

COVID-19 Seniors First Response Team



April 2, 2020

Media release – for immediate release

SENIORS FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

-Hamilton, Ontario-

St. Matthew's House is reaching out to vulnerable, **isolated older adults and seniors 55+** experiencing hunger, homelessness and income insecurity during this time of crisis. Our **Seniors First Response Team** has been working across the lower city and responding as the requests have been coming in. Some we help experience homelessness and live outside in temporary shelter. They have been encouraged to stay away from shelter during this pandemic crisis and are in need of supplies that will provide relief in some extreme conditions.

If you know of someone needing help, please call 905-523-5546 x 240 and we will arrange for delivery or support to where the person is currently living or staying. We are committed to ensuring that older adults who had been experiencing housing, food and income insecurity remain safely supported during this time of crisis.

St. Matthew's House is able to do this work because of the support of our funders, donors, board and staff. We are grateful for the support from the Government of Canada, the Hamilton Community Foundation, United Way Hamilton Halton, the Government of Ontario, the City of Hamilton, Help Age Canada and the parishes of the Anglican Church of Diocese of Niagara.

If you or someone you know wishes to make a donation, please go to www.stmatthewshouse.ca or call Shani Doherty at 905-523-5546 x 230. Here is a short list of items that we will be distributing:

- Grocery items such as water, juices, fresh veggies/fruit, milk, coffee, tea, protein shakes (Ensure/Boost)
- Toilet paper, incontinence supplies, hygiene products
- Collapsible water jugs, biodegradable food grills for outside cooking
- Battery banks for charging phones, kitchen items such as pots, can openers, sleeping bags and tents

Members of our Housing Outreach Preventing Eviction for Seniors (HOPES) team will support seniors experiencing housing insecurity during this time as well. Although there is a current moratorium on evictions, people are still vulnerable and need support. During this time of extreme crisis, we are committed to be the place **where hope lives**.

For more information, contact Renée Wetselaar, Executive Director

rwetselaar@stmatthewshouse.ca

905-523-5546 x 243 or 289-684-8465

-30-

We gratefully acknowledge the support for this work from: