FOOD FOR HEROES

In April 2020, the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City launched Food for Heroes as a part of its COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. The first phase of the program supported the staff at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst in Queens, which was at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. With doctors, nurses, and other essential support staff at Elmhurst Hospital working around the clock, and the hospital cafeteria and other local restaurants closed, Food for Heroes provided much-needed, individually packaged grab-and-go meals to help sustain workers through their shifts.

In May, with the help of a grassroots fundraising campaign, the Mayor’s Fund expanded Food for Heroes to deliver lunch to staff at the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and medical workers who chose to stay in hotels to protect vulnerable family members, as well as healthcare workers who traveled from out-of-state to serve on the front lines.

In August, the Mayor’s Fund extended Food for Heroes once again to serve “New York’s Strongest”—the men and women of the NYC Department of Sanitation—as well as staff at 25 non-profit nursing homes across the five boroughs.

To date, Food for Heroes has provided 170,697 meals to New York City’s essential workers.

PHASE ONE
Elmhurst Hospital, Queens
75,000 Meals Served

PHASE TWO
4 Locations for Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Staff
20,407 Meals Served
   Brooklyn: 8,905
   Manhattan: 9,462
   Queens: 2,040

3 Respite Hotels
3,920 Meals Served
   Manhattan: 1,960
   Queens: 840
   Yonkers: 1,120

PHASE THREE
25 Non-Profit Nursing Homes
44,082 Meals Served
   Bronx: 4,050
   Brooklyn: 15,036
   Manhattan: 18,264
   Queens: 3,072
   Staten Island: 3,660

50 DSNY Garages
27,288 Meals Served
   Bronx: 3,576
   Brooklyn: 8,460
   Manhattan: 5,538
   Queens: 7,548
   Staten Island: 2,166
“On behalf of the Elmhurst Administration and Staff we would like to thank the Mayor, you and the entire team for providing our team nourishment throughout the past month. The gesture was one which was more than a meal. It was a chance for all staff to come together in a positive way.”

**Anthony Jarzembowski, Elmhurst Hospital**

“The people who work at the OCME are in the background and our work is very often unseen. In the last two months of daily deliveries our entire team felt seen and recognized and nourished. Thank you and please thank everyone who worked to make this happen.”

**Dina Maniotis, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

“The Continuing Care Leadership Coalition has been honored to work alongside the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City to expand its Food for Heroes program to frontline healthcare workers at non-profit nursing homes in New York City. We are proud of and extremely grateful for all of the dedicated staff members and their tireless efforts during this pandemic. Our mission-driven members unfailingly have served some of the most vulnerable populations in our City, and we appreciate the generous and charitable donations and support from the Mayor’s Fund in recognition of these healthcare heroes”.

**Roxanne Tena-Nelson, Continuing Care Leadership Coalition**

“These meals were totally unexpected which made them even more enjoyable. Delicious food is so nurturing and comforting and please rest assured that our staff enjoyed every meal to the fullest.”

**Peter Karow, Incarnation Children’s Center**

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**PROGRAM TOTALS**

- **83 Locations Served**
- **170,697 Meals Served**
  - Bronx: 7,626
  - Brooklyn: 32,401
  - Manhattan: 35,224
  - Queens: 88,500
  - Staten Island: 5,826
  - Yonkers: 1,120

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**PROGRAM PARTNERS**

- Chopt Creative Salad Co.
- Food1st Foundation
- Fresko
- Frontline Foods/World Central Kitchen
- Great Performances
- John’s Pizzeria and Restaurant
- Mendy’s
- PLG Coffee House and Tavern
- Promobile Kitchen
- Relish Caterers