

Build Hope for Heroes

Local Folks Supporting Local Restaurants Feeding Local Heroes

For general information:

The COVID-19 pandemic is here. With over 50 cases now in the Golden Crescent, we have local heroes who are helping the rest of us stay safe at home. People in healthcare – the Emergency Room staff, ICU nurses, the cleaning staff at each hospital, to name a few - all putting their lives on the line to care for those who are sick with the virus we are battling. And other people like grocery store overnight stockers, cashiers, bus drivers, drivers in the City Sanitation department, and the men and women working for STEC and AEP – just ordinary men and women doing heroic things to help keep us safe. They are responding to this crisis too by doing the things that allow us to quarantine.

Sitting at home one evening, I realized that these men and women are doing their jobs without expectation of recognition, or even a simple thank you. So how can we show our appreciation and say thank you in a meaningful way that they will remember long after the quarantine is over?

Earlier that same evening I read online of the governor's orders to close all restaurants except for pickup or delivery. Which prompted the question - what is going to happen to those businesses, some of my favorite restaurants? One has already shuttered for the duration of the quarantine.

That's how the idea of Build Hope for Heroes came into being. Habitat's mission is "Putting God's love into action, Habitat partners with God and people everywhere to build homes, communities and hope." What could be more natural than giving the communities we serve the opportunity to build hope in the lives of all our responders by saying "thank you" to ALL of the responders in our community. And a chance to support locally owned and operated restaurants at the same time.

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity's is committed to its employees and volunteers. We are determined to not layoff or furlough employees, because we know the importance of our mission. And that it will be even more important in the weeks and months to come after the economic impact of this time is realized. But for now, our regular building operations are suspended to protect our volunteers.

Build Hope for Heroes has 4 components:

- 1) Community members – that means YOU! – donate money, recommend specific responder groups, volunteer to pickup and deliver meals, write thank you notes to be delivered with the meals. (This would be a great activity for children at home right now!) We would love to hear from people in DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Refugio County for recommended local restaurants and responder groups.
- 2) Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity – accepts donations and coordinates ordering and delivery of meals along with thank you notes to identified responder groups in the six counties we serve.

- 3) Caleb Shaw of Shaw Realty is leading the team identifying groups for meals, and manages verification paper trail of these deliveries.
- 4) Robby Burdge of KCI will provide third party accountability for funds expenditure.

Go to www.goldencrescenthabitat.org to find out how YOU can help – through donations, recommending a responder group, recommending a local restaurant, writing thank you notes, or volunteering to pickup and deliver meals in your community.