

Daily Meals Must Go On

Due to unforeseen circumstances, LifeNet temporarily suspended services during the last two weeks of July 2020, **but food continued!** Chef Sheldon, our beloved former chef, graciously offered to whip up delicious grab-and-go meals for our clients until we got back to normal operations.



THANK YOU



New Families First Initiative

Did you hear about our new initiative to provide a family dinner for food-insecure families in our community? As our food pantry operation continues to grow weekly during this pandemic, many new faces find themselves underemployed, unemployed, or without enough to eat. This new initiative was designed to help struggling families as they try to make ends meet.

We invite pantry clients to pickup a complete takeaway dinner served family-style on a weekly basis. To make it happen, it is all hands on deck, from food preparation through packaging and distribution with **Guest Chef Sheldon, Dr. Geddes**, and the LifeNet family.



We have received an overwhelmingly positive response to this new endeavor, here is one of the many responses:

"With unemployment running out ... I was not in a place mentally to even figure out dinner. I was apprehensive at first but was very impressed by the presentation. It wasn't something I felt I needed to hide, it looked like a catering service. It was really well prepared and it was perfect!"

Preventive Measures

When **City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Ben Sorenson** connected us with the South Florida Area Manager at **Cliff Berry, Inc (CBI)**, they immediately agreed to assist with a Proactive Disinfection of all our facilities – including administrative offices, pantry, warehouse and dining room. A most sincere appreciation to **Commissioner Sorenson** and **Mr. Cliff Berry**, long-standing supporters of LifeNet4Families, and to the amazing **CBI professionals** that made this preventive measure a success.



Essentials 4 Essentials

The LifeNet team is hard at work ensuring nutritious food boxes are assembled and delivered to those hard at work, including the many **USPS** workers that continue to provide essential services to our community. The **Essentials 4 Essentials** Program provides food boxes to essential workers that may go unnoticed and perhaps have been unable to attend food-giveaways because they occur while at work. Thanks for your service and your support year-round!



Community Thank You's

The **Kiwanis Club of Lauderdale Lakes** donated funds to sponsor a phenomenal client meal. Our chef prepared a scrumptious menu consisting of Shrimp Scampi, Honey Glazed Salmon, Lemon Garlic Chicken, Southwestern Rice and Black Beans *a la Cubana*. They also provided snack packs and hygiene bags (including masks and hand sanitizers). We are grateful for their generous donation.



Deliveries by DOORDASH

Thanks to LifeNet Board Member, **Will Spencer**, we have a partnership with **Doordash** to deliver food to homebound seniors and disabled clients.

Happy to preserve this important service during the pandemic, with transportation and food growing scarce for many of our elderly and disabled clients.



After serving meals to 278 clients, our team was surprised by **Synergy Insurance Group** and **MetLife Property & Casualty**, who co-sponsored lunch for our entire team! Special thanks to **Andy Pappas, President, Synergy Insurance Group**, for thinking of us. This is so much easier with the support of our partners, our friends.



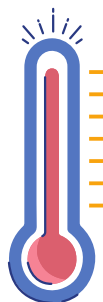
Amping Fundraising Efforts

Between mid-June and early-July 2020, the Broward Team at **FPL** and **NextEra Energy** raised **\$6,835.70** for LifeNet!

Thanks to **Juliet Roulhac, Tim Hogans, Melanie Roger**, the **Broward Team**, and the **Corporate** and **Diversity and Inclusion Teams** that matched donations. Collectively, their efforts facilitated a nutritious food box for **76** families through end of year!

Thank you for choosing LifeNet as the charity of choice for Broward County this year and for making such an impact in our community.

\$6,835.70!



The **Rotary Club of Weston** granted LifeNet **\$4,000** to purchase a new convection oven for our community kitchen! We are beyond excited about the addition as we continue to expand our food program offerings in the community. Thank you for such a generous donation. We look forward to helping many more families experiencing hardship at this time.



Raising Our Voices

As a community provider operating in the epicenter of poverty, it is important to recognize the impact of certain conditions on our very own clients; and advocate for the vulnerable and voiceless population we serve.

In the weeks and months to come, we will explore how different topics impact our clients, how we are helping clients get through it, and help to shine a light on areas of great importance to the people we serve under a social media platform titled **Raising Our Voices**.

While initial conversations will revolve around systemic racism, social injustice, and inequality, this platform will allow us to raise awareness about a variety of issues.

Here are some of the conversations already taking place:

This time is about standing up and speaking out in unequivocal fashion to point out the injustice, discrimination, and structural racism that exists here—in Our America.

It's time to be uncomfortable, openminded, and openhearted. It's time to listen to those who are experiencing these atrocities—without offering a rebuttal, irrelevant statistic, or admonishment.

Let's seek to understand because only then, can we effect lasting change.



MELANIE GEDDES, ED.D.
PRESIDENT AND CEO, LIFENET4FAMILIES



We live in a time and place where opportunity, wealth, and justice are not evenly distributed. Many years of oppression and systemic racism have brought us here.

At this moment in time, I'm seeing a light shining on these important issues and I'm sensing an openness to truly understand and move toward solutions.

I pledge an openness to learning about these important issues. I pledge to try harder to see things through the eyes of others. I pledge to listen more, seeking to understand. I pledge to be part of the solution.




SCOTT MAY
PARTNER, INSIGHT INSTITUTE LLC
BOARD CHAIR, LIFENET4FAMILIES



In the Community

We continue to work with our community leadership to elevate these important topics. Our President and CEO, **Dr. Melanie Geddes**, participated in a **"Viewpoints on Racism Panel"** hosted by **Temple Beth Orr** with **City of Tamarac Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, Ret. Broward County Chief Judge Peter M. Weinstein, Deputy David Farrugia** from the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**, and **Sergeant A.J. King** from the **Coral Springs Police Department**.



TEMPLE BETH ORR
Brotherhood & Sisterhood presents

Viewpoints on Racism

Racism from 4 Different Perspectives
A Zoom roundtable discussion
Monday, July 20
7 pm - 9pm

Meet the Panelists:

- Michelle J. Gomez, Mayor, City of Tamarac
- Melanie Geddes, CEO, LifeNet 4 Families
- Peter M. Weinstein, Broward County Chief Judge (ret)
- Deputy David Farrugia, Palm Beach Sheriff
- Sergeant A.J. King, Coral Springs Police Department

Thank you for a remarkable forum and for letting us partake in it. It is important to keep the conversation and action going, and we are humbled to be part of this movement.

Happy Anniversary!

Two of our very own, **Paul Prince** and **Malcolm Brown**, are celebrating their two-year anniversary with Lifenet! Paul is a Pantry/Warehouse Assistant who is dedicated, dependable, hard worker with a jovial disposition, and always ready to lend a hand. Malcolm started as an Administrative Assistant and promoted to a Client Services position given his ability to connect with clients in a caring, helpful, and cheerful manner. We salute you and wish you many more anniversaries with our LifeNet Family. You are invaluable!

