

One week in, 'Feed the Fight Kalamazoo' has delivered more than 800 meals from local restaurants to frontline workers fighting Covid-19 in our community

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KALAMAZOO, MI (April 19, 2020) – [Feed the Fight Kalamazoo](#) (FTFK) finishes its first week in action, having delivered its first meals on Monday, April 13th. In just seven days, FTFK has purchased meals from 15 restaurants and **delivered more than 800 meals to frontline healthcare workers** in a variety of locations and units of the Family Health Center, Bronson Healthcare and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. We are adding new partners next week, including many restaurants that have deliveries scheduled. Restaurants are invited to sign up on our website and almost 40 are already in the queue.

Week one has been incredible thanks to the generosity of our local community, both through volunteer time and donations. **Nearly 125 people have donated to our efforts thus far and 37 volunteers** have worked behind the scenes, building our website, managing logistics and picking up and delivering meals. Volunteers can sign up for a variety of roles via our website, including meal delivery, technical support, dispatching, event planning, fundraising, and volunteer engagement.

Janis Clark, a Feed The Fight volunteer delivery driver, said her first delivery this week, bringing food from Nina's Cafe to Bronson Hospital, was "Fantastic ... it was great!"--everyone was so excited to collaborate in the process from the Nina's Cafe employees who helped load the meals into her car to the Bronson worker waiting at the curb with a cart to bring the meals inside the hospital. "It almost felt like a guilty pleasure," Clark said. "I actually got to go out (albeit in a mask and gloves) and feel like I was doing something to help my community."

Maria Dacoba is both a Feed the Fight Kalamazoo volunteer and a restaurant owner. She said the Covid-19 crisis has been "truly devastating" for small businesses and she has heard too many heartbreaking stories from restaurant-owning friends struggling to survive. "They're all so appreciative of this organization," she said. She and her husband made Southwest Bowl meals, from La Cantina, focusing on healthy ingredients. "Everyone was so kind when we went and delivered at the Family Health Center."

Rosita Flores, a medical assistant at the Family Health Center, was one of those appreciative front line workers to receive a meal. "Oh my goodness ... what a special treat," she said. "It honestly means a lot to us knowing that we aren't forgotten...knowing that the community is showing their support for us and for (our patients)...it's everything."

About Feed the Fight Kalamazoo: On April 9th, drawing on the amazing experience of [Feed the Fight DC](#), which emerged in mid-March as a neighborhood effort to patronize local restaurants and show support for healthcare workers at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, FTFK was

launched (one of the first such efforts organized across the country). Local activist Sally Hadden brought this model to Greater Kalamazoo and reached out to Jodi Hope Michaels and Adam Strong-Morse to co-organize FTF Kalamazoo. Through individual tax-deductible contributions and with volunteer drivers, FTF Kalamazoo purchases and delivers takeout meals from local restaurants for healthcare workers and other first responders across our region. 100% of donated funds go to purchase meals. Feed the Fight delivers the double impact of driving business to local restaurants working to stay operational while thanking and supporting healthcare workers and first responders fighting on the front lines of this unprecedented crisis.

To learn more and help Feed the Fight Kalamazoo, please visit ftfkalamazoo.org or follow the effort on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)
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