counties of Greater Philadelphia. Volunteers prepare meals for 200 organizations, which distribute them to hungry people. *Caring for Friends, (formerly Aid for Friends), 12271 Townsend Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154*

4. People's Emergency Center

<https://www.pec-cares.org/>

The food relief program is currently serving 600 guests or more each week. For families, children, and youth experiencing homelessness, PEC offers affordable housing units, job training, parenting and early childhood education, financial education and planning, life skills and technology classes. *People's Emergency Center, 325 N. 39th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104*

Out & About

Expedition out of Center City...

Holiday Garden Railway at Morris Arboretum

Visit Morris Arboretum's popular Holiday Garden Railway, open through Sunday, January 3. Famous Philadelphia historic buildings, lighted trees, and other holiday lights create a magical miniature holiday village. In addition to daytime hours, there are 10 Holiday Garden Railway Nights on Saturday and Sunday nights from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, December 27. Advance tickets required; separate tickets for day and evening visits. (Closed December 24, 25 and January 1).

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is located at 100 E. Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118. For more information and to purchase tickets, please call 215-247-5777, ext. 109 or 125. https://www.morrisarboretum.org/gardens_railway.shtml



Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway is open to visitors through January 3.