



Neighbors Helping Neighbors | During Coronavirus Outbreak, Businesses Within Opportunity Zones Are Stepping Up to Serve Their Communities

#Inthistogether

As communities combat the coronavirus outbreak, HUD is highlighting stories of communities coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Los Angeles, California - Everytable, seven-store health-forward restaurant chain, has started a Helpline for residents of the Los Angeles area who have been left hungry by the coronavirus quarantines. Many of the store locations are located within Opportunity Zones, and the company follows an innovative model--prices of food items vary based on income levels of the community in which the restaurants are located. The idea behind the business model is to provide low-income communities with access to fresh, healthy meals. Responding to needs of their communities is among the top priorities of the Everytable stores, and that's just what they're doing during the COVID-19 outbreak. *"The line is open to all Los Angelenos, but particularly those who are at-risk for illness or hunger: seniors who need food brought to their homes; those whose health care or senior center food services have been interrupted; school districts unsure of strategies for feeding students; employers looking for ways to ensure team members have access to healthy food; and all individuals struggling with access to food due to coronavirus,"* reports QSR Magazine. The chain also announced their Compton, CA location will provide one free meal to enrolled Compton College students per day. *"It has always been our mission to make sure folks are well fed, and it's about continuing that in a crisis,"* said CEO Sam Polk. *"This is a time for us all to become one big, great human family and take care of each other."* [Read the full story from QSR Magazine](#)



[Photo courtesy of @Foreverytable via Twitter](#)

Memphis, Tennessee – Ordinarily, the Big River Distilling Company produces Blue Note Bourbon and Riverset Rye at a facility in North Memphis, which is designated as an Opportunity Zone. During the coronavirus outbreak, however, the company realized there was a need in the community for more than their whiskey, and Big River had the capacity to help. With nationwide shortages of cleaning and sanitizing products, Big River is now manufacturing medical-grade hand sanitizer to be distributed to hospitals and first responder nationwide. *“As a team, we made the decision to retool our whiskey production lines to help manufacture this critical resource in order to meet the escalating demand,”* B.R. Distilling director of operations Alexander Folk said. [Read the full story from the Daily Memphian](#)



[Photo courtesy of the Daily Memphian](#)

Miami, Florida – The Red Rooster Overtown, a restaurant located within an Opportunity Zone in Miami is partnering with World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing meals in wake of natural disasters, and Food Rescue US, a nonprofit aimed at reducing both hunger and food waste in America. The collective partnership is working together to serve those in need who have been impacted by the coronavirus by offering prepared, packaged meals to go. *“We must fight food insecurity during this time of crisis which is why we are proud to open our brand new Red Rooster Overtown to work with incredible partners like World Central Kitchen and Food Rescue US to safely provide meals in this unprecedented time of need,”* shared Marcus Samuelsson, chef and co-owner of Red Rooster Overtown. [Read the full story from the Miami New Times](#)



[Photo courtesy of SOBEWFF via Miami New Times](#)

New York, New York– In an Opportunity Zone in the Bronx, the Beastro restaurant is one of several restaurants partnering with the World Kitchen to provide free meals to low-income folks in the community who are struggling during the coronavirus outbreak. *“We are watching what is happening across the country and right here in the Bronx, we realize people need a meal,”* said New York State Assemblymember Michael Blake. The World Central Kitchen is distributing thousands of fresh, individually packaged grab-and-go meals to local families throughout the Bronx, Queens, Harlem, and Brooklyn in New York, NY and Newark and Elizabeth in New Jersey. The meals are available to anyone in the area who needs extra support during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full story from WPIX-11 New York](#)



Photo courtesy of WPIX-11



World Central Kitchen ✓
@WCKitchen

WCK's Zomi is in Newark, New Jersey with [@MarcusCooks](#) where the team is preparing a delicious rigatoni pasta for emergency dispatchers, sanitation workers, the homeless coalition, and the local community in need. [#ChefsForAmerica](#)



12:49 PM · Mar 31, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Photo courtesy of @WCKitchen via Twitter

Scottsdale, Arizona – In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, Plexus health and nutrition company made a large donation of their food and wellness products to a local food bank. The donation, which was delivered to St. Mary’s Food Bank, will provide 57,000 meals to local families in need. The Plexus headquarters and St. Mary’s Food Bank are both located within an Opportunity Zone in Arizona. “Plexus is dedicated to fighting food insecurity in our local community and around the world, so it was important to support our local community partner during this crisis that has left so many people unable to put food on their table,” said Tarl Robinson, Founder and CEO of Plexus. [Read the full story from AZ Big Media](#)



[Photo courtesy of AZ Big Media](#)

Norwalk, Connecticut – Food Rescue is a non-profit organization based in Connecticut that works with local restaurants and grocers to collect extra produce and other food donations and distributes it to those in need within the community. During the coronavirus outbreak, Food Rescue, which is located within an Opportunity Zone, has converted its locations into ‘Community Kitchens’, which are staffed by food industry personnel. “It’s obviously a very fluid situation – which goes without saying – and we’re completely focused on getting surplus food to the people who need it,” said Carol Shattuck, CEO of Food Rescue US. [Read more from the Hour online](#)



[Photo courtesy of Erik Trautmann / Hearst Connecticut Media](#)

Akron, Ohio—In Ohio, two health care technology companies located within Opportunity Zones are collaborating to help communities screen patients for the coronavirus. GeneratorWorks is partnering with a clinical algorithm platform, SmartDocMD, to help communities combat the coronavirus. Together, they developed SecurePass, a digital risk stratification and screening survey focused on identifying possible COVID-19 risks. *“Our world has changed with the current COVID-19 pandemic, and health systems are becoming overwhelmed,”* said GeneratorWorks CEO Blake Squires. *“Quick-to-act and scalable digital tools need to be implemented. Understanding community health and provider needs are critical to ensuring the safety and ongoing operations of healthcare facilities and workers. With our collaboration to create SecurePass, we can do just that, while keeping patients informed, connected and safe.”* [Read the news release from GeneratorWorks](#)

Los Angeles, CA – Amid the coronavirus outbreak, St. Francis Center, which is located within an Opportunity Zone, continues to provide hunger relief and services for the city’s extremely low-income and families experiencing homelessness. They are offering hot to-go meals for

breakfast and a brown bag lunch. Volunteers are also pre-bagging groceries for families through their pantry program for their most vulnerable residents. [Read more from the St. Francis Center](#)



Photo courtesy of the St. Francis Center website

Seattle, Washington – As more small business are impacted by the coronavirus outbreak, Amazon announced it is creating a \$5 million Neighborhood Small Relief Fund to provide cash grants to local small business in need. The funds are geared towards small business with less than 50 employees or less than \$7 million in annual revenue. “As we all adapt to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, we know that we have an important role to play in keeping our employees and residents safe and healthy, and in supporting the local businesses that are our neighbors,” wrote Amazon’s real estate chief John Schoettler. “This is a difficult time in our city, and we will continue to try to work with our community to get through it together,” he said. [Read more from TechCrunch](#)

HUD Resources – Secretary Carson serves as chairman of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. Since President Trump established the Council, it has taken more than 200 actions to align existing Federal resources, policies, and programs to Opportunity Zones. For more information about the Opportunity Zones initiative, visit www.OpportunityZones.gov

Read more stories of #NeighborsHelpingNeighbors by following @HUDgov and @SecretaryCarson online.

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