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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organizations offer food boxes to families in need

March 26, 2020 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – As families struggle amid the COVID-19 outbreak, community organizations are finalizing plans on a major food distribution.

“Families are now entering a time of uncertainty, and having continued access to food is important,” says Virginia Merritt, Executive Director of the Channel One Regional Food Bank. “Channel One is grateful to be partnering with the City of Rochester to help provide some stability in these uncertain times.”

Channel One is one of more than a dozen local non-profit organizations teaming up with the City of Rochester, Rochester Public Schools, and Cradle to Career to reach families in need.

On Tuesday, March 31, local families can pick up free, thirty-pound boxes of food at various school locations. The boxes include approximately enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

According to Mayor Kim Norton, the need is great. “Our office continues to hear from families who are feeling financial and emotional stress. Knowing that they have food to eat will at least take away one stressor.”

Families will be able to pick up one thirty-pound box per household. The food boxes can be picked up on March 31st at the following times and locations:

9:30 – 11 a.m. or while boxes are available:

- Gage Elementary School
- Sunset Terrace Elementary School
- John Adams Middle School

12:30 – 2 p.m. or while boxes are available:

- Riverside Central Elementary School
- Mayo High School
- Willow Creek Middle School

In order to ensure the safety of volunteers and residents, those picking up food will need to follow social distancing protocols at the drive-thru events.

- Vehicles will pull up to the designated drive through location
- Drivers **MUST** remain in their vehicle
- Drivers will open their trunk remotely and the box will be placed in the trunk. If placing the box in the trunk is not an option, the box will be placed in the back seat of the vehicle

Food Boxes are available to any local family in need, with a limit of one box per family.

For more information about resources in the community during the COVID-19 outbreak, visit: rochestermn.gov/covid19.

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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Stay at Home
Executive Order 20-20
Effective March 27 – April 10

City of Rochester
Declaration of Local Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Olmsted County
Public Health Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Minnesota Peacetime State of
Emergency EM-3453
Issued March 13, 2020

National Emergency
Concerning Novel Coronavirus
Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak
Issued March 13, 2020

LOCAL ACTIVATIONS

City of Rochester
Emergency Operations Plan

Joint Information Center (JIC)

City of Rochester Emergency
Operations Center (EOC)

EOC STRATEGY
Ensure Community Lifelines

EOC OBJECTIVES
Continuity of Operations
Timely Community and
Teammate Communication
Economic Stability
Community Stability
Healthcare System Support

Lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security.

ROCHESTERMN.GOV/COVID19