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Being Neighborly in Trying Times

(Green Bay, WI) It has been one hundred years since our community has experienced a pandemic such as COVID-19. From 1918 to today, we remain a strong and connected community. We need to keep our fine character, especially in this time of a crisis, and so we encourage residents to be neighborly to each other. We can donate a non-perishable food item, give a neighbor a ride to work or to the grocery store, donate gas cards, and the like. We understand that residents are worried for their families, their own health, their livelihoods, and also concerned about friends and coworkers. We, here at the city and county, share your concerns.

“We must all become comfortable losing our attachment to normalcy, but we cannot lose our attachment to decency. Be smart. Be kind. Be who we are when we are at our best,” said Mayor Eric Genrich.

“In this unprecedented time, we cannot lose sight of love and compassion. Both are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive. As we step back from our new normal, please consider assisting those who need our help now more than ever,” said County Executive Troy Streckenbach.

Several entities in our community have offered assistance:

The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation has started an emergency response fund <https://www.ggbcf.org/>.

The United Way of Brown County has started an economic relief fund <https://www.facebook.com/unitedwaybrowncountyarea/>.

Pantries across our region also need donations to help those with food insecurity (<http://www.paulspantry.org/> and <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>).

Our post-secondary institutions have students who are in need and would welcome donations (<https://www.nwtc.edu/student-experience/student-support-services/shared-harvest-food-pantry>, <https://www.uwgb.edu/cupboard/>).

Check the web pages of the non-profits in your lives, and visit the above webpages for more information about ways to donate and to help-out.

The city is working with the volunteer center. The volunteer center will gather a list of volunteers and match them with those who need a helping hand. Please contact them at 920-429-9445 or email at volunteercenter@volunteergb.org. “Throughout Brown County, nonprofits organizations and our neighbors need assistance in this uncertain and difficult time. Volunteering works to mitigate fear and improve well-being, not only for those volunteering, but for those who the services impact,” said Eric Sponholz, Executive Director of the Volunteer Center.

The City of Green Bay and Brown County have enacted emergency measures to respond to the crisis and to continue government operations. We are in communication with local health experts to monitor the course of the virus.

We continue to advise residents to use protective practices; wash your hands with soap, frequently, avoid touching your face, stand six feet away from people (whether showing symptoms or not), stay at home if you're sick and stay informed by going to www.coronavirus.gov or stayhealthybc.com.

Together, we will make the necessary sacrifices today for a healthy tomorrow.