

July 10, 2019

Dear Community Partner,

Keystone Community Services provides food shelf support for over 26,000 people every year in the Saint Paul and Roseville area. We learned in February that our sub-lease for our Roseville food shelf site, located at 2833 North Hamline Avenue, will be terminated as of August 31, 2019. This was unexpected news and we immediately notified our board and key stakeholders including the City of Roseville and our faith and civic group community partners about this unexpected development.

Since February, we have met with faith community leaders, contracted with a commercial real estate broker and worked with City of Roseville economic development staff to locate a new site for our food shelf which provides food and crisis supports for nearly 2,500 people every month. As of today, we have not been successful in locating a site in Roseville or the surrounding communities that is affordable or meets our space requirements. We will continue to work with our partners to secure a suitable location.

Unfortunately, the loss of our Roseville site comes at a challenging time for our community and Keystone. In the past three months, participation at all of our food shelf sites including our mobile distribution sites has increased by 10-24% every month. These increases in participation are directly connected to rising housing costs and a tight rental market. Most of our participants are employed yet over 55% of their annual income goes towards housing costs.

Keystone is also having to stretch our resources to meet the ongoing and increased need in our community. Due to reductions in support from long time funding partners, we are also challenged to find a new location that meets our budget constraints.

Consolidating our food shelf operations means that for the first time in our history, we will be limited in our ability to serve everyone who needs food support after August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our current plans to continue our vital food and crisis supports beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> are as follows:

- All Roseville area residents who need food shelf services will be able to participate at one of our two Saint Paul locations or at a mobile food shelf distribution.
- We will expand service hours at our Midway and Rice Street food shelf locations to support our Roseville area participants and will post those on our website and social media once they have been finalized.

- We will add 2-3 mobile food distributions in the Roseville area with current and new partners by September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Ramsey County residents who do not live in our food shelf service area will be given information about their neighborhood food shelf and provided one food shelf service to support them until they can access their local food shelf

We will continue to work with our partners to locate a food shelf site to support residents of Roseville and the surrounding communities who need food supports. We are grateful for the steadfast support of our local civic groups, faith communities, volunteers and non-profit partners. Keystone is committed to continuing our 35+ year tradition of supporting neighbors in need in Roseville and the surrounding neighborhoods. We are open to any ideas or avenues of support to meet this growing need in our community.

Please contact me with any questions about the changes described above and also contact me if you have any ideas/options for a new site.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary S. McKeown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mary McKeown  
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