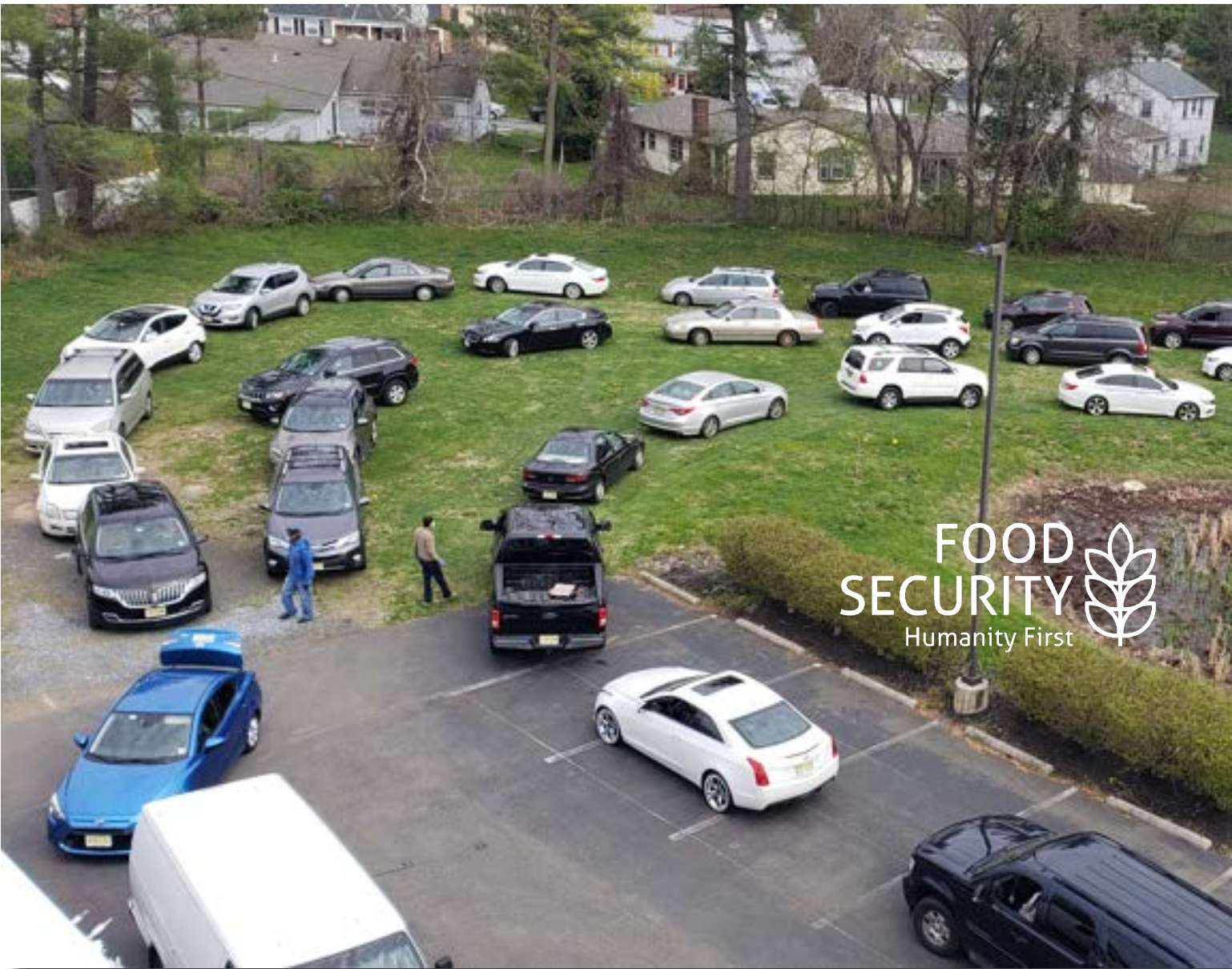


2020

THE HUMANITARIAN



FOOD
SECURITY 
Humanity First

COVID-19 STORIES

usa.humanityfirst.org



MEET THE TEAM

Operational Reporting Team

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2021

01

MUNUM NAEEM

DEC 2020

“So much work was done to serve humanity and it is all because of your support, hard work, and dedication.”

Dear Humanity First USA Family,

I want to begin by wishing all of our donors and volunteers Happy Holiday followed by a very Happy New Year.

This year has been a testing year for all of us and we hope and pray that the new year brings an end to this pandemic and a greater rise in our service to humanity.

2020 began with Humanity First USA wanting to start new projects such as building more schools under our Knowledge for Life Program, digging more water wells to provide safe, clean drinking water, performing a greater number of surgeries in various countries under our Gift of Sight Program, but many things had to be put on hold due to the pandemic.

What rose from this was our HFweCare initiative that was our COVID-19 response. We have opened food pantries across our nation feeding over 1.7 million meals and through our sister HF organizations over 10 million meals across the globe. Also, in the USA we started the Make-a-Mask initiative with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women’s Auxiliary to provide hand sewn masks to people around the country. We worked to provide PPE to frontline workers. We also launched The Education Project to provide free tutoring for underserved children from K-12. So much work was done to serve humanity and it is all because of your support, hard work, and dedication.

We cannot forget the donors in this process who provide the fuel to the fire to serve! Throughout the year with Fast to Feed, 20 for 20 and The Global Webithon everyone gave with their heart and soul. So, thank you for giving and supporting and stay tuned to frequent information on how your donation has helped Serve Mankind in 2021.

We hope and pray you will always support us through your donations and service.

With this Newsletter we are bringing you all the COVID-19 stories on Food Pantries we have collected in 2020. We hope you will be able to feel and see the dedication of our volunteers and the pain and need of our beneficiaries.

Munum Naeem
President & Executive Director
Humanity First USA



We cannot forget the donors in this process who provide the fuel to the fire to serve!

SOUTH VIRGINIA

APRIL | 2020

BY: RABIA HAYEE

It has not been their first but fourth consecutive week of serving food in Manassas. The food was delivered during the week. Two volunteers helped with the offloading and storage of food during the week. Saturday, April 18th was the day when preparation of distribution started. Packaging of the food was done and family bags were made in which food items were placed as per basic needs of the family.

This event was made successful by the diligent hard work of 15 volunteers who contributed a total of 57.5 hours from off-loading and packaging to distribution.



“THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY AND THOSE IN NEED.”

- SHERYL BASS



BY: SOUTH VIRGINIA AMBASSADOR, SHEHLA AHMAD

We tried to take care of some special requests such as food for elderly, diabetic, infant’s cereal and formula. The South Virginia team finalized the arrangements in the morning and food distribution started at noon. 104 orders were placed out of which 87 orders were picked in one and a half hour.

After on-site distribution at Masroor Mosque, 19 home deliveries were made to benefit people who could not come to pick the food.

People who benefited from the event showed immense gratitude and well-wishes for the Humanity first initiative.

“Thank you for supporting our community and those in need.” (Sheryl Bass)

“God Bless you for such a beautiful effort, thousand thanks for your help for my children, they are the primary thing in my life.” (Erika Marcela)

02

TOLEDO APRIL 2020

“Sixteen volunteers of the Humanity First Student Organization then proceeded to take “one small step for man, one giant step for mankind.”

BY: SAFEER BHATTI, PH.D.

It began with a phone call. Musa Lughmani did not know how much that phone call was going to change his life and the lives of others. He had called the mayor of Toledo to introduce him to Humanity First and the mayor in turn introduced him to the organization United Way. Sixteen volunteers of the Humanity First Student Organization then proceeded to take “one small step for man, one giant step for mankind.” This small group realized that what unites us is far greater than what divides us, and they set out to show their unwavering support for the city’s needy. Some began offering online tutoring classes while others joined United Way.

Every week Humanity First Toledo sends two volunteers to help pack two hundred and twenty meals consisting of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fruit cups, chocolate milk, and gummy bears. Families begin arriving at 10:50 am and the volunteers stay until 1:30 serving them. Approximately two hundred and ten people are served in this way.

One day, Lughmani had an interesting encounter. A family of eight, seven kids and their parents



6 Humanity First / Covid Response

walked to the food pantry site and asked for a meal. The father had recently lost his job due to Covid-19 and was unable to find work. The mother too was unable to find work. The children were too young to work and the whole family was starving. With no vehicle, they had walked to the food pantry in hopes of finding some food. Lughmani immediately went over and asked them how he could help and fulfilled their needs. The family told him that this was the best meal they had had all week. A simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich had filled their hearts with gratitude for Humanity First. Another family told him now the town is so poor that the schools do not even have WIFI and community members don’t have internet so the students have not been receiving an education because the school district cannot afford it.

Lughmani's contribution to humanity does not stop there. He prepared fifty hygiene packs consisting of soap, hand sanitizer, and other hygiene products and donated them to a local pulmonary clinic in Toledo. The doctors at the clinic were very grateful for this service by Humanity First.

In Toledo Ohio, Musa Lughmani made one phone call. One phone call helped fill the stomachs of many people in his town. Sometimes all it takes is one phone call. So, who are you calling?

Manzoor Lughmani Making Masks for the Make-a- Mask Campaign



BY: MUSA LUGHMANI

A mother of 5 drove into our meal distribution site, she asked for 5 meal packs for her kids. We had six meals left for the day and we only had a minute left before distribution closed. We decided to make her day and handed her the sixth meal. She smiled and thanked us immensely. I handed her a slip with the link to The Education Project, where her kids could get free online tutoring. It happened all at once, she had gotten enough food for the weekend and a window of hope for her children who were struggling in school. She turned around with the slip in hand and told her son, "You really need this!" This is the story of so many parents today as we distributed meals with United Way's Feed Toledo Kids program, and it was heartwarming to see that impact. 219 meals were given out today alone, and Humanity First Toledo volunteers plan to continue this great work through the summer as well.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



Manzoor Lughmani, an 84-year-old HF volunteer in Toledo OH, locked in quarantine for weeks, decided to step up and make an impact in her community. Understanding the need for PPE in the local sleep disorders center in Sylvania, she began to sew masks. Every day, committing hours of her time, she is making masks to fulfill the needs of the local healthcare facility. Join Manzoor in serving the community and get involved with HF University of Toledo!



TOLEDO MAY 2020

BY: SAFEER BHATTI, PH.D.

Humanity First Toledo has produced many tales of servitude. Whether servitude was exemplified by their compassion for fellow human beings or their willingness to cross all boundaries simply to ensure that the people of Toledo have food at night, this servitude is unmatched in any organization in Toledo, Ohio.

Musa Lughmani leads a pack of volunteers whose primary directive is the service of mankind. Without distinction to race, class, creed or gender, this team of young professionals carry the streets of Toledo, Ohio with their enlightening smiles and their brisk forms of energy. It is no wonder that the public endures a sense of respect for those who have Humanity First sewn on their jacket. Humanity First has given respect and has earned back respect from its people.

The work does not stop at masks or the food pantry. Musa Lughmani has partnered with Humanity First Student Organization and opened the Education Project in Toledo. This project has employed 15 volunteer tutors who tutor students who do not have the availability to see their teacher's afterschool for additional assistance due to COVID-19. The Toledo Tutors have spent 35 hours in the past week alone helping students while these tutors have final exams of their own. In one instance, Lughmani related that his knowledge of Spanish helped him communicate to a parent of a student who was struggling in mathematics. Now, the student is doing much better through Musa's "coming down to the basics" training mechanism. It is no wonder that this Tale of Toledo never stops.

ATLANTA

MAY 2020

As we move into unprecedented times, families are having to make tough choices and face great physical and economic hardships. Humanity First USA understands the impact of this virus is greatest on the most vulnerable in our society even though communities are trying to reduce the impact of this virus. However, not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to take care of themselves. In these tough times, Humanity First USA's food pantry in Georgia has continued helping its community.



In March, the pantry remotely supported two of its projects.

01

FAMILY FIRST PROJECT

For 130 years, Families First has been providing adoption services, parenting classes, and shelter homes for divorced homeless mothers. During this pandemic, Humanity First has taken the initiative to help Family First by providing gift cards to 30 adopted families. With these gift cards, parents are now able to provide food for their families and other necessities for their babies.

02

RAKSHA PROJECT

Humanity First has also distributed grocery gift cards to Raksha which is a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Raksha thanked Humanity First for its collaboration by saying, "Thank you for all the ways Humanity First collaborates with Raksha. Your donations from the previous months helped us support our clients before the shutdowns and when they could not get groceries due to shortages. The partnership has been a true blessing to our organization and the community members we serve." They added, "Especially right now with so much uncertainty around coronavirus, our clients' needs have increased, and we have been able to assist them with our food pantry. We could not have done this without your help! You truly made a difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!"

Humanity First is planning to send these gift cards again to Family First and Raksha families. Humanity First GA will continue to monitor the situation and create new initiatives to help the people in the local community and support public health agencies to prepare for this crisis.



BY: RABIA HAYEE

Humanity First had 70 bags this week for distribution, out of those 54 bags were delivered whereas 16 bags were served to the walk-ins. The generous donation consisted of 870 food items weighing 919 lbs. This activity was made possible by the participation of 16 volunteers who spent 37.5 man hours from their precious time.

“This week the humanity first team was also very lucky to have a very pleasant weather outside, with moderate temperature, neither cold nor hot, a beautiful day perfect for an outdoor activity”, said Zeeshan Ahmed, team leader, Humanity First, Philadelphia.

Everyone who benefited from the efforts of humanity first team expressed their emotions of humility, delight and gratefulness. People were thankful and appreciated the team for taking care of the neighborhoods.

It took two days of preparation in which volunteers came and procured food, prepared the distribution bags, ran awareness campaign on Friday and Saturday. 20 online orders were already placed before the day of the event. This week our missionary in-charge also contributed to the initiative by going door-to-door the day before the event. He met people personally and wrote 15 orders on their behalf.



PHILADELPHIA

MAY 2020

“On the day of the event, it was raining but despite the bad weather we had so many walk-ins that almost 50 bags were gone in no time.” said Beenish Ahmad Ambassador Humanity Philadelphia.

This week we had many new walk-ins who registered themselves and signed up for the next week. One special moment of the event was when Philadelphia police officer also came by and volunteered with Humanity First by delivering food. This event was also recorded by Fox News under the headline “Coronavirus Philadelphia; young people in North Philly serve neighbors with free grocery.” They appreciated the efforts of volunteers of Humanity First with the youth of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

“Members say that the service is not only their civic duty, but also part of their faith.”
(Fox News)

The people who came to receive the food included both men and women. Two ladies who came to pick up the food said that “This is a really kind act of Humanity First taking orders from people under such circumstances since they were sitting at home or placing orders and all that”

03

PHILADELPHIA

MAY | 2020

BY: RABIA HAYEE

The dedicated efforts of 8 volunteers helped the team in preparation and collection of 6200 lbs. of food items in 24 hours to serve more than 80 families.

Talking about with his experience of this event, Mr. Zeeshan Ahmad described, “We packed 139 bags in total, 74 bags for today and 65 for next week. Out of those 74 bags, 50 got delivered and 24 bags were for the walk-ins. 15 volunteers participated on the day of the event, spending 52.5-man hours to pack and deliver these 74 bags carrying 968 food items weighing 756 lbs. Today 907 meals were served in total.”

When asked about the most special moment during this event, Mr. Zeeshan Ahmad happily shared that volunteers of Humanity First organization were highly excited and motivated after receiving Humanity First vests which made them look very nice and formal.

Furthermore, when asked about the response of people who benefited Mr. Zeeshan added “People who benefited from Humanity First are greatly humbled, delighted, and thankful to Humanity First for taking care of the neighborhood”.

This week Humanity First received a grant of \$14,100 from Montgomery County for Humanity First food pantry and Bait-ur-Rehman Mosque. The efforts of Mr. Ali Chaudhry from Maryland Chapter are highly appreciated as he put his precious efforts to find the grant and get it finally

BY: NEELOFER ABDULLAH

AS the Bai'at-ul-Aafiyat Mosque remained closed volunteers were still seen on the premises on Sunday May 10th, serving locals with bags of food and pantry items.

As the popularity of these efforts increased, the management of the organization introduced new measures to help as many people as possible such as phone orders and door to door service.

Collaborations with neighboring chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community helped increase the volunteer network as well as stock of donated items. A total of about 1600 lbs. of food was donated this week and 1500 meals served.

Dedicated volunteers put in more than 70 hours of their time to help make this event a success and according to the team leaders they only hope to be able to continue serving humanity.

Humanity First joined Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association's initiative "Feed the Homeless" to provide pantry staples to as many citizens as possible during this month. An additional 132 meals were served under this campaign.



#Humanity First volunteers were again seen at the Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque in the heart of Philadelphia distributing household supplies and Pantry items to the local residents. It was fourth in a series of events organized by Humanity First in Philadelphia.

Volunteers gathered pantry and food items during the week from places like Restaurant Depot and Walmart.

Although the mosque is closed for regular gatherings because of the pandemic, volunteers young and old, gathered to help pack and distribute supplies.

A total of about 1600 lbs. of food items such as pasta, rice, fresh fruits, and vegetables were donated to neighbors and friends in a drive through setup.

Mr. Zeeshan Ahmad, Ambassador Humanity First Philadelphia Chapter and team leader for the Covid-19 Relief efforts said,

"We are learning and evolving every week. Our events are becoming more efficient and we are able to manage time and volunteers better. It's a great experience."

"The appreciation we receive makes our day".

Humanity First International stands among organizations foremost in serving communities in crisis situations. Taking care of the rights of mankind is fundamental to its core values.

"We are learning and evolving every week. Our events are becoming more efficient and we are able to manage time and volunteers better. It's a great experience. The appreciation we receive makes our day".

04

CHICAGO 2020

BY: SAFEER BHATTI, PH.D.

An undocumented sentiment: a sentiment worthy of no worldly achievement, a triumph neither born or begotten, a reputation neither aware nor alert: a humanitarian organization that serves one purpose, Humanity First.

Humanity First Chicago could not ignore the call to help another two hundred families by serving over 3000 pounds of food. These 109 hot meal deliveries brought over 3000 meals to senior citizens, transitional housing residents, and tent city affiliates. “Can I have another meal?” was their response to the needs fulfilled by Humanity First Chicago.

A whole weekend of cherished activities from April 25-26th led Humanity First to help through undocumented sentiments the very people in need: our undocumented immigrants. These families connected through by LVAHO and the National Indigenous Council partnered with Humanity First partners and delivered over 102 groceries, meals and personal hygiene products to the people. “Everyone was so happy,” remarked HF Chicago Team Lead Aaron Garel, whose commitment and dedication to these food drives, has impacted his undocumented sentiments to become documented by Illinois Representative Scott Jewitt. In perspective, all undocumented sentiments do then become noticed.

“Can
I have
another
meal?”



AARON HAROON GAREL

“I love this Humanity First Work.” is not a conjunction or my infatuation, it is my life. Ever since the age of seven, I remember going to the local food pantry, packing up the food, loading the food in the cars and distributing food to all families in the neighborhood. My grandma, Block Club President for over 30 years, taught me, “Whenever people offer you money, never take it! Always remember that your blessings come from God.”

I remember an incident with Mr. Owens. Mr. Owens was blind and could not take down his trash. So, I was asked to go help Mr. Owens and all the elderly people in the neighborhood and run errands for them. My grandma and I would run around all day helping the elderly and the poor. During our civic engagement meetings, I was the torchbearer to distribute flyers of the meeting to all of the homes, some I had to put tape on their doors.

Another incident, I remember my grandma would gather my friends and I to clean up the community. In return, we would receive big bags of candy as our reward. The Block Club did not have a budget. Sometimes, her funds came from the community members or various

“I love this
Humanity First
Work”



politicians, but my grandma was self-sufficient. She used her own personal funds to supply the Block Club Budget to help the poor and elderly with food. She would play the drums at night as a musician raising money for the Block Club.

Not understanding the sentiments at church, she believed she did everything in the name of God, and our church going days were sitting in front of a television and watching church. But, even at such a young age, my grandma instilled the fear of God in my heart. She taught me never to lie or steal because the Angel Gabriel would burn a hole in my hand the size of a quarter.

Sometime ago, I converted to Islam and she was so happy how Islam transformed my life.

Two years ago, my grandma passed away, and right before she passed, I use to go to her house and clean up every day and run errands for her and tell her what was going on in the community.

One thing I have learned from doing this work is that I can teach other organizations and churches that starting programs and telling them that social service is not a job, it is a lifestyle.

I work from sunrise to sunset every day. I get in my numbers for reporting purposes. Sometime ago, I remember leading the kitchen for the prison system for the inmates. I was feeding over 2500 inmates a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I know there are shortcomings and things will not according to plan, but everyone has done a great job in this month of Ramadhan.

I wish everyone could see how happy tent city people were when we brought them their food. They were cheering and were so relieved as if it did become our primary duty in life. I hope you will get inspired from my story.



CHICAGO APRIL

“It was an amazing experience to see our youth stepping up to be our leaders!”



Twelve.

A cardinal number that made up twelve people who made a difference showing leadership, courage, and determination to spread a message of Humanity.

These twelve volunteers organized five different events on a Saturday to help those in need. Said Aaron Garel, "It was an amazing experience to see our youth stepping up to be our leaders!" Humanity First Chicago went to the AMC Center and cooked restaurant quality food for a Women's Shelter, for a Transitional Shelter, Tent City for the Homeless, and another Homeless shelter. Kabobs, Salad, Rice became the food that occupied the hungry stomachs of Chicago's Poor.

In this current COVID-19 crisis, Chicago became deprived of healthy food. HF Chicago has become well-known in their provisions for healthy food for those in need. After a long day of serving food to the homeless, these twelve volunteers did not stop. In fact, they stepped outside the AMC Center and provided care packages to the poor. They partnered with Rapper Vic Mensa's group "Save Money, Save Life" and another group called "Change" who helped provide masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. These nine people have partnered with Humanity First Chicago to make a difference and came out at past events. It took these twelve people to make an impact that allowed WGN News to showcase their efforts. Will you be part of the twelve?

WILLINGBORO



BY: MUNASSAR ALAM

Willingboro: a 17th century town that boasts a reputation of friendliness and candor, hosts its share of a community of believers whose faith destines them to follow the salvation of peace. Peace and tranquility identify a community in Willingboro whose inhabitants have perpetuated a love for mankind and a strife for Humanity First. This very organization, whose endowments are through hard work and perseverance, has impacted the community of merely 31,000 people. The determination of one community has created a state-run pantry that now has become a federally funded and supported program in the United States of America: Humanity First Willingboro.

The humble origins of the Willingboro food pantry date back to about 10 years and a few key pioneers. The idea was initially proposed by Suleman Skeikh and his wife, Surraiya Suleman, and then forwarded to Waqas Asghar. Bilal Malik, Sharaz Sayed, and Tahir and Jameela Sayed were notable volunteers as well. Osman Kwabena was crucial too, as it was him who visited the food bank of South Jersey to register the food pantry. After fulfilling their basic requirements, they came to the mosque to offer basic training and conduct inspections before registering the new pantry under their food bank, thereby getting the pantry improved under the state level.

After running successfully for 6-7 months, the Willingboro food pantry was promoted to the federal program. With the federal program, the cost of the goods would be much cheaper, some being free, and the food would be immediately delivered to the mosque. The pantry now had approval for perishable food as well, such as fruits and vegetables.

6-7 years ago, Humanity First took over the pantry and purchased a fridge, freezer, racks, and more supplies. Through their investment, the pantry received increased popularity

MAY

05



and success. Currently, the pantry is run by Willingboro team lead Munawar Saqib. That is all well and good, but you might ask, how do you run a successful food pantry? According to Waqas Asghar, “The procedure is as follows: We place the order online 2 weeks before the pantry. The Wednesday before the pantry the delivery comes, this time (April 18th) we had 5000 pounds of food. Volunteers then come to gather everything, put it inside the mosque, and arrange the food in freezers, racks, etc. They manage the inventory as well. This time, because of the extra demand, we requested additional items, which were approved but we had to pick up the extra 2700 pounds ourselves. Friday afternoon we started packaging. There were 25 volunteers who put 3 hours each to prepare 100 packs of canned fruits, vegetables, etc. We gave 5 bags to each family- one with eggs, one with fruits and vegetables, one with toilet paper and other supplies, one with rice and more food, and the last included frozen butter, cheese, and chicken.

We prepared half of it Friday evening and the frozen food we started at 9am Saturday. 32 volunteers came Saturday. We started distribution at 11:00 am, but people started lining up at 9:00 am and 9:30 am, and by 11:00 am there were about 60 cars. We continued distribution until 3:00 pm. We gave food to 90 families, amounting to almost 7000 pounds of food. To wrap up for the day, we broke all the boxes and loaded them onto a truck for recycling and cleaned the premises. Additionally, the Sayed family provided lunch to all the volunteers.”

In the current pandemic, fear of being infected is on everyone’s mind. To ensure safety for both volunteers and recipients, the pantry implemented additional precautions in accordance with social distancing laws. Along with wearing gloves and masks and keeping proper distance, volunteers were also instructed to directly deliver the food to the cars rather than interacting with the food recipients. However, these obstacles did not slow down the work of the pantry- rather, to serve as many as they can during these tough times, Humanity First Willingboro decided to hold more distributions in addition to their monthly one. Along these lines, on April 21st Humanity First Willingboro had another food pantry where they distributed 19,000 pounds of food. In total, from March 21st to April 21st, during the span of one month, they had 5 food pantries and served over 50,000 pounds of food.

NORTH JERSEY JUNE

BY: MUNASSAR ALAM

On June 13th, HF North Jersey was able to hold a food distribution on the streets of Linden where they distributed 110 hot meals, 50 boxes of nonperishables, and another 50 sandwiches collaboration with a local church and Starbucks. Two days later, the team was able to distribute food to the two homeless shelters in Hackensack and Paterson. Through the work of a mere 4 volunteers totaling in 20 hours of service, they were able to prepare 200 bags with tuna salad sandwiches, water, a banana, and a bag of chips. When asked about the food choices, Hamid Mahmood replied, “We didn’t want to do something too simple like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches but rather something better, a more complete meal that we would be inclined to consume ourselves. Especially for those who don’t have the monetary capacity to get a good meal, we were able to provide one for them.”

On the 15th the team was also able to distribute some bags on the street to the homeless population of Paterson, New Jersey






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CENTRAL JERSEY

Humanity First Central Jersey, during these difficult times, is doing their part to serve humanity. They have partnered with another non-profit, Angels for Action, and have been regularly distributing food to the citizens of Plainfield for the past month and a half. I had the opportunity to speak with Belal Khalid, the team lead for HF

Can you give a little background about you and your team?

In Central Jersey, we have done a lot of different things. We have organized blood drives, held backpack distributions for underprivileged students, taught financial literacy, and done more. We have also worked in disaster relief, especially during Hurricane Sandy. We are very active here, and as far as myself, I usually lead these efforts.

Can you describe your food distribution on April 24th? How much food did you give, to whom, and how many families did you serve?

About a month and a half ago, we started cooperating with a local nonprofit organization, Angels for Action, to distribute food in the town of Plainfield. We started by distributing 25 hot meals for 25 families. The following week we had food for 35 families, and we've been doing it every Thursday since then. Each family has about 3-4 people, so in total we usually serve over 100 people each week. Every week since then, we have served at least 35 families. This week we started to do distributions twice a week, on both Wednesday and Thursday. This Wednesday we were able to serve 100 families, and Thursday we did the same for 35 families.

Was there a reason why you decided to help the residents of Plainfield?

Plainfield is one of the most underprivileged towns in our area. It is a home to many low-income families, including African Americans and Hispanics. Many people have lost their jobs, and we thought it would best to serve them as many are truly in need of support.

Why did you choose to partner with Angels for Action, and how was your experience conducting a joint food distribution?

Angels for Action is a nonprofit based in Plainfield. We didn't have any distribution center there, and they had a nice place in the heart of the city. They also know the township very well, and in this way, they helped us serve the citizens of Plainfield. We have found Carmen Salavarrieta, who leads their work, to be very appreciative of us. We were quick to establish good relations with them and have been helping them out in other ways as well. For example, a while ago we donated 500 face masks to them, as many families come for food but don't have the necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). We also gave them clothes last week and some other non-perishable and perishable to expand our partnership with them.

How many people volunteered and what jobs did they take on?

I think it's important to mention that the food we are getting is prepared at two restaurants. Ahmad Halal Meat supplies the food for Wednesday, and Thursday's amount comes from Lal Hut. Both make the food for us and provide it at discounted prices. Some volunteer at the restaurants to help make the food. Usually, we have about three people deliver from the restaurants to the Plainfield distribution center, and they help Carmen set up as well. Then, of course, we help Angels for Action in distributing the food to the families. These are hot meals. We give rice, chicken or vegetable rice, with lentil, chicken or vegetable soup—it's very simple food. We can easily prepare it at low cost, and it can be given to many. We have received feedback as well, and we see that most, if not all, are very fond of our food.

06



ZION

07

BY: SAFEER BHATTI, PH.D.

A Family Event: a quintessential element that involves the participation of like-minded relatives who partake in the growth of conversation and relationship. This family affair is often reserved for those who pay heed to the importance of love and kindness and celebrate the pleasure of a reunion with these members. May 30th, 2020 was a day in which Junayd Latif and nine of his friends joined together with 18 community service members and police officers to make a difference not for their immediate family, but their extended family. This extended family lined up in several cars waiting to see their Humanity First loved ones who would distribute 350 pounds of meat to feed 210 families. These loved ones of Zion with the partnership of Northern Illinois Food Pantry handed out 10,000 pounds of food to these same 210 families. No family was turned away because of race, religion, creed or gender. As Latif said, “it was a family event. We see them as an extension of ourselves because we are all family.”

The institution of family does not cease at one event, rather Junayd and his team went to two senior nursing homes and three low-income housing projects and told them that they too are family. They provided them with food to fill their empty stomachs. Words of appreciation were bestowed upon this extended family. A Humanity First family that sticks together through their extensive call list providing masks to each other and taking off the uniform and the badge that bear their identity because the identity of Humanity First to them was more important.

In light of the recent Minneapolis protests, Humanity First Zion showed that they are a “multi-cultural group that sees each other as a community,” as Junayd Latif continued to emulate. He represents every fold of Humanity First: in the service of mankind. To him and all of Humanity First Zion, “it’s nice to have family.”

“It was a family event. We see them as an extension of ourselves because we are all family.”

MIAMI

BY: SAFEER BHATTI, PH.D.

Streets: a location, an intersection, a glimpse of life is described to occupy roads of traffic, cars of appearance, and people from all walks of life. Streets in America are paved to represent the characters of humanity. As humanitarians, we hold thee to purpose of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. With these fundamental principles in mind, we swear fealty to our nation of hope and to our country of service. Serve is what we must as members of the only humanitarian organization that makes humanity always their number one priority: Humanity First.

The end of the month was not just another day; it was a special day. As the volunteers quickly arrived at the Food Pantry site in Hallandale Beach, cars lined up from the streets. HF Miami Ambassador Farooq Ahmad and his team assembled various soup cans, cereal bars, noodles, rice, mashed potatoes and stuffed them into bags. Muntansir Ahmad, an FIU student, “There is going to be a lot of demand. We need a lot of food.” As the bags were quickly assembled and placed outside on a table waiting for the cars to line up, Abdullah Shah quickly opened the gates and sighed, “Open Sesame.” As the gates were propped open, cars began to slowly pull in and get loaded with two bags of food each.

Then, everything stopped. There was no more commotion. The bags had stopped being filled. Now, it was a time to be patient and wait. I decided that we could no longer wait and grabbed Muntansir Ahmad and went to the street holding signs that read: “Free Food” and “Food Pantry this way.” Cars stopped in front of us and turned into the food pantry site. Our voices of free food echoed throughout the residents and flocked to our site. Never in the history of this pantry were we able to give out 40 bags of food. This food carried 200 pounds of weight and fed 120 meals that day. A surprising day indeed just from hitting the streets. Salman Raja counted 21 cars and six walk-ins. As our last car rolled in at 1pm, we knew our day in the streets served its purpose. Cars continued to come and like Muntansir who said earlier, “We needed more food.” Usama Chaudhry told our last car for the day, “Our food pantry drives are on the last Sunday of the month.” as he loaded a case of water and bags of rice into her car. The lady said, “I am grateful to what I receive because I get no aid from anyone except from you.”

For us, Humanity First volunteers, the streets emulated the palpitation of our voices and the beats of our heart. Appreciation of generosity vindicated the HF signs across our caps. My six-year-old daughter Aroosha Bhatti also came to the street holding a sign that read “Free Food” and waved her best to persuade cars to come into our site and they did. For some, a street is where traffic exists. For others, a street is where humanity flourishes.



08 APRIL-MAY MIAMI

A CITY IN NEED, A VOLUNTEER HEEDING THE CALL

BY: RABEA CHAUDHRY

COVID-19 has exposed the inadequacy and inefficiency of the healthcare system with the lack of safety equipment available. Healthcare workers across the nation have been forced to reuse their masks multiple days in a row. Grocery store employees, who are at high risk of contracting the virus, have had limited access to masks. This shortage has compelled cities to ask for donations of this life-saving gear from local citizens, many cities across South Florida among them.

“It was while I was driving when I noticed a flyer outside Memorial Hospital West asking for donations of fabric masks,” said Ismat Raja, an avid Humanity First volunteer. Since then, Humanity First Miami Chapter has been well engaged in helping the community with making and donating not only face masks but also hair caps.

However, the project—which has so far amounted to the donation of over 400 masks and more than 200 surgical hats to local hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters, grocery stores, and fire stations—faced challenges in the beginning

Upon her decision to help in any way she could, Mrs. Raja went to fabric stores to see if she could find the appropriate material for homemade masks.

No supplies were available so, she had to get creative. In my interview with her on how she went about making homemade equipment, she told me, “I gathered any materials that could be useful from my home. I cut my cotton scarves into several different pieces to make masks of various sizes. I did not have elastic, so some people donated any supplies they had in their homes to me. My husband also helped with the cutting and ironing of the fabric.”

The reason why homemade masks are especially beneficial is that many people, those on the frontlines of this pandemic included, are allergic to the material of certain face masks. Mrs. Raja used semi-permeable, non-woven fabric that is both breathable and adjustable. The use of Melt blown cloth (pure cotton) assures that all of the masks have a filter, no perfumes, and are washable.



The response from the beneficiaries was tremendous. The Director of Nursing from Memorial Hospital West was one of many who sent their appreciation to Humanity First and Ismat Raja: "Our nurses absolutely LOVED the masks and are wearing them proudly. As a matter of fact, they are all gone, and more nurses and physicians are coming to ask for more." Employees at Publix, a local grocery store, were especially grateful for the donations of the cotton masks as many of them were suffering from allergic reactions to the other types of masks.

Because of the evident need for donations like these, Humanity First has now called for a national collaboration with Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Auxiliary U.S.A to launch the "Make-A-Mask" Campaign.

BY: FATIMA MINHAS

On May 27th, Humanity First Miami volunteers packed and distributed food to those in need. Ismat Raja, the Miami ambassador of Humanity First, cooked rice, meatballs, and beans. The food was then packed into 150 boxes by multiple volunteers.

The volunteers then put the boxes into cars and brought them to the Hallandale Beach Austin Hepburn Center, where they distributed the boxes to people who drove by.

Ismat Raja said, "It was fulfilling to help those in need, especially during an uncertain time like this. It's important that we help each other as best as we can."

She went on to say, "We take things like food for granted every day. It's important to realize that people aren't as fortunate as we are."



*NURSES AT MEMORIAL WEST SENDING THEIR SINCEREST THANK YOU
WHILE WEARING SOME OF THE 400 DONATED MASKS AND CAPS.*

ORLANDO MAY



BY: RABEA CHAUDHRY

Partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and initiatives like Word on the Street and Meals on Wheels have taken flight in Orlando. Here is a rundown of all that Humanity First Orlando Chapter has achieved since COVID-19.

The catastrophic pandemic that is COVID-19 has exacerbated living standards, especially for the vulnerable population of our community. Orlando's Humanity First team has been one of many cities across the country that have been prompt in their activities to help alleviate the hardship intensified by COVID-19.

It began in late March when the Orlando team partnered with a local JOANN Fabric store to sew masks and protective gowns. They then donated all of them to local hospitals and clinics facing shortages of these life-saving supplies. However, serving humanity did not simply stop there.

Humanity First Orlando has blossomed tremendously after its first service event, Word on the Street, on March 22nd. Just on that day alone, volunteers cooked and packed over 100 boxes of food that were picked up by the local homeless population at a retail store's parking lot. With this initiative, Humanity First Orlando has a goal to cook and package fresh meals for the homeless every Sunday.

Just two days later, on March 24th, the team delivered meals to seniors with Meals on Wheels. The Orlando volunteers plan to continue delivering meals to seniors every Tuesday. The food packs include grilled chicken, beans, mashed potatoes, bread, milk, and cereal.

With Word on the Street, Humanity First Orlando also collects, organizes, and donates care packages to those in need. On March 29th, the team made more than 30 care packages and cooked and packaged food for over 100 homeless families. On April 6th, under this scheme, volunteers served 100 plus meals to the homeless. Then on April 19th, the team packaged more than 70 boxes for the homeless.

The response from the beneficiaries was wonderful. Joyce, a Word on the Street representative, told the Humanity First team, "I just love you and your heart for serving God's less fortunate children." However, it was not just the community that benefited from the humble work. Each Humanity First volunteer also gained insight from giving back.

Roohul Amin Rehman—Orlando AMWA President and Coordinator for Meals on Wheels and Word on the Street—said that "Even the COVID-19 quarantine did not stop us or the other volunteers of leaving the homeless without food. While taking our precautions, meals have continued to be served every Sunday."

Rabeea Summer and Dania Binte Rehman have been volunteering with Humanity First for years and both understood the unique circumstances COVID-19 has put us in. Rabeea says, "Although I have spent the last 2 years at UCF [University Central Florida] in organizing services with HFSO, getting involved in the community during quarantine has taught me the true definition of community and sacrifice for the sake of serving mankind. Us students have learned to grow and redefine our leadership values and service goals. Although we may be away from campus, our hearts have been connected through these services."

Salma Bouchibti, a member of the Humanity First Student Organization (HFSO) at the University Central Florida, comments that, "This pandemic has caused an unexpected shift in our daily routines. With families staying home, it has forced us to pause from rushing through our personal lists every day and to be able to do things that we would have liked to have done if we simply had the time, such as helping out our community. HFSO is one of the few organizations which has been amazing at accommodating this along with implementing social distancing requirements via their HFweCare initiative. Being able to volunteer a service to others during this trying time, [...] even when it seems like their world has turned upside down is truly a rewarding experience."

Humanity First Orlando continues to serve the community during these trying times.

"I just love you and your heart for serving God's less fortunate children."



10

QUEENS MAY

BY: WALEED SAEED

Humanity First Queens volunteers are working throughout the day to ensure that their neighbors have food to eat amidst the coronavirus outbreak. Through a partnership created by their local councilman, Humanity First is working in association with World Central Kitchen, distributing over 700 meals daily from Monday to Saturday. Over 50 additional meals are served to senior citizens across New York. Wanting to make an even greater impact in their local community, Humanity First volunteers recently began to make deliveries for Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) as they were in dire need of volunteers. Through this organization, these dedicated volunteers are delivering more meals to the elderly, a community particularly at high risk for infection.

Humanity First volunteers are also delivering hampers filled with groceries to Muslim families in the month of Ramadhan. The hampers carried a month's supply of food, making the opening and closing of a fast easier during these adverse times. One woman was especially thankful upon receiving her delivery of groceries as recalled by Aslam Mohammed, a local volunteer. Aslam arrived at her apartment on a Sunday to deliver the food. The mother became emotional once she received the hamper and wanted to thank Aslam for his efforts, however, she had nothing. A few moments later she returned with a pamphlet that had prayers for protection against disease. She told Aslam to read these prayers and to convey these prayers and her gratitude to all volunteers within Humanity First.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, many humanitarian organizations have become inactive as they have lost their volunteers who fear the spread of the epidemic. However, Humanity First has remained steadfast with several volunteers working around the clock to provide aid to those around them. If one wishes to commit themselves to serving humanity, the volunteers advise you to heed opportunities in local organizations that are in need of volunteers.



Nearly 20,000 people have unfortunately passed away and another 160,000 have contracted the coronavirus in New York. Despite these circumstances, Humanity First volunteers are working tirelessly to help their community recover from the devastating impacts of the virus.

The fundamental qualities that all volunteers must acquire to serve mankind or to develop a passion to serve mankind are love for humanity, kindness in our hearts for others, a charitable disposition, humility, honesty, a thirst for knowledge, a desire to share knowledge with others, and a constant desire to do good. We must be people from whom goodness flows towards others.

Amidst this Covid-19 outbreak, a few dedicated volunteers from Queens saw an opportunity to serve mankind and swiftly acted upon it.

The Humanity First branch in Queens contacted their local Congresswoman, Grace Meng, who helped them establish a partnership with the World Central Kitchen. Through this organization, 6 volunteers were able to provide over 700 meals on a daily basis to families struggling to make ends meet during this economic crisis.

Asad Bajwa, a local volunteer stated, “We have a great union with the World Central Kitchen. They required assistance with deliveries, and we needed help cooking.”

A population particularly at high risk of infection are the elderly who need assistance. In an attempt to help the elderly, 3 additional volunteers from Humanity First Queens acquired a list of over 50 senior citizens who are incapable of leaving their homes due to the high risk of infection. In times like these, it is important for the volunteers to maintain social distancing while wearing protective masks and gloves. For meal deliveries, they simply leave the meals at their doors, then call the person to inform them that their hot meal is waiting at their doorstep.



Despite the impending times, Humanity First Queens, New York has responded to the needs of their beloved city. Such proof of altruism, at a time when many people have reason to be anxious about their health and safety, is truly heartening. Particularly for older or unwell people who do not live close to friends and family, it is comforting to know that others take an interest in their wellbeing.



“We have a great union with the World Central Kitchen. They required assistance with deliveries, and we

HOUSTON APRIL

BY: UMAR AHMAD



On Wednesday, April 22, in collaboration with the City of Houston, Target Hunger, and Houston Food Bank, Humanity First USA Houston packaged and distributed food items via drive-thru pick up. Nearly 300 food packages were distributed, serving more than 7375 community members.

Humanity First USA, Houston has been regularly collaborating with many organizations in the area in order to live up to its mission of serving humanity. Collaborators include Target Hunger, the Houston Food Bank, and the City of Houston. And while the COVID-19 crisis has put a strain on millions of families across the county, the volunteers of Humanity First Houston continue to sacrifice their time to help their fellow citizens.

During this activity alone, the 8 volunteers were able to distribute nearly 300 food packages, serving nearly 7,400 Houstonians in 40 total manhours.





HFWE CARE OPERATIONS SUMMARY

22 States were served during the HFweCare Campaign.

33 Cities held food distributions.

1.7 Million Meals served since March 2020

95,000 Volunteer hours served.

401,509 Beneficiaries were served by HFUSA & its 13 partner countries.



Humanity First

Serving Mankind

THESE ARE JUST A FEW STORIES FROM ALMOST A YEAR OF SERVING. MANY MORE CITIES HELD AND ARE HOLD PANTRIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERY VOLUNTEER FOR SERVING MANKIND IN THESE DIRE AND RISKY TIMES. MAY 2021 BRING HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL.

THANK YOU FROM

To donate : <https://fundraise.humanityfirst.org/donate>
To volunteer : <https://usa.humanityfirst.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>