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

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Your support has helped tackle food insecurity

- 12,092 healthy, fresh, hot meals served in to-go containers
- 935 frozen meals delivered to residents
- 418 no-contact deliveries of groceries and essentials to residents so they can shelter in place
- 4,124 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

- 5,234 personal protection equipment like hand sanitizers and masks distributed while also screening for COVID symptoms.
- 9 clients connected to PEP-V social distancing sites
- 111 health screenings provided on-site, in partnership with Unity Health Care

Your support has helped guests have a safe, permanent home to shelter in place

- 17 people moved into housing
- Continuing to support 216 residents so they can safely shelter in place
- Helping guests navigate the housing system so they can have a safe place to call home
- 22 phones purchased for clients so they can access case managers and other support systems
COVID-19 Emergency Response Impact Report
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Your support has helped build community and connection
- Providing art therapy through self-care kits and remote one-on-one sessions
- Helping guests navigate a world that has suddenly moved online—from accessing food stamps to obtaining their stimulus checks
- Supporting our Speakers Bureau (advocates with lived experiences of homelessness) with connectivity, skill-building, and empowerment

Your support has advanced equity by making sure vulnerable populations don’t slip through the cracks
- Working with government and partners to ensure neighbors living in shelter have safe quarantine options
- Engaging in city-wide discussions on how services (such as hand washing stations and portable restrooms) can be provided to unhoused neighbors
- Centering voices with lived experiences—including in ward based house meetings and a virtual round table
- Participating in the DC Initiative on Racial Equity to discuss strategy to further racial equity legislation in DC

Thank you for supporting your neighbors and making our mission of ending chronic and veteran homelessness in DC possible!
In the news

www.miriamskitchen.org/mk-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