

The Feed DURM Collective

IN SUPPORT OF:

Feeding School Children and Families during COVID-19

06/19/2020

Who Are We:

The *Feed DURM Collective*, supported by the *Feed DURM Food Relief Fund* at the Triangle Community Foundation ("Foundation"), was created as an emergency alliance among Downtown Durham's small restaurant businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the economic stability of small businesses, overload of the healthcare system and its professionals, and threat to basic food security needs of families in our community as a result of school closures. Coming together as a centralized community initiative, The Feed DURM Collective will coordinate, ensuring transparent and equitable disbursement of contributions, restaurant operations, fiscal stewardship and oversight of safe food deliveries to feed children, individuals, families, and healthcare workers in the Downtown Durham area.

Our Project Description:

The *Feed DURM Collective* intentionally sets out to leverage and support local restaurants to feed the families of our community's school-age children who are in "critical need" of community support as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic impact. Feed DURM recognizes that children who grow up in urban environments and/or extreme poverty are often adversely affected by hardships and misfortunes experienced by the adults in their lives. Knowing family health is inextricably linked to a student's academic performance, we are committed to meeting food security needs for the entire family in support of continued student achievement even at such an unprecedented time.

Families, who are in normal circumstances under a significant amount of emotional duress, planning life paycheck to paycheck, are now experiencing extraordinary challenges as COVID-19 upends their households. For example, families are faced with increased demand for food at home now that schools are closed and children are learning from home. More and more, children and elders are taking care of each other in a single household. And households are expanding with the newly unemployed facing housing insecurity and relying on family members for support. As single-family homes turn into multi-use workspace and school-space facilities, many of these changes are overburdening limited fixed incomes and dramatically shrinking resources.

The need for food security in many of these homes is critical as families are unable to secure the necessary meals and groceries on a daily and weekly basis due to the underlying at-risk factors and the multiple negative impacts of the coronavirus crisis. We

define a family of school-aged children as having a critical need for food security based upon meeting two or more of the following criteria:

- At least one child in the household is between the ages of 0 – 18 years old and enrolled at a Feed DURM Collective partner school.
- The household qualifies for free or reduced lunch under the National School Lunch Program, in accordance with the federal guidelines based on household size and income
- Children are living in a multi-generational home with a minimum of 4 individuals, including adults and children
- The primary head of the household is facing financial hardship as a result of unemployment or experiencing a drop in income due to current economic conditions caused by COVID-19
- One or more family members qualify for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) based on their school's assessment, and the family is unable to take advantage of the program because of limited transportation or mobility.

For families, particularly those facing the aforementioned household challenges amidst the COVID-19 health crisis, feeding a single child does not go the distance. When we support whole families, they can, in turn, support our community's children. By driving food security in Downtown Durham, we as community leaders not only help educators maintain continuity of education and bridge safe and healthy home environments but we also sow into the preservation of our students and our community's future.

The Feed DURM Collective is aware that food security has been a persistent challenge, long before COVID-19 became a global pandemic. We believe our shared interests and **collective** efforts, brought about by the pandemic, to support school children and their families, while also supporting Durham's local restaurants, have the potential to disrupt one of our most significant public health challenges and create innovative solutions that last far beyond the pandemic. In our commitment to sustaining our children and their families, we are also sustaining our beloved local restaurants and our local Durham economy. This initiative is about sustenance. We are committed to feeding our Durham community today in all ways - and we are committed to feeding its future.

Our Initial Scope, Community Benefits, and Request:

The Feed DURM Collective has identified four Durham charter schools serving a high concentration of low-income students and families and who receive supplemental funding to assist in meeting their vulnerable students' educational goals. The four schools are:

- Maureen Joy Charter School
- Carter Community Charter School
- Global Scholars Academy
- Central Park School for Children

Out of the collective 1,150 students qualifying for free and reduced lunch across the partner schools, The Feed Durham Collective has identified **295 families** that meet our criteria as a "Critical Family". These families require additional support due to the added burdens created by schools and businesses being closed and other measures federal, state, and local officials have put in place in response to the COVID-19 crisis. At the cost of **\$270 per critical family**, the Feed DURM Collective can provide meals for a family of four, three times a week, over a period of six weeks.

Meals will be distributed via the Durham area charter schools, initially, but may be expanded as the need increases and additional funding resources become available. Working with the Triangle Community Foundation as the administrator of the Feed DURM Food Relief Fund, Beyu Group, Inc. will execute administrative and financial operations for the program, including scheduling, payments to restaurants, updates, and other communications.

About the Feed DURM Collective & Our Community Partners:

Feed DURM is a program created by Beyu Group, Inc. designed to achieve the dual goals of driving community food security and supporting local restaurant businesses and their employees.

The program's restaurant partners have been curated based on years of doing business, operational efficiency related to nutritional quality, demand, delivery capabilities, and exemplary health & safety standards.

Since March 25th, when the devastation of COVID-19 really began setting in to our local Durham economy, Beyu Group, Inc. has worked with local non-profits, local restaurants, and Duke University Health System to support our community. We have:

- **served 35,000 meals to school children and families.**
- **served 1,000 meals and 125 cups of coffee to healthcare workers on the frontlines**
- **paid over 195 hours in wages to sustain both our part-time and full-time employees**

- **raised over \$100,000 in donations to provide food for children, families, and healthcare worker**
- **provided \$10,000 to local restaurants to help provide jobs and stimulate the local Durham economy**

In coordination with our local Durham restaurant partners, we have been able to provide an additional 700 meals to our healthcare workers. **Altogether serving enough food to feed over 9,400 frontline workers at this difficult time in under 30 days.**

DURHAM CHARTER COLLECTIVE:

The four participating schools are a part of the Durham Charter Collective, a group assembled over the past couple of years to support the sharing of best practices and educational resources among public charter schools in the area. Geographically, all of the four schools are within the city with two located downtown, blocks away from participating restaurant partners. Demographically, the four partner schools serve ~1700 students of whom upwards of 82% are students of color and 70% qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch.

Academically, all schools in the last year either met or exceeded Academic Growth accountability measures set by the NC Department of Instruction. While the four schools in the Durham Charter Collective are doing and achieving more for our students and families who have the greatest need in our Durham community, the collective schools receive approximately 25% less local and state funding than the local district schools, closing the gaps when able with independent fundraising.

While we seek to meet our students' basic needs and academic continuity of learning during the COVID-19 school closures, it is critical that we are resourceful and community minded. Feed DURM's approach is exactly the type of creative, hopeful community rooted network that can help us sustain our commitment to our students, families – often a commitment that becomes a lifeline.

TRIANGLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

The Triangle Community Foundation (Foundation) shall administer the Feed DURM Food Relief Fund as a non-endowed fund. Net income and principal shall be available for charitable purposes, subject to the policies and schedule of fees adopted by the Foundation for investing and administering the Fund as it may change from time to time. The Board of Directors of the Foundation has full legal and fiduciary control of assets of the Fund, including, but not limited to, full authority and discretion as to the investment and reinvestment of the assets.

Donations equal to or greater than \$1000 may be added directly to the Feed DURM Food Relief Fund at any time by individuals or corporate donors, by check, stock transfer, or credit card. Contributions made to the Foundation for the Fund will be acknowledged by the Foundation as required by law and regulation.

Donations less than \$1000 to support the Feed DURM program may be made through group funding platforms hosted by Beyu Group, Inc. or other members of the collective. The Foundation will not acknowledge contributions through these portals as tax-deductible contributions.