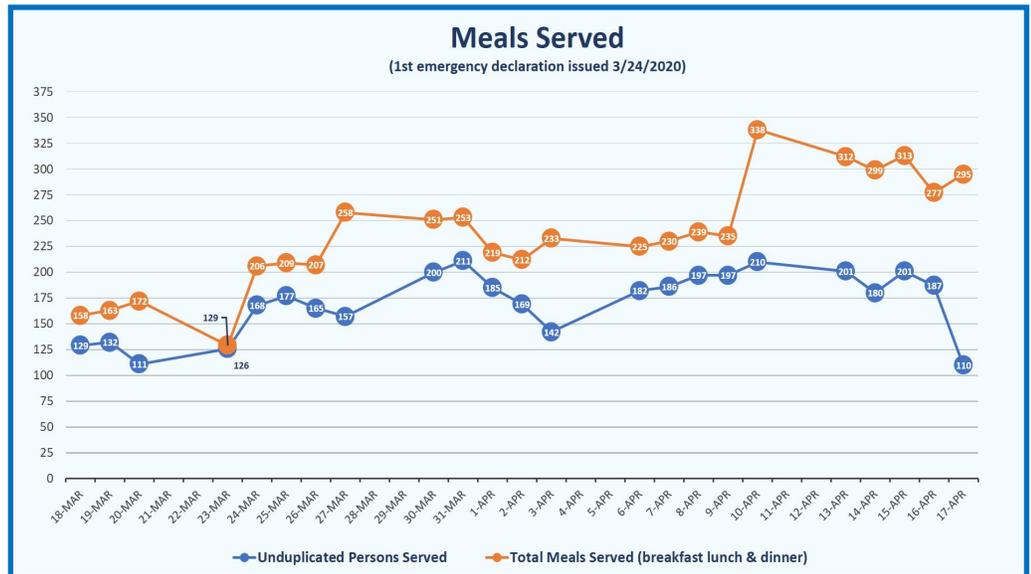


“THE NEW NORMAL” — One Month of COVID-19 Precautions

After a month of rising numbers of guests and meals, “the new normal” for CWH is consistently serving 2 to 3 times as many unduplicated guests and meals: breakfast, lunch, and suppers (at Quincy/North St. Mary’s), all in partnership with St. Mark’s Traveling Loaves and Fishes and hot lunches from the Chow Train. Thank you to the many folks and businesses who responded to our “SOS” call on Good Friday, our busiest day to date. On that day, we were worried that the numbers would keep climbing. But they seemed to have leveled off; perhaps the Good Friday crowd was due to the fact that other ministries may have been closed.



Above: graph illustrating CWH stats for the first full month of COVID-19 policies enacted in San Antonio.

ACTS OF KINDNESS AND THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who have been dropping off or shipping supplies to meet the food serving needs, thank you to the sewing circles making masks, and to those providing cash, gift cards, and check donations!!! Thanks to Martha Barnes, Founder of Full Force Foundation, and her caterers for providing Thursday lunches!!! And thanks to Bakery Lorraine at The Pearl for 12 dozen gourmet pastries for breakfast! And there is a HUGE group of you behind the scenes — some making almost daily trips to drop items off! And thanks to two families who EACH provided 2,000 To-Go containers. Thanks Shelly and Sharron, and thanks to the second family yet still-anonymous To-Go boxes donor. Speaking of anonymous... I am so sorry that I sometimes do not recognize you behind the masks... others I certainly don't know and when I have the chance ask, many prefer to be anonymous. One replies...“We are just ordinary people” trying to help. So a big THANKS to all of you “ordinary people” for doing EXTRA-ordinary things for our guests! So many acts of kindness. *Right: one of many boxes of Bakery Lorraine pastries inspired by a neighbor.*



5th WEEK of NEEDS

Well, we do NOT need To-Go containers for a while! **MASKS** are our biggest need right now! Many thanks to all who sewed washable cloth masks. We have given out more than 200 masks and only have a few left over, being saved for those who have not yet received them. We could use some more. A retired construction company owner from Bethesda MD had boxes of paint masks, (some the cherished N-95) in his basement and sent those. The elastic made it easy for guests to slip on and off. There are creative ideas being distributed on line. **Here are our current needs:**

1. **Masks, masks, and more masks**
2. **Fresh fruit (soft ones like banana, oranges, berries, grapes) and fruit cocktail in individual cups**
3. **Sugar and cream (in pourable containers or big bags)**
4. **PB or cheese filled crackers, individually wrapped (they come as 4, 6, or 8 crackers to a package)**
5. **Individually wrapped cookies/desserts**
6. **Plastic forks and spoons**
7. **Individual mayonnaise and mustard packets**



Right: hot lunch served on Monday this week, courtesy of the Chow Train.

Below: CWH guests “social distancing” while in line for meals and masks.

VISITORS and NEIGHBORS

Whereas some of our neighbors continue to express their concerns about CWH ministry in the Dignowity neighborhood (and we DO certainly understand), other neighbors, some on our very own Nolan street, have shown their support with amazing generosity. The donation from Bakery Lorraine was inspired by a neighbor. Another passed by, stopped, and wrote a check for one of our biggest donations. Another is starting a sewing group for masks. Other neighbors have prompted surprise visits by Coding Compliance, the Health Department, the COSA COVID-19 and Homeless Outreach services, and the Park Police. We are happy to announce that during all visits (some visiting each week), we were found to be “in compliance” and performing a “critical service” for the city. Gatherings across the street around the Dignowity Park VIA bus stop remains a challenge. Since we are serving outside in the front yard, we are more aware of an occasional loud activity on that corner and have had to notify the police ourselves. While these occurrences are definitely regrettable, it is a delicate balance between maintaining the closed park protocol with a group that has so very few options to simply “be”.

