Support VEAP: action items

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We’re also in great need of basic household items like toilet paper, diapers and baby wipes.

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Hold a virtual fundraiser with your friends on Facebook. It’s an easy way to get other involved and is completely free for you and VEAP. Get started now: bit.ly/fundraise4veap

Support VEAP every time you place an order on Amazon. Visit smile.amazon.com and select VEAP as your charity of choice. Then bookmark the Amazon Smile page and use it every time you make an order. VEAP will get a percentage back from all your purchases!

Financial donation = biggest impact! $120 feeds a family of four for an entire month

Join us! New Gala Date

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To learn more or to save your seat for this unforgettable evening, please visit veap.org/gala2020

Grow a Giving Garden for VEAP this spring. Vegetables such as green beans, carrots, onions and zucchini are a great choice. Or you may consider growing more culturally-specific veggies such as Thai peppers, poblanos or tomatillos. For maximum freshness, we recommend delivering the produce on the day of harvest. Simply brush off the dirt and pass off to us as is. You can register your Giving Garden online: veap.org/garden

VEAP’s Rapid Response to Crisis

Helen’s Story: Mobilizing Social Services

How you can help support VEAP

Special COVID-19 edition

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From VEAP’s CEO

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It has been a time of great challenge for all of us. As the unknowns around the COVID-19 virus continue to mount, stress and fear are at all-time highs for many. For the nearly 170 families that visit VEAP’s On-site Food Pantry every day—and who can’t afford to stock up on essentials and stay home from work during a pandemic—financial and food insecurity grow by the day.

There is also so much room for hope. I have seen how Minnesotans from all walks of life are rallying together to support one another as a community. And I am confident that the compassion and generosity in our community will meet our neighbors’ increased need.

To meet current demand (and what we anticipate to be even greater demand in the coming weeks and months), VEAP has doubled the number of times a household can visit us to receive food. And to get food to those who are home-bound—seniors and people with limited mobility—our wonderful volunteer van drivers continue to make home deliveries.

To support our team’s safety and health, our food distribution system is continuously evolving. I invite you to visit our website, veap.org, for the latest updates.

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Thank you, VEAP volunteers!

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COVID-19’s impact on VEAP visitors

“The fear of the unknown is great,” says VEAP’s Social Services Director, Tara Little, of the pandemic, “100% of those calling VEAP with a housing concern have been financially impacted by the virus and the subsequent closures and reduction in hours for businesses.” At the time of this publication, 123,000 Minnesotans had applied for unemployment benefits and most of these individuals are workers in the service and retail sector. “Many existing participants with whom we were working before the pandemic had resolvable situations. But now they’re unresolvable because the job they were starting or going back to simply isn’t there anymore or isn’t offering the same hours they were anticipating.”

While we are heartened Governor Walz passed an eviction freeze bill offering temporary relief, renters know they will still be liable in the near future for past rent. And although VEAP applauds the federal stimulus check provision for Americans, it is frankly not enough for most families to make ends meet. “Our priority now is helping households who are facing a safety crisis,” says Tara, “we’re preparing for when the eviction moratorium is lifted because that is when we will see an influx in need and imminent homelessness.”

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VEAP’s Social Services team mobilizing support

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