



We have been operating from the Keystone Community Food Center for four months, and staff, volunteers, and participants alike appreciate so many things about the new building!



Everyone loves the amount of space we have in the warehouse and garage. We didn't have either in our previous buildings, and these areas give us expanded space and resources for our mobile food programs such as Grocery Delivery and Foodmobile.

Not only can we store and load the Foodmobiles inside, but mobile services staff can now access the wide variety of food in the warehouse. This has greatly expanded the food we can offer participants in our mobile programs.

With this expanded capacity, we can receive, store (thanks to the large walk-in freezer/coolers), and distribute more food from food rescue too. Food rescue currently accounts for approximately 40% of the food we distribute and includes many fresh items such as produce, dairy, and deli products our participants love.

We are grateful for your generous support in opening the Keystone Community Food Center, which gives us the space and capacity to store and distribute more food to more neighbors.



YOU ARE THE KEY

An update for our Keystone supporters



Spring 2024

A NOTE FROM ADERO RISER COBB, PRESIDENT

With the opening of the Keystone Community Food Center earlier this year, we have been leaning into our commitment to provide more nourishing care and connection to our neighbors. We're eternally grateful for your support every step of the way!

More neighbors, like Monique, are relieved Keystone is there for them. Your generosity enables us to support neighbors like her and the 2,742 new individuals who received food support from Keystone last month through Meals on Wheels and food shelf programs at the Keystone Community Food Center.

Your generosity and kindness ensure neighbors receive the food, support, and connection they need. We're grateful for you!

With heartfelt gratitude, Adero Riser Cobb



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Invitation to the Food Center Open House

LET'S CELEBRATE

OPEN HOUSE

at the Keystone Community Food Center

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH 2024

From 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

1800 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55104

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!



YOUR GENEROSITY DURING OUR FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN CATAPULTS SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBORS LIKE MONIQUE

When times are tough, people turn to Keystone. Your contributions and financial gifts ensure neighbors can count on Keystone for support. Thank you for your generosity during our MN FoodShare campaign!

Monique never anticipated turning to a food shelf for help, but she feels nothing but gratitude for the food and support she receives from Keystone's food shelf.

Monique says, "Keystone is one place I know I can count on. I have seen people from all walks of life visit Keystone, so I know so many people in our community are grateful to be able to get food to feed our families."

While our food shelf programs appreciate support year-round, we are inspired by your generosity during this annual campaign.

You collectively gave:



Over 21,900 pounds of food



Over \$126,000



This year, our goal is to raise \$380,000 to purchase food for our food shelf programs, and thanks to you, we are well on our way. **Your gifts have directly helped neighbors like Monique, ensuring they can visit the food shelf and access nourishing food to feed their families.**

We're grateful for your passion and generosity for filling shelves with food to support neighbors in our community!

YOUR SUPPORT GIVES TEENS LIKE KRYSTAL MEANINGFUL FIRST JOBS

Keystone's Teen Tutor Program offers youth employees a unique opportunity to develop valuable skills while earning an income through their first job. This program gives teens a space to strengthen their knowledge and cultivate patience, communication, and leadership skills.

Because of your support, teens like Krystal have the opportunity to create meaningful connections with youth through her position as a Teen Tutor. Krystal, a sophomore from Saint Paul's East Side neighborhood, discovered the program via RightTrack, a youth employment program offered by the City of St. Paul which Keystone partners with. The position at Keystone was Krystal's top choice of all the internships available, as she wanted experience with kids because she hopes to become a pediatrician when she's older.

While juggling schoolwork, friends, and other commitments, one of Krystal's motivations for wanting to work was her parents. She says, "When my parents were young, they never had these types of opportunities where they could work at such a young age. Because of this, I wanted to help my family and bring in money to help support them." Early career development is essential for young people like Krystal as it serves as a cornerstone for their future in the workforce and helps open doors to more opportunities.

Thanks to your generous support, teens like Krystal have the opportunity to engage in early career development which helps them build lifelong skills that they will use well into the future.



"Thank you for supporting Keystone! You give me and other tutors the chance to make connections with kids we are proud to tutor every day." ~ Krystal, Teen Tutor

YOU DELIVER MEALS AND MORE TO SENIORS LIKE CLYDE

You help seniors in our community access nutritious food in many ways, including from the food shelf, Foodmobile, Grocery Delivery program, and Meals on Wheels.

Over the last year, participation in Keystone's Meals on Wheels program has increased by 27%, and over 94% of participants receive some kind of financial support for their home-delivered meals.

Supporters like you are essential to ensuring low-income seniors can receive this supportive meal service, so we can help keep meals affordable and available for those who need them most.



"I love Meals on Wheels. The meals help me eat properly, and lose weight, and overall manage my diabetes. Plus, I like the food! While I have a lot of caregiving responsibilities for my wife in a nursing home, yet, when I'm at home, a lot of days, the only person I see in person is the volunteer who delivers my meal." ~ Clyde, Meals on Wheels participant

We're thrilled to share that as of January, some federal funding is now available so more low-income seniors in our community can get meals delivered to them at no cost. As of 2024, Metro Meals on Wheels and partner organizations like Keystone were awarded federal funding, which allows qualifying individuals to receive up to seven free meals a week.

Last fall, the Keystone team began calling some of our current participants and sharing this new resource with them; in January, over 50 of our current clients could receive more meals for free.

"It's been gratifying knowing that people are getting healthy food and a friendly visit every day and not sacrificing prescriptions, utilities, or other necessities to be able to get meals," says Teisha Magee, Keystone Senior Services Director.

Clyde, who you may recall from last fall's newsletter, is thrilled to get half of his meals delivered for free now. The new support immediately impacted his budget, especially as he has extra bills for his wife who is living in a nursing home. Clyde says, "With costs for everything going up – insurance, electricity, and other utilities – getting some meals paid for is a huge bonus."

Clyde credits Meals on Wheels for helping him manage his diabetes and eat healthier. He really enjoys the connections with volunteers and Keystone staff, and he's so grateful for the support and kindness he's received from Keystone every step of the way.

Thank you for providing meals and support to neighbors like Clyde!

YOU POWER THE FOODMOBILES, BRINGING FOOD TO NEIGHBORS

Your invaluable support of Keystone powers our mobile food programs, enabling us to expand services and bring more food to more people. Our Foodmobile and Grocery Delivery programs help remove the barrier of transportation that often limits access to food support, making a tangible difference for the neighbors we serve.

Last year, thanks to your support, we were able to provide 27% more services from the Foodmobile than in 2022, serving over 7,000 individuals. Supporters like you help ensure the vehicles are staffed, fueled, and filled with food. Our host site partners help make sure distributions run smoothly and support as many participants as possible. We currently offer 30 monthly distributions at community locations across Ramsey County.

Keystone partners with RePowered, bringing the Foodmobile to their location once a month to support their employees, most of whom face barriers to employment. Shannon Haiden, Facilities and Resources Coordinator at RePowered says, "The Foodmobile is amazing! We love that you travel to us, so our folks don't have to feel like they're choosing between missing work and going to a food shelf." She knows how much their employees count on Keystone to get quality food, sustaining them and stretching their wages even further.

Thank you for fueling our Foodmobile program, which is a beacon of hope and support for many neighbors in our community.



"Keystone and RePowered are a stepping stone for people like me. I'm grateful they bring resources to people who may be going through a transition and need support most." ~ RePowered participant



Recently, Clyde got to advocate for Meals on Wheels and associated funding for senior services at a roundtable event with Minnesota Senator Tina Smith. Clyde says, "I loved being a spokesman for Keystone's Meals on Wheels program because I believe in it."