Medworks is raising funds to provide food for people in our community.

Medworks mission is built on harnessing the power of our community. With an army of medical and community volunteers and social services partners, Medworks serves thousands of community members with free medical, dental, and vision care. We could not make the impact that we do without people who care. So, we are relying on people who care to join us in helping our community during the COVID-19 crisis.

100% of the funds raised through the Medworks Unconditional Care COVID-19 Relief Fund will be directed to support families in need and frontline healthcare workers, while supporting local restaurants and groceries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are people really having a hard time affording food in Cleveland?
YES! Cleveland is the second poorest large city in the U.S. The COVID-19 crisis has led to closures—schools, libraries, and food pantries—leaving fewer places for food assistance. Additionally, job losses increase food insecurity. This is a real and immediate need.

How large of a donation do you hope I will make?
We are grateful for ANY level of donation. Our donation form suggests levels from $15 to $5,000. But, we gladly welcome amounts smaller (or larger!) than that. Every dollar makes a difference.

How much of this money is actually going to feed people?
100% of the funding we raise for the Medworks Unconditional Care COVID-19 Relief Fund will go directly to purchase gift cards from local restaurants or groceries for people in need and frontline healthcare workers.

Who will get the food?
75% to People in Need: Medworks will direct 75% of the funds we raise to purchase gift cards from local restaurants or groceries for people in need in our local communities. We are teaming up with trusted community partners, across various NEO communities, to identify people in need and distribute the gift cards quickly and efficiently.

25% to Caregivers: Medworks will direct 25% of the funds we raise to purchase food or gift cards from local restaurants for frontline healthcare workers and support staff. These caregivers are working tirelessly on behalf of us all and we want to show our appreciation and support, as we provide important nourishment.

How will Medworks get gift cards to people who need them?
Medworks is teaming up with trusted partners to identify areas of greatest need and to distribute gift cards to people in their neighborhoods. These trusted partners help Medworks identify a local restaurant or grocery; Medworks purchases gift cards; and the partner distributes the gift cards to the people in need to purchase take-home food.
I thought restaurants were mandated to be closed. How does this work?
Medworks is selecting restaurants with options for Order Ahead, Curbside Pick-Up, In-Store Pick-Up, and/or Delivery.

What happens if the restaurants are forced to close?
When selecting restaurants, we ask them if they plan to remain open for at least a week. If restaurants are forced to close, Medworks will purchase gift cards from grocery stores located near the neighborhoods we are working to help.

How long will it take Medworks to actually get the gift cards to the people?
Medworks is committed to raising as much funding as possible for very quick distribution. We hope to get cards to our partners for distribution at least every two days, if not daily.

How can my organization be selected as a Trusted Partner to distribute gift cards to people we serve?
If you would like to be considered to partner in the Medworks Unconditional Care COVID-19 Relief Fund, complete the Partner Application on Medworks Relief Fund website and submit it to Melissa Siegel at melissa@medworksusa.org. Medworks will contact you if you have been selected.

I’d like to be selected as a Participating Restaurant. How do I apply?
If you are a restaurant hoping to team up with a nonprofit partner in your neighborhood to help families in need, complete the Restaurant Application on Medworks Relief Fund website and submit it to Melissa Siegel at melissa@medworksusa.org. Medworks will contact you if you have been selected for the program.

If you are a caterer or restaurant interested in providing meals or gift cards to frontline healthcare workers, contact Melissa Siegel at melissa@medworksusa.org. Medworks will contact you if you have been selected for the program.

What’s the selection criteria?
Depending on funding, Medworks wants to serve various low-income communities in Cuyahoga County, and possibly Northeast Ohio. We also want to see that trusted partners have a solid plan for distributing gift cards to those most in need, in a timely and safe manner, and the recipients are able to access the local restaurant or grocery store. We will require a follow-up email from the participating restaurants regarding the number of gift cards redeemed. We want to see that all restaurants are able to serve in a safe manner and that the available funding is able to put to good use, and can serve many.

What else is Medworks doing to help?
During “normal times,” Medworks provides free medical, dental, and vision care to uninsured and underinsured people throughout Northeast Ohio. Medworks then connects patients with health insurance, ongoing medical appointments and medical homes, and other community resources. Since 2009, Medworks has held more than 60 clinics in Northeast Ohio and provided more than 16,000 individuals with 40,000 appointments or services. Since the spread of COVID-19, Medworks canceled several upcoming free clinics to ensure the safety of patients and volunteers. However, Medworks continues to assist with insurance enrollments and connections to resources via phone.
Due to the current spread of COVID-19, Medworks is donating medical supplies to local hospitals and health centers. This includes more than 19,000 face masks, 75,000 gloves, and 200 thermometers.

Medworks loaned four medical field hospital tents to partner hospitals to triage patients before entering the ER, to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. And Medworks secured a generous donation of two RVs from Camping World of Akron to be used as respite areas for frontline hospital workers.

**Why is Medworks doing this?**
Medworks mission is to provide *Unconditional Care*. There has never been a greater time that our community has needed to care for each other as we do now. Thank you for all you are doing to help our neighbors in need.

**Can I still support Medworks financially?**
YES! We appreciate your support, as it will help us keep our small but mighty staff going and, when the time is right, help us replenish our inventory of medical supplies and reconvene free health clinics. Please visit our website, where you can donate: [https://medworksusa.org](https://medworksusa.org). Thank you!