



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

St. Anthony's Serves 100,000th Meal Since Modifying Operations due to COVID-19

SAN FRANCISCO (April 16, 2020) – **Today, St. Anthony's served its 100,000th meal since March 10th, when the organization made modifications to its operations in accordance with public health agency guidance regarding COVID-19.** St. Anthony's Dining Room, founded in 1950 to provide food and community to people experiencing poverty and homelessness, moved from sit-down dining to hot to-go meals passed out on the curbside due to the risk of transmission of the virus in places of gathering. The Program now serves more than 3,200 meals daily (compared to 2,200 each day prior to the modifications to service and city-wide effects of COVID-19).

In order to engage in proper social distancing, St. Anthony's has installed a conveyor belt to allow staff to push meals to one another as they are prepped and packaged in the Dining Room (check it out in action below). All staff also wear masks and gloves, and are temperature-screened prior to beginning work every day. The organization's number one priority is the health and safety of its staff and guests. St. Anthony's has made similar changes and upgrades throughout its Programs. This has included suspending their volunteer program. Typically, St. Anthony's relies on a group of 60-80 dedicated volunteers every day to help run their Programs. Now, all of their operations are entirely staff-run, with employees from nearly every departments working to help prepare meals.

"We have worked hard to innovate and adapt to both meet the growing need and keep our staff and guests safe. Our Dining Room is now producing more meals than we've ever served in our 70 year history," explains St. Anthony's Executive Director Jose Ramirez. "We are deeply committed to continuing to provide for the community as long as we are able, and welcome those who are willing to join us by donating. Ramping up our operations and installing safety measures are both critical and expensive, so we look to the greater community for support during this time."

To see our staff preparing meals using the new conveyor belt system, click [here!](#)

To support St. Anthony's as we continue to provide essential resources during COVID-19, visit: stanthonysf.org/still-serving-sf.

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ST. ANTHONY'S
HOPE SERVED DAILY

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About St. Anthony's

Founded in 1950, St. Anthony's provides food, clothing, medical care, addiction recovery services, access to technology, job training, and other critical resources to the community. Every day we support and are supported by thousands of San Franciscans. Everyone who comes through our doors joins the St. Anthony's family and helps us create a future where all people flourish. Learn more at: stanthonysf.org.

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