FEEDING NEEDS. FOSTERING HOPE.

CARITAS PC IS NOW MEALS ON MAIN ST.

NEW HOME. NEW NAME. EXPANDED MISSION.

509 N. MAIN STREET   PORT CHESTER, NY 10573
CARITAS PC started in 1995 as a volunteer program that provided healthy food to locals in need.

Since our earliest days as a soup kitchen, our vision has been to foster hope for a better tomorrow by providing healthy food to people in need in Port Chester and the surrounding community. We incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2012, with the dream of one day having our own brick-and-mortar presence in the community we serve.

That dream is now becoming a reality.

To learn more, visit MEALSONMAINST.ORG
INTRODUCING COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD HUBS
A FASTER WAY TO GET PERISHABLE PRODUCE, MEATS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS TO FAMILIES IN NEED.

HOW IT WORKS
The Community-Based Food Hub, or CBFH, is a resource center for combating food insecurity with a network of large and small points of contact within the community. We will provide small volunteer-run organizations and student groups with a supply of healthy farm-fresh and recovered perishable food items just in time to be distributed to pop-up pantries, farmers’ markets and community gatherings.
Our first Community-Based Food Hub will be located in our new facility at 509 N. Main Street in Port Chester.

The CBFH is outfitted with a commercial kitchen for meal preparation, a dining area and pantry for walk-ins and people with emergency needs, and a large refrigerated and temperature-controlled storage facility for bulk deliveries and distributions. It provides quick and easy access to cooked meals and fresh and non-perishable food to families in need — directly and through partnerships with local agencies and organizations.
MORE WAYS WE CAN HELP.
MORE WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER.

MEALS ON MAIN STREET MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM
The perfect way to get volunteers involved in tackling food insecurity within the community, while also following safe social distancing guidelines. Deliveries serve 80-100 families per trip and require 10-12 volunteer drivers and 2-3 volunteer coordinators to bag, label and load meals into vans.

POP-UP PANTRY
This versatile option enables groups as small as 3-6 volunteers to set up farmers’ markets or tabletop pantries wherever the community has identified a food desert or area of food insecurity. The CBFH can supplement the pantry’s supply with everything needed on the day of the event. Volunteers will load vans with tables and food and deliver everything to the Pop-Up Pantry before the event.

JUST-IN-TIME PANTRY SUPPLY
This companion to our Food Recovery Program will provide local pantries and community groups with a supply of fresh donated produce from retailers, wholesalers, local farms and community gardens. First, staff or volunteers pick up produce and other perishable food items from supermarkets and distributors. Finally, they clean and package usable food for immediate distribution.

COMMUNITY DINNERS PROGRAM
This important program provides local community groups cooked food for immediate consumption. Our refrigerated and heated Meals on Main Street truck delivers trays of food — both hot and cold — for volunteers to serve to the community for lunch or dinner. To qualify for this program, each volunteer group must have a certified ServSafe Food Handler in charge.

IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS AND SUPPORT
For an agency or organization to effectively begin and maintain its own pantry, meal or food distribution program, we will provide all necessary tools — including great ways to solicit and schedule volunteers, plan events and train coordinators.

LEARN MORE: MEALSONMAINSTREET.ORG/VOLUNTEER
BEFORE COVID-19, THE POVERTY RATE IN PORT CHESTER WAS 12.9% AND IN WESTCHESTER IT WAS 9.2%. THOSE NUMBERS ARE RISING.

The pandemic brought with it unprecedented demand:

4,000 MEALS SERVED PER MONTH SUDDENLY BECAME 16,000
400 HOUSEHOLDS THAT RECEIVED GROCERIES BECAME 3,400

We were also faced with unforeseen challenges and had to react. People could no longer join us for a meal in our dining room or gather to shop for groceries in our indoor market, and we had reached the limit of what we could produce from the kitchen. We quickly realized our old food-panty model wasn’t going to work anymore. Rather than having people come to us, we urgently needed a way to get meals and groceries to them.

By shifting our focus from serving food to managing preparation and distribution, we have become a food hub for the community — receiving and processing donations not only for our pantry, but also for our partners’ pantries.

This effort has been so successful and the growing need so great that we are now working to create a wide network of participating kitchens and smaller distribution points such as neighborhood pantries and home delivery services.

509 N. MAIN STREET PORT CHESTER, NY | MEALSONMAINST.ORG