

UPDATED 7/1/2020

We are currently requesting 150 meals

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Director Julia Orlando sought to reduce the number of residents in the county shelter in order to allow for social distancing. Little by little, shelter residents were moved into local motels. The last 20 or so were placed on April 17th. Our main concern was how the former residents and those from the community who utilize the dinner program would continue to be fed. As they are known to do, a small corps of Family Promise volunteers stepped forward and agreed to pack meals to-go, deliver them to the former shelter residents at their motel rooms, and serve the community meals off of the loading dock. I am moved by the unshakable dedication of our volunteers and reminded daily that if everyone does something, we will get through this. Most scheduled groups continue to provide the dinner and needed supplies and we are most grateful.



Our neighbors are counting on us. This is a Family Promise program and we are responsible for making sure meals are still provided each and every day. Margo will confirm with anyone who has an upcoming date to determine if you are able to provide the meal. She is also sending updates via email to the daily coordinators. We continue to work from home but feel free to call and leave a message on the office phone 201-833-8009. Renee, who is answering the calls, will forward your message to Margo and she'll get back to you. If your call is urgent, please let Renee know. You can email Margo at mheller@bergenfamilypromise.org.

Some groups are still able to cook while others are catering and supporting their local restaurants. If neither is an option we are grateful for all donations towards the purchase of the necessary meal and supplies.

We are currently asking that you provide 150 meals.

Since all residents of the shelter have been moved out into hotels **ALL** meals are currently being prepared to go. The shelter is providing takeout containers if meals cannot be prepared that way in advance. Volunteers are packing the dinners. Some are being delivered to the hotels and the rest are given out to the community at the loading dock. **The supply list has changed from the one that our regular groups are used to. Please see below and review carefully. Margo will send again via email and will update as necessary.**

What we want for dinner every night:

Meat

Starch

Vegetable

Green salad (dressing on the side)

Rolls or bread but rolls fit better in the to-go containers

Wrapped desserts (can be home-made, but must be wrapped in foil or in plastic bags). **This is important since there is no time to wrap desserts.**

Additional supplies:

Butter--individual pats

Salad dressing

Cases of water bottles

Utensils (plastic forks, spoons, and knives, wrapped in a napkin)

Some other changes and information:

- Food needs to be delivered at **3:15 pm**.
- Please be sure to send enough food. For some this is the only meal of the day.
- It is important that Margo know what you are bringing and how the food is coming, packaged or not, so we know how many volunteers to schedule each night.
- If it will be **prepacked** into individual containers please let Margo know that in advance. This is not required but helpful.
- Please send the **menu** in advance as this is helpful for the volunteers on site.
- If you plan to send volunteers to help we must know that in advance to adjust our **volunteer schedule**. The schedule is put together week at a time. We need enough (but not too many) people to get the job done keeping a safe distance. Everyone must wear a mask and gloves. During this time, volunteers must be at least 18 years old.
- Desserts **MUST** be individually wrapped or bagged – ready to go.

Thank you again for your dedication and support during these challenging times. It is only because of you that we are able to continue this vital program. Stay safe and be well.