

For immediate release: March 15, 2020

CARES to Operate as a Drive-Up Food Pantry Beginning Tuesday, March 17

CARES in Farmington Hills will temporarily provide drive-up food pantry services to protect guests, volunteers, and staff during the Coronavirus outbreak.

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FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich., March 15, 2020—In an effort to keep guests, volunteers, and staff healthy and help reduce the spread of Coronavirus, CARES will begin operating as a drive-up food pantry on Tuesday, March 17. This will allow the non-profit organization to continue to provide food services until it is considered safe to return to full operations. New pantry hours will be 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

To receive services, guests should follow these instructions, which will allow CARES to assist everyone safely and efficiently while minimizing impact on the surrounding community.

1. Guests must have an appointment. Anyone arriving without an appointment cannot be served. Appointments can be set by calling 248-474-8231 on Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Guests can visit the CARES pantry once per month.
2. Guests with a previously scheduled appointment do not need to call and should plan to arrive at their scheduled time. For Thursday or Saturday appointments, CARES will contact guests to reschedule.
3. Pick up will be at the back (south) entrance of the main CARES building, near the corner of Colwell St. and Independence St. Follow the signs to the pick up driveway. Guests must arrive at their scheduled appointment on time in order to manage traffic flow.
4. Guests will open their trunk and stay in their car. A volunteer will record the guest's information while maintaining the recommended safe distance during these interactions in order to minimize person to person contact, per current guidelines. A volunteer will place pre-packed bags in the guest's trunk and close it.

The Board of Directors and staff at CARES are exercising an abundance of caution. CARES wants our guests and volunteers to know CARES is a safe place for them and will continue to look out for their health and well-being. Everyone is glad CARES can still provide food to our community at this time and look forward to returning to our grocery-store-style pantry shopping experience when able.

In addition, the CARES building will be closed to everyone except staff and volunteers working assigned shifts, all volunteers will be expected to wash their hands frequently and wear gloves at all times, and any volunteer that appears ill will be asked to leave immediately. The cafe lunch program, clothing boutique, library, and all other CARES services are currently not operating and CARES is not accepting any clothing donations until further notice.

Food, personal care and cleaning products, and financial donations are welcomed to help with the anticipated increase in the number of community members who need assistance. To donate in person, people should come to the back of the building during open hours, remain in their car, and let the

check-in volunteer know they are making a donation. Volunteers will unload the items. To donate online, visit caresfh.org/donate/.

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About CARES

CARES is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, located at 27835 Shiawassee Rd. in Farmington Hills. CARES provides services to individuals and families living or working in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville, West Bloomfield, Redford, and Southfield.

The mission of CARES is to offer comprehensive support services for individuals and their families in and around the Farmington Hills area that are in need of or have limited access to everyday necessities due to insufficient financial resources or family instability. CARES will offer needed support in the areas of food, clothing, job education, and training as well as access to other community and county support services – all on one campus.

For more information, visit caresfh.org.