



Press Release

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Olmsted County partners with Channel One to help residents with food insecurity during COVID-19

More than 1,000 food boxes to be delivered to Olmsted County clients

ROCHESTER, Minn. – Olmsted County Health, Housing, and Human Services has partnered with the Chanel One Regional Food Bank to help ensure individuals they support have access to food during the COVID-19 outbreak.

“We had been talking about how we can use our resources to best support our clients who are food insecure during this COVID-19 crisis,” said Olmsted County Director of Adult and Family Services Amy Thompson. “Rather than send our social workers to the store for food, we thought it would be best to partner with Channel One. Channel One had capacity to package up the boxes and, thanks to their help, we now we have more than 1,000 boxes of food that our Olmsted County social workers can deliver to their clients in need.”

Olmsted County social workers will begin making these food deliveries to their clients on Tuesday, March 24.

According to the Channel One Regional Food Bank, one box of food is estimated to feed a family of four for up to one week. Each box contains the following shelf stable foods: creamy peanut butter (2), 1% chocolate milk (2), cream of mushroom soup (1), whole kernel corn (1), chunk light tuna in water (1), cream of potato soup (1), dry black beans (1), cream of chicken soup (1), sliced peaches in juice (1), grape jelly (1), thin spaghetti (1), chicken noodle soup (1), instant mashed potatoes (1), stroganoff skillet dinner (1), pancake/waffle syrup (1), cheeseburger dinner (1), angel hair pasta (1), sliced pears (1), pasta sauce (2), beef pasta dinner (1), beef stew (1), and regular pancake mix (1).

“A lot of the individuals and families we work with have food insecurity,” stated Thompson. “Channel One has been a wonderful partner to help us meet this critical need during a difficult time.”

“Channel One is grateful for this partnership with Olmsted County,” said Channel One Executive Director Virginia Merritt. “Channel One is not equipped to provide home delivery which is what many people need right now, and we are thankful that Olmsted County social workers can meet this need.”

If any members of the Olmsted County community are having questions or concerns about meeting basic needs during this time (e.g. food, shelter, transportation, etc.), please contact the COVID-19 Essential Services Resources & Referral Line at 507-328-6150 or email COVIDEssentialServices@co.olmsted.mn.us. Additionally, community members may visit the Channel One website at www.helpingfeedpeople.org.

Visit the Olmsted County COVID-19 webpage for more information:
<https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/OCPHS/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>.

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About Olmsted County

Olmsted County is the eighth largest county in the state of Minnesota with eight cities (Rochester being the largest), 18 townships and approximately 150,000 residents (2016 census data). The county is governed by seven individuals elected to serve on the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners, and county services are supported by nearly 1,300 Olmsted County government employees working to fulfill the county’s vision of being a dynamic, world-class county delivering excellence every day. For more information, visit www.olmstedcounty.com.