

Dear Friends of 15th Suffolk,

Thank you, as always, for all you're doing to encourage one another and to stay safe and healthy. Read on for brief updates about new volunteer and donation opportunities we're learning about and to review recent announcements about federal, state, and local action and resources.

Local Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

- **MissionSAFE Donation Request;** [MissionSAFE](#) needs support now more than ever. Their youth and families, who are already vulnerable because of their low-incomes and high rents, face the added economic devastation that comes with the loss of their hourly wage in restaurants, hotels, and construction sites. Because of the Corona Virus, MissionSAFE's traditional springtime fundraising activities can not be held which leaves a gap in revenue that affects both activities and staff's continued employment. Any potential donor's can donate directly on the website www.missionsafe.org/donate or by mail to **18 John Elliot Square Roxbury MA, 02119**. They are also accepting groceries and other food items for our youth and families and games of any kind.
- **A Lifeline for Working Families Affected by COVID-19 Crisis;** United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley recently launched the [COVID-19 Family Support Fund](#), a dedicated resource to help working families affected by this crisis. The intent of this fund is to provide a flexible source of cash assistance to economically vulnerable residents, including hospitality workers, retail workers, and other hourly employees. Click [here](#) for more information about how to support the United Way's COVID-19 Family Support Fund.
- **Both the State and the City of Boston are recruiting Health Care Professional Volunteers/Retired Medical Professionals:**
 - The **Baker-Polito Administration** has partnered with the Massachusetts Medical Society to match volunteers with our communities and health care providers based on skillsets and need. There is an immediate need for respiratory therapists and public health

nurses, and the administration is asking health care professionals interested in volunteering to sign up at [MAREsponds.org](https://www.maresponds.org).

- **Boston Public Health Commission** is working on a centralized system for people who are available to assist and can be trained quickly. If you are interested, please email either alexandra.valdez@boston.gov or nora.doherty@boston.gov.

Federal and State-level Resources and Announcements

- [Baker-Polito Administration Launches Online Portal for Personal Protective Equipment, Volunteers to Support COVID-19 Outbreak, 3/29](#)
- The [Paycheck Protection Program](#) is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. **The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.**

Local Resources

- Mayor Walsh announced the creation of the [Small Business Relief Fund](#), established to assist Boston's small businesses most directly impacted by closures, policies, or general loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This newly created fund is designed to quickly and strategically disburse grants to local businesses through a streamlined process that does not require businesses to assume additional debt. **The Fund will begin accepting applications on Monday, April 6, 2020**
- Are you worried you'll get evicted soon? Call City Life/Vida Urbana's Housing Hotline **617-934-5006** (English) **617-397-3773** (Español)
- If you need assistance in determining eligibility and would like to apply over phone for SNAP/ Food Stamps, please contact the **Greater Boston Food Bank** at **617-598-5022** or visit [GBFB.org/snap](https://www.gbfb.org/snap)

- **The Children's Trust** has a great [list of local and national resources](#) to help parental/caregiver stress during these difficult and unusual times including a **Parental Stress Hotline**, and **Samaritans Statewide Hotline**.



For constituents, advocates, or anyone else looking to get in touch, you can reach the office at **617-722-2582**, or isabel.torres@mahouse.gov!

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