

## **Metrocrest Services remains open and serving the community during COVID-19**

Metrocrest Services is beginning to see **large increases in need** and anticipate that continuing into the unforeseeable future. Over the last week, we've seen a significant increase in the food pantry, as many families and seniors rely on the pantry for healthy food. Additionally, with the closing of restaurants, retailers, and other service oriented businesses many of those in our community will see a significant reduction in income.

While some employers indicate they plan to pay their employees even if they close we expect that to occur for only a limited amount of time and primarily benefit full time workers. This will lead to a greater need for our housing assistance program to ensure families can pay their rent and avoid eviction.

Metrocrest Services is formulating plans to ensure the needs of those we serve are met while at the same time addressing the safety of our employees and volunteers. **As always, our mission will be to serve those in need while providing encouragement and hope.**

At this point the best way to help is to make a monetary donation at: <https://www.metrocrestservices.org/idonate.php>. We will use those funds to ensure the pantry remains stocked and our neighbors stay housed.

We will also need additional volunteer support for our Food Pantry. If you would like to assist in our pantry, and **are not in an at-risk category**, please go online to set up your profile and sign up for a shift. You can do so at: <https://metrocrestservices.secure.force.com/volunteers/Application>.

Our pantry hours are currently Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (subject to change). **In an effort to keep volunteers safe, please know that additional precautionary hygiene measures have been added.**

**At this point, we are not encouraging food donations.** In an effort to protect our volunteers and employees we are reducing the number of "touch points." **A monetary donation provides greater impact as we procure food from the North Texas Food Bank at a much lower cost, while reducing interaction.**

With our schools closing, impacting thousands of children, and with the uncertainty regarding wages for many in our community, we are committed to remain open to serve the needs of our community. Our motto is "building a stronger community together". **This is a time when the strength of our community will rise to the occasion.**