April 14, 2020

Dear Cooks,

We miss you. With every day that passes during this crisis, we wonder how you’re doing and hope that you and your loved ones are safe. We miss seeing your chorus of GOT IT’s in our inboxes, your dishes filling our fridges, and the community that comes from knowing you’re there—shopping, cooking, and delivering much-needed food for our partner agencies every month. We cannot wait for the time when we can resume our work together!

For now, sad as I am to say it, we have extended the suspension of all regular monthly CC meals through June 1st to ensure everyone’s safety. We’ll be re-evaluating our time table as necessary and I promise you’ll be the first to hear if anything changes.

The continual bright spot in this pandemic for CC remains our partnership with Forge Baking Company and their stellar team. Together, during the past 5 weeks we have provided over 1,200 fresh meals to vulnerable neighbors at our partner agencies, along with milk, fruit, and nearly 600 individual servings of shelf-stable foods like oatmeal and cereal. In the coming days, we will also begin teaming up with the City of Somerville’s Department of Health & Human Services to provide 40+ fresh meals per week directly to local residents in need. We sleep a little better knowing that we are able to keep nourishing people who are struggling—and that a precious small business like Forge is able to retain staff and remain open.

As the number of partner agencies in need of our help grows, CC staff are working hard to fundraise and plan creatively so we can continue to provide critical, reliable emergency food support for as long as the pandemic persists—including new requests since I last wrote you from programs like Putnam Place, Bristol Lodge and Mass Bay Veterans Center.

Please know that through it all you are in our thoughts. We hope to find even small ways we can connect as a community in the weeks to come. If social media is your thing, please tag us and let us know how you are coping, what you’re cooking and what you miss most about preparing your monthly dishes. What’s the first thing you’ll make when CC meals start up again?

Until that time, if you are able to make a donation to CC, a gift of any amount will help sustain our emergency efforts and ensure we’re ready to get back to business as soon as it’s safe.

Whether it’s the value of what you would normally spend on groceries for your CC meal or more if you’re able, a one-time or monthly gift of any amount is enormous for us and can be made at communitycooks.org/give. To those who have already given, I am deeply grateful.
I know we will get through this together! I know our fridges will be full again. And I hope you know how much you mean to us.

Daniele Levine
Executive Director

P.S. Although this note is going to all Cooks for whom we have emails, we encourage our wonderful Team Leaders to re-share it with your Cooks to be sure everyone is in the loop. Plus it’s a great excuse to connect and check in!