

# COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER UPDATES

The new Keystone Community Food Center (1800 University Avenue in St. Paul) will allow us to expand food resources and other essential services to support people throughout Ramsey County.

## EXCITING NEWS AND UPDATES:

**Funding Update:** Our request for \$2.6M was approved by the state legislature as part of the capital investment bill that was passed this session! We are thrilled to get this support for our new Community Food Center which has brought us so much closer to our campaign goal.

**Groundbreaking:** On June 29, we celebrated a major milestone in our campaign with a groundbreaking ceremony! It was wonderful to bring so many people together in celebration of this project, including leaders from the City, County, and State, and community and business leaders, donors, board members, and volunteers.



It was an honor to celebrate this special moment with some of the people who have gotten us this far!

**Construction updates:** The construction crew is hard at work every day. Currently, they are:

- Painting the ceilings
- Completing plumbing work so the utilities can be updated
- Cutting the openings between the buildings that will connect the garage to the rest of the center

## LOOKING AHEAD:

It will be a busy summer and fall as we complete the exterior projects during warmer months including:

- Installing a new roof and windows
- Tuckpointing work to restore the bricks and doing additional stucco repair
- Selecting the muralist who will be doing external artwork along Beacon Avenue

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN:

Thank you to all of you who have invested in this project so far! Between now and the fall, we are working to close our campaign gap of \$186,000. **Together, we can – and we will - open doors to ensure everyone has food on their tables.**



**ENJOY KEYSTONE'S  
GROUNDBREAKING  
CEREMONY VIDEO**

We invite you to scan the QR code to watch a few highlights from our groundbreaking event at our new Community Food Center.



# YOU ARE THE KEY

## AN UPDATE FOR OUR KEYSTONE SUPPORTERS

### A note from Adero Riser Cobb, President

Greetings!

I am thrilled to be writing to you today as the new President/CEO of Keystone Community Services. It's an incredible honor to lead and serve this great organization, and I am grateful to be strengthening our community through Keystone with you!

In my first few weeks in this new role, I am learning a lot and jumping right in to ensure all the important things happening at Keystone continue to operate seamlessly. This summer, our programs are busier than ever, and we're deep into the construction process at our new community food center. I hope you enjoy reading more about how your support is in action in our community.

I appreciate your support and look forward to getting to know you in the months and years ahead!

**With sincere gratitude,**

*Adero Riser Cobb*



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## YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS MORE NEIGHBORS ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD

Hunger and food insecurity are a reality that many people in our community are facing right now. With declining supplemental benefits and rising costs of living, more and more people are turning to Keystone for food and support.

In addition to busy service days at our food shelves and Foodmobiles, our Free Farmers Market events are seeing a record number of participants. At each event, we are distributing free and fresh fruits and vegetables to anyone in need. **Your generosity has given us the flexibility and resources needed to host 15 of these events this season to expand access to quality food for our neighbors.**

As we continue throughout the summer, you make it possible for Keystone to continue to meet the needs in our community. **Thank you for giving neighbors care and support!**



As food insecurity rises, your support is more vital for your neighbors.



## YOU HELP KIDS AND TEENS HAVE ENRICHING SUMMERS AT KEYSTONE

All of our sites are bursting with youthful energy during these summer days! Hundreds of youth are participating in Keystone's youth programs and enjoying field trips, creative curriculum to keep academics fun, first internships and jobs, and so much more! Thank you for bringing these smiles to faces every day at Keystone!



## AN INTERVIEW WITH ADERO RISER COBB

Get to know our new President Adero Riser Cobb and learn about her passion for Keystone's work in the community.

### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF:

I was born and raised in Saint Paul. I spent most of my life in the Lex-Ham/Midway neighborhood, graduating from Central High School and Concordia University. I studied marketing management for my BA, and then I went back to get a master's degree in Organizational Management with an emphasis in Human Resources and got an MBA from Concordia as well.

My father owned his own business, and that is where I first learned about business operations. I combined that knowledge with education to pursue my interests in professional leadership roles with people at the center of my work. I have worked in business management and human resources throughout my career, but my work in nonprofits aligns my skills with my purpose, passions, and values. I have two adult children who I am very proud of.



*"When I think about leading Keystone, I think about my childhood. I'm so honored to be the CEO of an organization that is really making a difference in the community where I was born and raised and that is continuing to do incredible work to strengthen our community." ~ Adero, Keystone CEO*

## YOU MAKE REAL LIFE JOB EXPERIENCES POSSIBLE FOR TEENS LIKE OWEN

Early employment opportunities are pivotal for teens, especially those from communities of color or from families who have lower incomes. Not only do jobs help teens make extra income, but they also help them gain skills that help build the foundation for future employment. This summer, Keystone is employing 36 teens through our Teen Employment Program.

**Your generosity gives young people a safe place to grow socially and gain real life work experience.** Owen is one youth participant who has gained real life work experience through Keystone's Best Buy Teen Tech Center!

In 2020, after attending an open house at the Teen Tech Center, Owen became interested in the opportunities offered and appreciated the access to technology not available at his school.

Throughout the 3 years he's been connected to the Tech Center, Owen has had the opportunity to apply his passion for technology by using all the equipment the center has to offer and completing internships including working under Keystone's IT specialist.

While Owen loves the Teen Tech Center and the opportunities provided, he has stayed for the community. *"The community here is wonderful, and all the people here have always been so nice and welcoming. And I think what solidified my stay here was the first internship I got through the Career Pathways program."*

**You make it possible for young people like Owen to have the opportunity to spend their summers gaining work experience through Keystone's Teen Employment Program. Thank you!**



*"I credit where I am to the Tech Center and the Pathways program, because it really enabled me to get in the professional world so early on."*  
~ Owen, Teen Tech Center participant

### PLEASE SHARE A LITTLE BIT YOUR HISTORY WITH KEYSTONE:

I have been on the Keystone staff since 2019 as the Director of HR and Operations and then later COO, and I was a member of the Board of Directors for a few years before that. But my connection to Keystone starts way back in my teenage years! My first job when I was 13 or 14 years-old was through the job referral program at Youth Express job, which merged with Keystone in 2013. When my kids were in elementary school, they attended camps through Youth Express, and later both had their first jobs through Keystone's teen employment program. I give Keystone credit for allowing my kids a safe space to grow and flourish outside the house. I really love this organization and am excited to continue my journey now as CEO, getting to deepen my connection with the entire Keystone community!

### WHAT ENERGIZES YOU ABOUT KEYSTONE OR OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY?

Oh, it all energizes me! I light up every time I talk about my job and our work because I'm really passionate about Keystone. The work we do to support neighbors in our community is important to me. I see what our programs and services mean to our community, and it energizes me to know the difference we make every day.

### WHAT ARE KEYSTONE'S BIGGEST PRIORITIES OVER THE NEXT YEAR?

Our biggest priority is to complete our new Community Food Center. We're in the thick of the construction process now, and as a team, we're busy thinking through the operations and programming side of how we'll expand support for our community at the new building. Our other priority is exploring how to thoughtfully grow and adapt programs while financially sustaining them so we can continue to support people as our communities' needs evolve. I am also really committed to thinking about the well-being of our Keystone team and ensuring our staff have the support and working environment to keep doing their best work.

# KEYS TO SUCCESS GALA

## SEPTEMBER 26 AT ALLIANZ FIELD

Save the date! Invitations to come in August.