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.

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

Learn more by visiting miriamskitchen.org/covid-19-response

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 to housing residents so they can shelter in place
- 6,295 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

- 7,032 personal protection equipment like hand sanitizers and masks distributed
- 2,377 screenings for COVID-19 symptoms
- 14 clients connected to PEP-V social distancing sites
- 121 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

- 23 people moved into housing
- Continuing to support 214 residents so they can safely shelter in place
- Helping guests navigate the housing system so they can have a safe place to call home
- 23 phones purchased for clients so they can access case managers and other support systems
COVID-19 Emergency Response Impact Report
Learn more by visiting miriamskitchen.org/covid-19-response

Your support has helped deliver guest-centered services

- Improved health by connecting 88 guests to mental health services and 41 guests to physical health services, as well as providing 1,294 wellness checks
- Increased income by helping 3 guests obtain their SSI/SSDI and 65 guests apply for their stimulus checks
- Provided 42 art therapy telehealth sessions and activity kits

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 DC Council increased funding over the Mayor’s proposed budget to end homelessness for a total of 212 households, fully fund homeless street outreach, and invest in critical services like Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The final vote on the Council Budget is scheduled on July 21. Learn how you can join our efforts to push for a moral DC budget by visiting www.thewayhomedc.org.
- Supported 10 individual guests and several guest-led groups to share their stories, participate in decision making, and lead advocacy efforts to end homelessness
- 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


- 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 Sietesema – At Miriam’s Kitchen, a great mission starts with a good