

Report on the Livingston County CARES For Our Healthcare Workers Project

Prepared by: Tom Matthews, President, Livingston County Cares, Inc.

Livingston CARES followed up our *Front Line Workers Appreciation Project* that took place in 2020 with the **Livingston County CARES for Our Healthcare Workers** initiative in March 2021.

On Thursday, March 25, seventeen volunteers including board members, students, staff, and community members delivered over 2600 gourmet cookies to 118 healthcare worksites throughout Livingston County.

The 2021 Livingston County CARES for Our Healthcare Workers Initiative: The Board of Directors approved a second project to focus specifically on recognizing our healthcare workers who have been dealing with the pandemic for over 12 months. The existing COVID-10 Committee was asked to manage the project.



Livingston CARES COVID-19 Committee: The CARES COVID-19 Committee members organized and managed the details of the second project to express appreciation to workers engaged in addressing the pandemic. Committee members included Karen Bailey, Adam Clarke, Brenda Donohue, Angela Ellis, Garth Freeman, Karissa Garbarini, Holly Harvey, Ken Kallio, Haley Kent, Tom Matthews, and Jules Orcutt.

The 2021 Project Story: In January and February, committee members compiled information on over 100 healthcare public and private agencies and businesses in the county, called each agency to verify numbers of employees and hours of operation, and organized a plan to distribute a gourmet cookie with a thank you message to each healthcare worker. In the early stages of planning, the estimated number of workers was 800, but expanded to a final list of over 2,600 people. The committee asked two facilities with large commercial kitchens to contribute to the project by baking cookies if Livingston CARES provided the cookie dough. Both Morrison Living at the Livingston County Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (LCCNR) and SUNY Geneseo Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS) enthusiastically agreed by each baking, wrapping and packaging approximately 1,300 cookies in 60 gift bags and boxes for volunteer drivers



to deliver to 118 work locations throughout the county. C & R Foods in Mt. Morris ordered 34 boxes of cookie dough and delivered them to the two baking locations. Brian & Rachel Heywood from C & R Foods and Craig & Sharon Bolesky each donated several boxes of cookie dough and Livingston CARES purchased the remaining boxes that were delivered to the kitchens on March 12. The cookies were baked on March 22-24.

Thank you to CAS Executive Director Matt Felthousen, Managing Director of Restaurants & Cafes Jonna Anne, and the staff of Maxines & Food Studio North at Letchworth Hall for donating time and services for this project. Additional thanks to Chef Ilana Cahill, Chef Matt Kerschner, Cyndee Fitzsimmons, Kelvin Perez, and Jeff Schalagter for baking the

cookies; and Kacie Haynes, Mitch Mitchell, Larry Mancuso, Joanne Augusto and Matt Felthousen for wrapping and bagging 1,300 cookies.

Thank you to Stephen Woodruff, Director of Long-Term Care at the Livingston County Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation for approving the use of the facilities at LCCNR for the project. Thanks also to Franklin Darnley at Morrison Living and Mike Decarlo, Director of Dining Services for Morrison Living at the LCCNR; and Chef Joe D'Agostino and Resident Services Manager Amanda Previty for donating time and services for baking, wrapping and bagging 1,300 cookies.

The cookies and packages from both kitchens were delivered to the MacVittie College Union Circle Drive on Thursday, March 25. Seventeen (17) driver volunteers picked up their assigned bags and delivered them to 118 locations throughout the county. The drivers were Elaine Anderson, Adam Clarke, Betsy Colon, Angela Ellis, Brenda Donohue, Sally Fox, Garth Freeman, Karissa Garbarini, Holly Harvey, Ken Kallio, Haley Kent,



Laura Lane, Eddie Lee, Ellen Leverich, Tom Matthews, Jules Orcutt, and Aimee Rose. Each wrapped cookie had a label with the Livingston CARES logo and a message For Our Healthcare Workers THANK YOU. Each location received a card thanking the donors and contributors and a message of thanks with a handwritten thank you from the APO service fraternity at SUNY Geneseo.

The healthcare locations included the UR/Noyes Hospital in Dansville and the UR/Noyes Urgent Care facility in Geneseo, pharmacies, chiropractors, physical therapy offices, mental health clinics, family medical offices, nursing homes, dental and orthodontics care offices, eye care specialists, hearing specialists, medical specialty offices, OBGYN clinics, breast clinics, podiatrists, medical labs, the 17 Emergency Medical Services

locations throughout the county, the Office for the Aging, the Department of Health, and the SUNY Geneseo Lauderdale Health Center.



Individual Donors: Thank you to the following individuals who donated funds and services to support this initiative: Karen & KC Bailey, Kristy Barkan, Craig & Sharon Bolesky, Adam Clarke, Ganie DeHart, Joe Dolce, Brenda Donohue, Angela Ellis, Sally Fox, Garth Freeman, Karissa Garbarini, Glenn Geiser-Getz, Holly Harvey, Brian & Rachel Heywood, Ken Kallio, Eddie Lee, Lyle Lehman, Ellen Leverich, Tony Macula, Tom & Betsy Matthews, Leslie McCurdy, Phil Natoli, Laurel Nelson, Nick Palumbo, Ron & Joyce Peterson, and Tom & Nancy Wilson.

Organizations and Business Donors:

Thank you to the following organizations and businesses that donated money or goods and services for the initiative: C & R Foods in Mt. Morris, Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church, Geneseo



United Methodist Church, Morrison Living at Livingston County Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation in Mt. Morris, SUNY Geneseo Campus Auxiliary Services, SUNY Geneseo Center for Community, United University Professions Geneseo Chapter, and a community grant from Wegmans.

Livingston County News Article & Facebook Link:

https://www.thelcn.com/news/publicservicenews/livingston-cares-saying-thank-you-to-o-ne-cookie-at-a-time/article_2f4e69d8-52bb-59b3-a7e8-9443863f22c9.html

Livingston County News with Livingston CARES.

Thank you notes or postings from Livingston County Healthcare Workers

"KidStart staff were treated to amazing cookies today by Livingston County CARES, a program at SUNY Geneseo, in appreciation of KidStart's commitment to continuing to provide quality education and care services to the children in our programs, during this

challenging time. Thank you so much [Livingston CARES](#) ! The cookies are delicious and were a fantastic treat for us all!"

"Thanks to you and Livingston Cares so much for the yummy cookie. It made my day!! I hand delivered the other one to Lori McEvoy. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Have a great weekend - Barb Mestler, Program Director, Compeer of Livingston County, New York and Compeer International Affiliate Program Specialist"

From Holly Harvey: "I delivered to small offices in Avon and Caledonia. Each office was very appreciative of the good thoughts that came with the cookies. I was reminded how blessed we are and have been to have such an amazing network of health care providers in our area that have and will continue to serve our rural communities



regularly and in times of crisis. Thanks to all."

From Barb Battaglia: "Just received a call from Avon Chiropractic and they truly appreciate the gesture of the cookies and said they were delicious!"

From Mike Decarlo at Morrison Dining: "It was a pleasure to have been a part of this project. You literally gave thousands of healthcare workers a moment to smile and feel happy. As someone who works in healthcare, with a front row seat to how hard this has been on the staff, I can tell you with first-hand knowledge that they truly appreciated this moment. God bless you, and all who were involved."

From Brenda Donohue: "The whole project was beautifully done. The bags looked great and the enclosed note told the story that our community is genuinely grateful for the commitment of our health workers. The cookies themselves were huge and wrapped very professionally. The smooth execution was due to meticulous planning ! It was a pleasure working with all of you to accomplish this goal!"

Tweet Shared from CAS

"A SWEET TREAT

Over 500 cookies to be distributed at Noyes Health

Ken Kallio and Haley Kent of [Livingston CARES](#) dropped off over 500 cookies at Noyes Health this morning to thank healthcare workers for their dedication.



A note with the cookies reads “Livingston Cares would like to thank you for your service to our community during this challenging time. We appreciate the sacrifices you have made, your hard work, and the care you have shown in keeping us healthy and safe. We value and appreciate every individual who works in the healthcare field and offer this small token of appreciation and gratitude for your efforts – we could not have made it through

without you.”

Kallio said this project has been in the works since December.

When you look at the size of the operation, it is easy to understand why.

“We are going to 94 or 95 different offices in the Livingston County area,” said Haley Kent, a Biology and Sociomedical Sciences double major at SUNY Geneseo.

“There’s over 2,500 cookies, half are made by a nursing home, the other half are made by the Campus Auxiliary Services at SUNY Geneseo.”

There are 15 Livingston County CARES volunteers out delivering cookies. The goal is to get all of the deliveries done today.”

From Lima EMS Rescue Chief Kim Quinlan: “Thank you for your thoughtfulness with the cookie delivery Karen Dewar made this morning to our agency. We will enjoy these delicious treats and appreciate you thinking of us!”



From Dr. Keith Koch & Staff: "Good Morning! What a pleasant surprise to receive cookie treats! It is wonderful to feel appreciated. Wishing all you kind folks a great day!"