

Message to CVBS Membership

The CVBS Board of Directors recently met for the first time since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. During our discussions, the importance of providing an update to the society membership on current operations was recognized.

Except for a brief period, the food bank has remained open through the pandemic period albeit with major changes to our operations. The soup kitchen is now open from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Coffee and snacks are served beginning at 10:00 and a packed lunch is served from 11:00 onwards. Clients are not allowed to enter the building and all of the serving is done from a table at the back of the building. The food bank is still open three days a week from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Again, clients can sign up by phone or in person but do not enter the building. Information is taken outside and the hamper is packed and passed out through a basement window. All of these measures have been instituted to allow for increased physical distancing for staff and volunteers, to maintain physical distance from clients and to attempt to encourage physical distancing among the clients. Additional cleaning and sanitizing measures are also in place and the use of protective equipment is encouraged. The results have had the desired effect as we have not had any outbreak of infections among the staff, volunteers or clientele.

I am very happy to report that there has been a very strong upswing in financial donations since the beginning of the pandemic. This has allowed us to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary to continue operating during this time as well as enabling us to provide food and financial support to other organizations also engaged in combating hunger in our local area. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters.

At the same time, however, we have seen an understandable reduction in the numbers of volunteers. We have coped due to the reduced hours of operations but will feel the pinch when and if the situation begins to return to normal. Previous volunteers that now feel more comfortable about returning to the food bank would be very welcome. Please call the office to let Jen or Nancy know of your availability and to discuss possible volunteer opportunities. Shifts may be limited at the moment but will be sure to expand as time goes on. However, we must stress that it is extremely important that no staff member or volunteer come to work at the food bank if they are feeling unwell in any way. Current direction from the health authority will continue to guide us in all respects.

In conclusion, we continue to be very thankful to all of you who choose to participate and support us in all possible ways. Your commitment is essential to our mission.

Lee Smith
for CVBS Board of Directors.

10 Jun 2020