



COVID-19 Update on Resuming Activities

updated 5/31/2020

SUMMARY: Uplift Organization **partial resuming** mobile outreach during COVID-19 situation.

- Uplift will resume some of its previous limited operations
- 3 Trucks x 3 Routes x 3 People per truck
- Still not open for donations...yet
- All current personal safety protocols remain in effect

Uplift Organization remains committed to our mission to take food and supplies to the homeless of Kansas City. We have tried to make the best decisions we could over these past 9-10 weeks to keep everyone safe. We are very glad to let you know that we are gradually resuming some of our operations that we had to curtail!

CHANGES FOR ROUTES AND VOLUNTEERS:

- **Three nights per week:** Effective 6/3/20, we will resume Wednesday operations. Uplift trucks will now be back to operating every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
- **Three Routes:** We will continue to **operate only 3 routes** until the numbers served rise again
 - We have been serving 180-250 per night, which is down from 300-400 a year ago
 - Other agencies we have been in touch with report similar lower numbers served
- **Three persons on each truck:** We will have an additional volunteer on the truck, comprised of 1 driver + 2 volunteers.
- **Contact Info:** All volunteers must have contact information (name and phone number) on file with the volunteer coordinator (Tammi). If email or phone number is missing, please send that info to upliftorg@att.net so we can update our database and have it on file in the event we ever need to reach you to notify you of anything.
- We have already begun gradually **handing out clothing and other supplies** that we previously had ceased distributing and we will be able to distribute these items in June.
- All other **existing protocols and practices** remain indefinitely, including:
 - Maintaining proper social distance, handwashing, wearing masks, gloves, etc
 - Anyone experiencing illness or COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from coming to Uplift.
 - Anyone in contact with a person who has had COVID-19 should also not serve.

SHOULD YOU RESUME VOLUNTEERING YET?

Please note that Uplift is now well-staffed with drivers and volunteers. ***It is okay to stay home!***

If a person decides to keep "taking a break" from serving at Uplift, please know that our operation is not suffering because of your prudential decision. We care about you and we want you to continue being safe and well!

Uplift is no longer placing **age restrictions** on volunteers. That said, persons with over 65 years old are typically at a greater health risk and should exercise their own judgment when deciding to volunteer. Persons at higher risk categories are encouraged to use their own judgement in volunteering this summer.

For clarity, no one should volunteer if they are feeling sick or have a temperature. Further, we will be wearing masks at the warehouse, on trucks and when serving homeless individuals to ensure we are taking care of each other. Masks are warm in summer and can be uncomfortable for some of our volunteers. But, wearing masks are absolutely necessary and a relatively small, kind act we will do for each other.

CHANGES FOR THE WAREHOUSE:

- **SORTING:**
 - Obviously, we cannot have our large group sorting days or our 2nd Saturday sort days.
 - We will be scheduling “small group sorting” (5-7 people) at various times.
 - ***More information and sign up links to come in a week or so.***
- **DONATIONS IN GENERAL = STILL CLOSED:**
 - We are not yet ready to open up for donations, but hope to be able to do so in the next couple of weeks.
 - Our donation area is almost full. As existing inventory and donations begin to move out of the warehouse and into the hands of our homeless friends, we will be able to open up again for donations.
 - If you have the ability to continue to hold on to your donations, we will gladly receive them soon. If not, we understand if you need to donate them to another organization.
 - Please expect an update in the next couple weeks.
- **DONATIONS OF HIGH-NEED ITEMS = OPEN:**
 - If you have any of the following items to donate, we can accept them
 - Men’s tennis shoes or athletic shoes in sizes 9-13 only
 - Underwear for men or women
 - Bug Wipes or bug spray (smaller sizes preferred)
 - Prepackaged Flavored Drinks - gatorade, canned iced tea, soda pop, juice boxes
 - We have plenty of cases of bottled water. It would be nice to offer something different in addition to bottled water.

Thank you for your commitment to Uplift and those we serve, as well as for your patience and understanding.

Please feel free to reach out to Ross or Dan with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

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