

With our healthcare systems overrun and local restaurants back to take-out, Feed the Fight Kalamazoo is back in action

6000+ meals delivered in Kalamazoo since COVID-19 first hit our community

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KALAMAZOO, MI (November 18, 2020) – It's a rough Fall season here in Kalamazoo. The country, the State of Michigan, and Kalamazoo County seem to be continually reaching new heights in terms of Coronavirus spread, and new regulations to keep us healthy and safe in Michigan have gone into effect today. **We are in the second wave and the volunteers of Feed the Fight Kalamazoo are here to offer community solidarity to our overrun healthcare workers.**

Over the summer, while restaurants reopened and our healthcare systems returned to delivery of all different kinds of care to local residents, we only undertook pinpoint deliveries, prepared to spring back into action should COVID-19 rear its ugly head again. **We've made several deliveries in the past few weeks**—to medical staff at WMU Sindecuse Health Center, to residential staff working at a WMU isolation dorm for Covid-positive students, to Community Living Options, and finally, on Election Day, to all the staff at the Family Health Center, in a large-scale operation from 8 different restaurants. You can see a lot of what we have been up to [on our social media feed](#).

We are also tremendously proud to have been honored by the Family Health Center (FHC) as one of three ['Healthcare Heroes' at their 'We Rise 2020' Virtual Gala in late October](#). The event was filled with inspiration around community solidarity in dealing with the pandemic.

In making us aware of the award, Denise Crawford, CEO of the FHC wrote, in part:
"With very little known at the time about how the virus spread, Feed the Fight volunteers unhesitatingly threw yourselves into the fray to bring hope to those on the front lines seeking to provide healthcare for our community. The meals you brought [FHC] staff sustained them in body and soul throughout the chaotic early days of the pandemic when so much was uncertain in the world. Your work played a sustaining role in FHC's ability to live out its mission 'to ensure all members of our community have access to quality, comprehensive, patient-centered health care ...even in the face of a totally novel coronavirus pandemic."

Our frontline healthcare workers now need our support more than ever, and our local restaurants - more than 80 have participated in deliveries thus far - are struggling too.

This Friday, we will be making a delivery to Pride Care Ambulance at 11:30 am and plan to ramp up our activities as we come through the Thanksgiving Holiday. We have so much to be thankful for in our community. Not least, the tremendous solidarity that Kalamazoo residents can

show for one another and the desire to come together to protect our public health and come out stronger together on the other side.

Details on Friday, November 20 delivery:

11:00 am pick up from Huey D's Goodies, First Baptist Church in Downtown Kalamazoo

11:30 am delivery to Pride Care Ambulance at 5088 Meredith St Portage 49002

About FTFK:

Feed the Fight Kalamazoo is a **100% volunteer initiative to help frontline healthcare workers meet the COVID-19 crisis head on** - knowing that the Kalamazoo community has their back. With more than \$60,000 dollars raised, from 250 individual donors, FTFK's 70+ volunteers have delivered some 6000 meals from more than 80 distinct local restaurants (at \$10 per meal) since the pandemic began. **After a summer lull, we are back in action to support our community.**

To learn more and to help Feed the Fight Kalamazoo, please visit ffkalamazoo.org or follow the effort on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram (#FTFKalamazoo @FTFKalamazoo)