



PRESS RELEASE

The Food Pantry of GCCSA Drive-Through Distribution Keeps Harris County Households Afloat

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Pandemic or tropical storm, food pantries remain a staple of crisis assistance

HOUSTON, Texas (September 25, 2020) – Two weeks after the brick and mortar doors of Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA) were forced closed amid the spring 2020 shuttering of Houston businesses, the Agency figured out a way to get food, cleaning supplies and other household items to those who needed it – a drive-up service.

Trunks popped and back doors opened, GCCSA had a line of volunteers and employees assembled to place overflowing bags of groceries in the vehicles of Houstonians. Since those early days in April when resources were scarce and car lines extended down Kirby Drive and down the feeder road, GCCSA has served upwards of 9,500 individuals whose empty cupboards have seen little relief. Donations from the Houston Food Bank and independent suppliers have enabled the Agency to hold twice weekly drive-through distribution events over the course of the ongoing health crisis.

Gulf Coast Community Services Association has also developed and implemented the GCCSA COVID-19 Community Action Relief Effort (C.A.R.E.) that invests in three critical areas to address the specific needs that have arisen from the pandemic. One of those three prongs is aimed at economically challenged individuals and households. The C.A.R.E. program provides direct access to household essential items (nutritious food, transportation, hygiene products, clothing) via the contactless, curbside pick-up, as well as support through gift cards for households to purchase items that meet their needs.

C.A.R.E. has additionally provided housing stability in the form of 2-3 months in support and a Chromebook award to 100 families with K-12 children to close the digital divide.

On average, the Contactless Curbside Food Pantry services 125 households per 2-day week. However, the need surpasses the agency's stores. Food pantries across the county are stretched beyond capacity and GCCSA's food pantry is not immune. To help keep the pantries of our food insecure neighbors from running dry, donations to the Houston Food Bank are encouraged.

GCCSA's Contactless Curbside Food Pantry currently operates every Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.

A Community Action Agency

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About Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc: As Harris County's Community Action Agency, the purpose of Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA) is to strengthen the educational, social and economic well-being of individuals and families as they move toward economic independence and self-sufficiency. Founded in 1965, GCCSA provides diverse programs designed to eliminate the inhibitive conditions of the under-served and un-served populations of Harris County. Through programs such as Head Start/ Early Head Start, Rent and Electricity Assistance, Food Pantry, Adult Literacy and Education, and Vocational Training and Education Scholarships, GCCSA is able to assist families in earning a living wage, individuals in the advancement of their education, and communities in gaining economic security. To learn more about GCCSA's programs and services, visit: www.gccsa.org.

The Corporate office and all Head Start/Early Head Start Centers are closed to the public at this time.

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