



*We provide food, clothing and dignity to our sisters and brothers in need*

## Greetings from President Mark McClellan

Welcome to our first edition of the *Mobile Loaves Twin Cities Newsletter*. Thanks to our co-editors Mary Ellen Arneson and Bob Wedl for leading this new effort. We will be publishing the newsletter three times a year. Mobile Loaves Twin Cities has had to rethink how we can best carryout our powerful mission during the era of COVID-19. Each of us has had to do that in our own lives as well. But for those we serve the needs of hunger, clean socks, a warm hat and gloves, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. don't stop. In fact the need is growing. I am so proud of how Mobile Loaves has been able to turn on a dime during this global pandemic to come up with new ways to serve those in need.

We continue to operate with no paid staff so every dime goes to support our powerful mission. Pre-COVID our 300 volunteers did amazing work in so many ways. In Ron Joki and Sandy Gutzwiller's interview they discuss how we have responded. I respectfully thank each of you who continue to make our powerful mission possible.

## How has COVID required that we change?

We interviewed Ron Joki and Sandy Gutzwiller who are both key to the MLTC operations. Ron is responsible for getting the food and is always seeking out the best places. Sandy leads the "Head to Toe" part of our mission which obtains clothing and hygiene products.

"Perhaps the two most significant changes we have experienced," Ron suggests, "have been addressing health and safety and also the need to buy food already packaged." Floyd Ward and our dear late friend Jay Pearson had instituted sound safety measures but COVID significantly increased the responsibility for safety and added training.

Before retirement, Ron was the lab safety specialist at the U of M College of Veterinary Medicine which equipped him to do similar work for MLTC. Before the pandemic we had teams of six preparing warm "home-cooked" hot sandwiches but now we purchase ready-made ones along with fresh fruit, chips and a nice dessert.



Ron is checking our supply of packaged foods.



Sandy, Kris and Ron packing "Head-to-toe" items.

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Ron believes our meals are about as nutritious as before and are "nutritious and delicious." Our meals are

# It's not too late to donate...for 2020

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg said,

“*Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.*”

## **Please join us in our efforts**

As we are a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization your donations are tax deductible from state and federal taxes to the extent provided by law. If you are over 70 ½ you are able to transfer a portion of your “Required Minimum Distribution” from your IRA or 401-k to Mobil Loaves without paying taxes on that withdrawal amount.

Call Patrick Geraghty at 612-823-6591. Or to donate, go to our website at [www.mobileloavestc.org](http://www.mobileloavestc.org)

## **We provide food...**

Before COVID, we had estimated we would serve over 42,000 meals in 2020 which would be our all-time high. But because of COVID we have cut back on that number and are currently serving about 2800 meals a month. In summer 2020, we were serving over 3400 meals a month because of the numbers of people living in tents at various locations.

## **We provide clothing and more...**

In addition to our meals, we are so fortunate to have regular donations of other necessities. Bomba's Socks is a lifesaver. They reached out to us in June to see if we might need

a special donation following the George Floyd murder and unrest in the community. They sent us 3000 pairs of socks. This fall, another 3000 pair were donated. Bomba's has donated 12,000 pairs of socks in the past three years. Please remember to buy Bomba's Socks for your gift occasions.

We have received several thousand warm hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, etc. Buck Hill gives us the “lost and not found” clothing. You would not believe what kids leave behind! Can you hear the following? Mom says, “Honey where are the new bibs you just got?” Teen says, “I donno.”

Donations totaling about \$1,500 this summer enabled us to purchase 4000 small bars of soap, 1000 toothbrushes, several thousand small tubes of toothpaste and 2000 small containers of shampoo. These items provide dignity to those we serve. Your donations make that possible.

To donate clothing or hygiene products, drop them off at St. Joan of Arc office located at 4537-3rd Avenue South; Minneapolis 55419. Right now we are in great need of adult toothbrushes and toothpaste.

## **We provide dignity...**

During COVID, we have sadly lost the direct contact with those we serve which is where we provide the service of dignity. Showing them we care; that we enjoy being with them; that they are important.

- Jayden, around age 60, loves the Twins. He always wears a Twins hat. He'll talk baseball with anyone. He has a physical disability. He talks about his job offers with hope in his eyes. We learn there are no job interviews. He just wants to work but can't. He was always waiting for us to talk baseball. We provided Jayden with food, socks, oral hygiene products...and the dignity of a fun personal conversation.
- Destiny lives in a low-income high rise. She likely struggles with mental illness. She always sits alone but we talk with her. She looks down with no eye contact. But after receiving her warm meal, a small smile can sometimes be seen and her lips mouth, “Thank you.” We provide Destiny with soap, shampoo, a pretty scarf...and dignity.
- On Friday nights we went to north Minneapolis where young boys are playing basketball outside. They know we are coming and they are mighty hungry. They know we'll bring “seconds” for them. We also give them cool hats and a warm coat and gloves. Our rewards are big smiles and a

sincere, “Hey thanks. You guys are cool.”

- We went to the K-Mart parking lot on Lake Street. A half dozen men are standing to the side. They are intoxicated but hungry. They appreciate the food and make a special effort to be polite and appreciative. We provide them their only meal of the day (or likely several days) and clean socks. We listen to what they say; likely most do not. We do not judge.

**Where are we serving people during COVID?**

Janet Thomas, our Site Coordinator, reports that before COVID, we served people at 23 locations in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Richfield and Bloomington. Our truck was out Monday through Friday and sometimes weekends as well. Generally we made three stops each night and often just handed out food to people on the streets. Since COVID, we have reduced the number of sites to 13 sites but Janet says we are adding back sites.

**Because of COVID our costs have skyrocketed!**

**WE NEED AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 FOR 2021.**

Treasurer and CFO Patrick Geraghty says our costs are skyrocketing because of COVID. We now must purchase everything pre-packaged rather than buying in bulk. The costs have increased 40%.

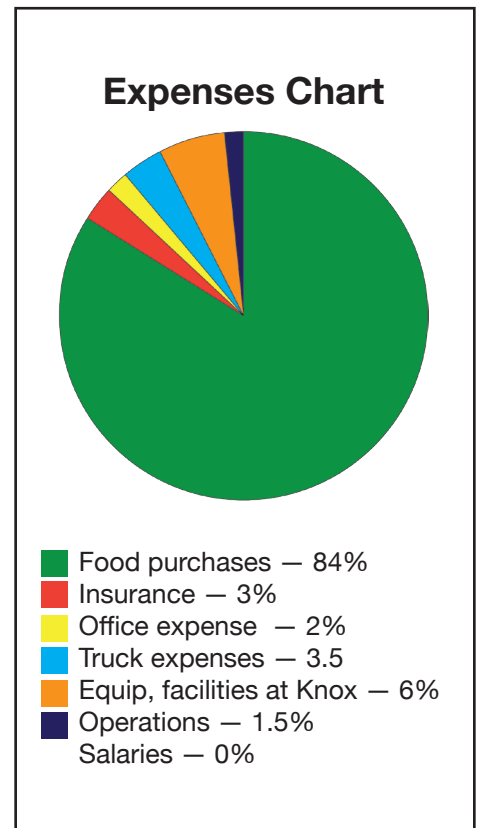
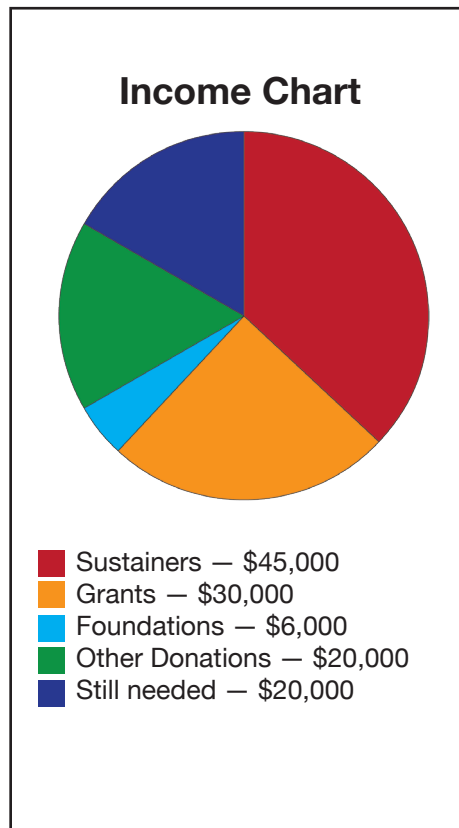
Our pre-COVID costs per meal was \$1.80 and now it is \$3.15. That is an increased expenditure of \$4,050 each month or \$48,600 for 2021 assuming COVID lasts all year. Keep in mind this is not adding more meals. It is merely paying for what we currently are serving.

Our 2021 budget will be \$120,000 up from about \$80,000 in 2020. Thank you to those who became donors or increased your contribution during our fall donation drive or through Give to the Max. Our income/expenses break down as follows:

**Might you please help us raise \$20,000 for 2021 in one of the following ways?**

**Become a Mobile Loaves Twin Cities Sustainer....**

MLTC has an objective of having a group of 50 individuals, families or teams donate \$50 per month on an ongoing basis. We currently have 35 people. Some donate more than \$50 a month. Might you join our Sustainer group? Perhaps your family could become a “family sustainer” or “truck team sustainer.”



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See our website at:

[www.mobileloavestc.org](http://www.mobileloavestc.org)

**Donate any amount....**

Of course any amount is so appreciated. Perhaps you can make a recurring donation of a specified amount each month. Any amount. Go to our website or send a check to us at Mobile Loaves Twin Cities;

4537-3rd Avenue South; Minneapolis 55419

**Add Mobile Loaves Twin Cities as a beneficiary to your will....**

A wonderful way to leave a legacy is to remember MLTC in your Last Will and Testament. It's simple to do. Our EIN is: 81-3996189. Our address is: 4537-3rd Avenue South; Minneapolis, MN 55419

**Make a gift to Mobile Loaves to remember someone.....**

What a great way to remember a friend or loved one who has passed away. Or a joyous occasion like a birthday, anniversary or special occasion. Maybe a Christmas gift to someone who already has everything. Or just because!

**COVID** continued from cover

put in single serving bags by a team of two, most often from the same family. Also included are products such as socks, dental hygiene products, lotions, etc. They then deliver the food and the "head-to-toe" products in large boxes to the various sites and left at the door. What is sad about this necessary model is we miss-out on the visits

with people which is a key part of providing dignity to those we serve.

Sandy is always amazed at the ongoing donations of socks, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, dental hygiene products, shampoos, lotions, razors, etc. Getting the right products aligned with where we are delivering each day is crucial.

Both our volunteers and those we serve have embraced the need to do things differently. Because we have eliminated the food preparation teams and the truck delivery teams, our active volunteers have decreased significantly from 300 to 25. But, everyone looks forward to getting "back to normal" even though we know that is unlikely anytime soon.



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