



Caring for Friends™

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Sharing food and friendship since 1974

Pictured above from left to right: Chairman Vince Schiavone, Lisa and Angelo Pagnotti

A Note from Our Executive Chairman

On March 2020, the “COVID-19 Virus” was declared a National Emergency and since that day our volume of food distributed has increased more than twenty fold. We did it because of the support you provide our staff of 14. We did it because of the 100’s of mission driven Volunteers who gave freely of their time and we did it because of the donations from people of their time and money.

However, it isn’t over and in fact it appears to be growing even faster.

In the first two months of 2021, we distributed 1,900,000 lbs. of food through our Senior Meal Partners and 168 Food Pantries. That is an annual rate of more than 18,000,000 lbs. per year. A 50% increase over 2020!

Thanks to our team, our Volunteers and your support we have proven that we do make a difference for those less fortunate! We count on you and thousands of people like you to give us the resources we need to make it happen. We are on the street every day helping all of our Food Pantry Partners serve their communities. Please keep us in your prayers and in your minds as you think about your charitable contributions throughout 2021. The future is bright with your support!

V. Schiavone

Vince Schiavone

THANK YOU for your Help!
THANK YOU for your Support!
THANK YOU for your Donations!

In 2020 together, we have made a Difference!

In the heat of this COVID-19 pandemic, together, we distributed more than 12,800,000 lbs. of food to help those food deprived families throughout the 5-county area of Philadelphia.

The largest food distribution in our 47-years!



YOUR support made this happen! THANK YOU!

Our Mission: To provide food and friendship to seniors, kids, Veterans and families in the 5-county Philadelphia region.

Your Results: In 2020 Caring for Friends helped to secure food for over 100,000 households monthly through our food banks and our partners, and over 5,500 seniors monthly with our meal delivery program.



In-House News



A Special Tribute to a Special Family

Elisa and Angelo Pagnotti have been wonderful Volunteers and friends for many years. Sadly, Angelo passed away in December of 2020 and we will miss his sunny smile, his enthusiasm and kind words. For the last 15 years, Elisa (Lisa) and Angelo hosted a family and friends night at Caring for Friends and prepared meals for our Senior's Program.

From preparing and delivering meals to the "Help-fill-a-shelf program" the Pagnotti's are truly special Volunteers helping those less fortunate. Recently, their son Steve told his Mom that since his Dad loved Caring for Friends so much, he was going to take his place to keep up their family tradition



Special people doing special things! Thank you Pagnotti family! You are truly one of the reasons we are able to do what we do.

Staffing Updates & Changes



Jeannette Fournier: After seventeen months as our first Executive Director, Jeannette is moving on and has accepted a position as the Director of Global Development at OneSight. Jeannette sends her thanks for all you have done for Caring for Friends. She has graciously accepted a position on our Advisory Board and we welcome her continuing participation.



Larry Welsch: Larry the retired Founder & Executive Director of the Chester County Food Bank, has joined us as the Caring for Friends Interim Executive Director. Larry is helping us with fundraising, strategic planning and operational efficiencies during this extreme growth.

Other new additions to support our efforts:

- Darlene Blessi, Development Director
- Jude Husein, Marketing & Communications Director
- Ellen Shimburg, Associate Development Director
- Brittany Regan, Volunteer Coordinator

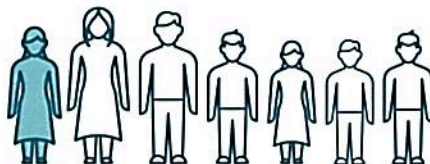
Welcome All... We look forward to your contribution!

Please Help Our Neighbors!



1 IN 3 OLDER ADULTS are malnourished when admitted to the hospital.

According to the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging



1 IN 7 CHILDREN are living in food insecure households.

According to Feeding America

Stories from the People and Organizations You Support

What's for Dinner?

Can you set aside one portion of your family's meal for a senior in your community that can't cook for themselves?

You can help! Caring for Friends needs help preparing tasty meals in our meal trays for our seniors, veterans, and disabled client friends. We also need caring notes for every meal! **Friends Prepared Meals Program is the easiest thing to do from home or place of worship.** Pick up meal trays, bags and boxes from Caring for Friends in NE Philadelphia or the freezer site in your area. Guidelines on how to cook and prep the meal trays are available on our website under "resources."

Our friends from **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Yardley, PA)** dropped off 600 senior meals and 300 soups. This impressive crew of volunteers does this every week! With over 20,000 seniors, disabled and veterans per month to nourish, we are so very grateful for this support!

THANK YOU for setting the bar high!

Food Pantry Site Visit Report Bensalem A.M.E. Church

Alyssa Kalter our program manager had the opportunity to visit with Pastor Jean Jones at Bensalem A.M.E. Church on January 20, 2021. Pastor Jones hosts a food pantry Tuesday afternoons and was eager to show-off her facility and share more about her community.



Their church sits directly across from a local public Elementary School and is one of the oldest A.M.E. churches in our region founded by freed slaves in 1818. With the help of the Bensalem Heritage Foundation it was renovated in 2015. The church is well worth a visit having been part of the underground railroad.

The neighbors served by this small and dedicated food pantry include 20 different individuals and households coming from Morrisville, Langhorne, and Bensalem. **She is part of the "Building a Better Bensalem" group working to build a more caring community with better resources and increased volunteerism.** They are a wonderful example of how well run community pantries are providing nourishment and helping people get through this difficult time.

Caring and Sharing for more than 200 Years!



One local family prepared 33 meals as part of Martin Luther King's Day of Service!

Ronald McDonald House Charities & Caring for Friends Cook for Kids for Valentine's Day

Chefs at Caring for Friends and Ronald McDonald House Charities have collaborated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to prepare meals for families with children who are extremely sick in our area.

This unique team effort decided to provide a little extra love and friendship and provided a special Valentine's dinner for the House on Thursday, February 11.



Abdellah Adul Qawi Chef / Kitchen Manager at Caring for Friends and Chef Jared Johnson at Ronald McDonald House Charities in Philadelphia.



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Thoughts from Our Partners & Volunteers

Pantry Testimonial

Karen Barnes, President / Founder of Denis' Pantry & Clothing Closet

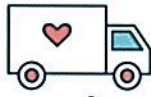
"I'm writing to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous support of Denis' Pantry & Clothing Closet and our community. Your kindness and care have helped over 2,000 seniors, adults and kids receive free healthy groceries and meals that they need to keep themselves and their loved ones healthy and well at this difficult time.

It is a blessing to have friends like you during this time of uncertainty. Without your weekly support we would not be able to meet the high demand for nourishing food for our neighbors. You are wonderful partners, who put people first, and we appreciate you!"

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Make a tax-deductible gift to help provide food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the Philadelphia region.

\$250 makes it possible to deliver food to over 2,500 seniors



\$150 fills freezers with 150 ready-to-heat senior meals



\$75 buys one week of groceries for 50 families



\$25 buys snack bags for 200 kids



Caring for Friends' Volunteer Testimonial

Barbara Bacchia, Rose Valley, PA

"I have been a volunteer for Caring for Friends for 10+ years in Delaware County. I began delivering and visiting with homebound seniors and was able to witness the improvement in their overall physical and mental health from the nutritious meals and the companionship during my visits.

Due to COVID, the need in Delaware County has exploded and Caring for Friends has stepped up to address that need. I am delivering to many families and seniors who have not had to rely on help before and now depend on our meals. The meals provide such relief and nutrition and just knowing that someone cares enough to deliver to them gives them great comfort.

Caring for Friends' impact on Delaware County during COVID cannot be understated. You have made a difference in the lives of so many families, kids and seniors. I hope Caring for Friends can continue your commitment to the residents of Delaware County. It has been a very rewarding experience for me, and I know that together we are making a difference in the lives of so many and impacting the physical and emotional health of the families we serve."

PLEASE CUT HERE AND MAIL USING THE SUPPLIED ENVELOPE

YES! I want to help provide food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the Philadelphia region.

DONATE ONLINE:
[CARINGFORFRIENDS.ORG/DONATE](https://www.caringforfriends.org/donate)

I would like to make a donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed please find my donation:

Check (payable to Caring for Friends) Visa Mastercard Discover AmEx

I would like my gift to recur: One-time Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually

My donation is in Honor or Memory of: _____

**Thank
You!**



Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ CVV/CCV _____ Expiration (month / year) _____

Signature _____

Caring for Friends®, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. A copy of our official registration and financial information is available from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.