



FINAL FOOD CENTER UPDATES BEFORE THE DOORS OPEN

For nearly 5 years, we have been on a mission to expand and improve food resources and other essential services to people throughout Ramsey County. Through our Opening Doors to Food Security capital campaign, our incredible community contributed over \$10.7 Million to open what will very soon be the Keystone Community Food Center, located at 1800 University Avenue West in St. Paul.

WE'RE SO CLOSE - WORKING TO CLOSE THE FUNDRAISING GAP

The outpouring of generosity we have received from longtime supporters, new donors, local businesses, government entities, corporations, foundations of all sizes, and faith communities has been truly remarkable, so much so that we're able to move forward with our plans and intend to open the doors for service in January 2024. Every dollar given so far has gotten us to this important moment, and we are so thankful!

However, we still need to secure \$186,000 by the end of 2023 to fully complete the project and purchase the equipment needed to be ready to open the doors of this new building in January!

JOIN US TO HELP OPEN THE DOORS

All gifts given to the project will be immediately put to use to ensure we're ready to welcome neighbors into our new Community Food Center in January. If you would like to talk about your investment in the project or learn more, please contact Jen Winterfeldt, Director of Development & Community Engagement at jwinterfeldt@keystoneservices.org or call 651-645-0349. Thank you!

EXCITING NEWS AND UPDATES:

Construction Updates: It has been so exciting to see the interior and exterior of our new building transform throughout the summer! We have been the most excited about the new beautiful windows added throughout the building.

Other recent construction highlights include:

- Repaving and reimagining the parking lot for visitors
- Painting, hanging light fixtures, and assembling door frames for volunteer space, community room, and other spaces
- Designing and reframing a bigger front entrance



Paint and lights are really transforming things at the new Community Food Center!

LOOKING AHEAD:

We're in the final phases! In the remainder of 2023, interior and exterior construction will continue, and we'll begin rolling out our transition plans in December. If all goes according to plan, we will be ready to operate services out of the new Community Food Center right away in the new year!



Mark Traynor
Opening Doors to Food Security Campaign Co-Chair

HEAR WHAT OTHER NEIGHBORS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS NEW CENTER!

Scan the QR code to see why Mark Traynor, Co-Chair of the Opening Doors to Food Security Campaign, says our new Community Food Center will be a game changer in expanding support for our community.



YOU ARE THE KEY

AN UPDATE FOR OUR KEYSTONE SUPPORTERS



"Your support really and truly means the world to us!" - Adero, President

A NOTE FROM ADERO RISER COBB, PRESIDENT

In this season of gratitude, I want to thank you for your kindness and generosity. You make so many important things possible through Keystone and that list has been especially long these past few busy months!

As we approach the end of the year, we enter a very crucial time, both for Keystone as an organization, and all those who rely on our programs. On the verge of opening the Keystone Community Food Center, we are still working to close the funding gap for the building (read more on page 4), while also securing needed funding to continue to operate all of our programs.

Supporters like you are **vital** to helping meet unprecedented needs, and your generosity will continue to sustain the important programs valued by so many neighbors through the end of the year and beyond.

I hope this newsletter helps you see some of the powerful things you make happen! You are truly the key to making our programs possible every single day, and I am so thankful that you are a part of our community.

With sincere gratitude, Adero Riser Cobb

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YOUR GENEROSITY PREPARED YOUTH FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WITH BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SUPPLIES

Over a thousand youth in our community went back to school more prepared for success this school year, thanks to you! Due to the incredible generosity of our Keystone community, this was the greatest number of youth and families we've ever been able to support through our annual school supply distribution.

With 1,080 backpacks filled with school supplies and additional supplies distributed, you helped set youth up for success and offered families the flexibility to cover their other monthly expenses or buy other needed school items.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces that day. Families shared how excited their children were about the first day of school now that they had a new backpack and school supplies. **We truly could not have had such a successful event without the support of our donors and volunteers!**



"Thank you all so very much. You have no idea what a help this is for my family!" ~ School Supply Distribution participant



YOU BROUGHT MORE FOOD TO MORE NEIGHBORS AT OUR 2023 KEYS TO SUCCESS GALA

On September 26, we gathered with over 250 Keystone supporters at Allianz Field for our 2023 Keys to Success Gala. It was such a special night! We were thrilled to have so many of our neighbors, community leaders, business partners, volunteers, and staff join us that evening to bring more food to more tables for our neighbors.

Food is not only filling our body with nutrients, but food is one way we foster connection; sharing a meal with family, friends, or those closest to us is one of the most common ways we show love. At our gala, we were honored to hear from Caramentta, a participant who shared how grateful she is for the food support she receives from Keystone because it helps her care for her large family.



“Keystone has been a wonderful blessing to my family.” – Carmenetta, Food Shelf participant

“If I didn’t get food from Keystone, I’d be lost. As the breadwinner in my home, I can turn to Keystone to provide a full square meal for my family.” For Carmenetta and many of our participants, getting food support from Keystone is a vital resource that helps them provide for their loved ones.

In total, our community generously contributed over \$175,000 through the 2023 Keys to Success Gala. We are grateful to our sponsors, guests, and everyone who contributed to help get us one giant step closer to being ready to open the Community Food Center! We can’t wait to fill the warehouse and market with food and supplies for the first time.

Thank you to everyone who supported us through our gala! We are grateful for every single dollar given and the outpouring of love and support from our Keystone community as we expand food services for our community.

YOUR SUPPORT BROUGHT FREE & FRESH PRODUCE TO OVER 6,000 FAMILIES THROUGH OUR 2023 FREE FARMERS MARKETS

Thanks to your generosity, this summer we worked with community partners and volunteers to bring free produce to neighbors through 15 Free Farmer’s Market events.

With inflation continuing to put pressure on budgets, especially for neighbors with lower incomes, there is an increased need for food support for so many more people right now. In comparison to 2022, this year we experienced a 15% increase in the number of participants attending our Free Farmer’s Market events.

You made it possible for Keystone to meet this increased need. With your support, we were able to provide **6,453 families** with fresh fruits and vegetables this summer!



Our volunteers helped distribute over 156,000 pounds of fresh produce to neighbors in need through this season’s Free Farmer’s Market events!

LOVE GIVING TO THE MAX FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

Your gift to Keystone by November 16 will:



- be matched **dollar for dollar** up to \$25,000 by an anonymous foundation
- help Keystone secure needed funds for programs before year end
- sustain all of the vital programs that support our neighbors and connect our community

Find Keystone’s page through GiveMN.org to schedule your gift or give on November 16. Thank you!

NEIGHBORS LIKE CLYDE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Keystone’s Meals on Wheels program brings more than nutritious meals to the doorsteps of neighbors - it also brings connection to friendly volunteers and staff, helping people feel more engaged and supported.

After Clyde’s wife had been receiving meals for a few years, he decided to get Meals on Wheels as well to help stretch his budget and use nutrition to manage some complicated health circumstances. The meals Clyde receives have helped minimize some health conditions that once made it more challenging to navigate everyday life. Clyde shares, *“When I was diagnosed as a diabetic, I had to change my whole lifestyle including what I ate and when. Since getting Meals on Wheels, I have been losing weight and eating healthier. That has helped my health in more ways than one!”*

Clyde enjoys the meals, but he also loves the feeling of connection that Keystone brings to his life, especially now that his wife has moved into long-term care. Clyde is a storyteller and loves to chat with the volunteers who deliver his meals. Clyde also appreciates his relationship with Keystone staff like Phil, Keystone’s Senior Program Coordinator. Recently, Clyde and Phil shared a cup of coffee and a few laughs at Day-by-Day café in the West 7th neighborhood during their men’s coffee club.

Your generosity supports neighbors like Clyde, providing nutritious meals and connection to friendly and supportive volunteers and staff. Thank you for your kindness in supporting seniors in our community!



“Being connected to Keystone has been a real life saver for me. The meals are great, and the staff and volunteers are just wonderful.”
– Clyde, Meals on Wheels participant



“Food is more than just for the nutrition or the substance we get from it. Food is life!”
~ Adero Riser Cobb, Keystone’s President

