



Impact Report for 2020

This story was shared with organizations in youth/young adults services in Evanston in November 2020 and I haven't been able to get past the moving message. It identifies what I truly believe yet have not clearly articulated. My thoughts always go to children and elderly, because I believe we have a special responsibility to both of those groups.

And How Are the Children?

Among the many fabled and accomplished tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai. It's surprising, then, to learn the traditional greeting passed among the Masai warriors; "Casserian Engeri," one would always say to each other. And what it meant was, "And how are the children?"

It is still the traditional greeting of the Masai, acknowledging the high value the Masai placed on the children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer, "All the children are well." This meant, of course, that peace and safety prevail; the priorities of protecting the young and the powerless are in place; that the Masai people had not forgotten their reason for being, their proper function, and their responsibilities.

"All the children are well" means life is good. It means the daily struggles of existence, even among poor people, include the proper care of the young and defenseless. I wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our own children's welfare if we took to greeting each other in the same daily question, "And how are the children?"

I wonder, if we heard that greeting passed along to each other a dozen times a day, whether it would begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of and cared for in this country.

I wonder what it would be like if every adult among us—parent and nonparent alike—felt an equal weight of responsibility for the daily care and protection of all the children in our town, in our state, and in our country. I wonder whether we could truly say without hesitation, "The children are well. Yes, all the children are well."

What would it be like if the President began every press conference, every public appearance by answering the same question: "And how are the children, Mr. President?" If every governor of every state had to answer the same question at every press conference: "And how are the children, Governor? Are they well?" Wouldn't it be interesting to hear their answer?

<https://sedl.org/.../AndHowAretheChildren.pdf>

OUR STUDENTS SUCCESS THROUGHOUT THIS CHALLENGING TIME –

Even though training, teaching and job placement was challenging this year Curt's Café was able to successfully graduate 13 students. We currently have 38 in the program with many ready to graduate soon. We are proud of our students because like many restaurants we were closed for about 2 months and interaction was complicated. With job placement difficult right now, we have chosen to keep students on longer, so they continue to find success as they move forward.

We also implemented for Students Success -

- 8 Dimensions of Wellness for Student Growth and Success
- Graduate Program re-started in March and continues to support all graduates
- Curriculum written for 3rd quarter and graduate Students on entrepreneurship
- Purchased formal cooking program, Roubxe, teaching cooking techniques online

Below projects that encompassed much of our "Covid workforce training program" in 2020.

PPE KITS – Distributed in Lake County. Curt's Contribution was procuring product, providing volunteers to help get product from one place to another and providing volunteers to help package products to prepare for distribution. Funded primarily by Lake County Community Foundation.

April – November / Provided 5,000 KN9f masks, 10,050 disposable masks, 10,500 cloth masks, 15,000 flyers, 10,000 brochures (all Spanish and English), 7,000 hand sanitizers, 5,000 mask extenders, soon – 5,000 disinfectant sprays as well

FOOD BOXES – LAKE COUNTY – Curt's Contribution was purchasing food, receiving of product, packaging product in boxes, and distributing to Highwood Library weekly. Funded primarily by Lake County Health Department.

July – November / 4,949 boxes provided for 24,745 people with 173,215 meals

COVID POSITIVE BOXES/MEALS – LAKE COUNTY – Curt's Contribution was purchasing food, receiving of product, packaging product in boxes, preparing meals, purchasing and distributing cleaning and hygiene products and then delivering all to COVID-19 positive individuals and families so they could stay home for 14 days. All meals/boxes distributed within 24 hours of call to make sure those in need received help immediately. Funded Primarily by Lake County Health Department.

July – November / 130 individuals/families served, many two times (apx 260 total)

SHELTER MEALS – EVANSTON AND CHICAGO – Curt's Contribution was purchasing food and preparing meals requested in Evanston and Chicago – all packaged individually for safety – and then delivering to homes and hotels. Funded primarily by Connections for the Homeless, Evanston Community Foundation and Reva/Logan Foundation.

March – November / 3,311 meals served in Evanston / 851 served in Chicago

HOMEBOUND MEALS – EVANSTON AND CHICAGO – Curt’s Contribution was purchasing food, receiving of product, preparing meals and packaging individually, and delivering twice a week (2 meals per person for each delivery) throughout Evanston. Funded primarily by Evanston Community Foundation.

March – November / 6,763 meals served in Evanston (10,925 with above)

CHILDRENS HANDMADE MASKS – Curt’s Contribution was to purchase material, purchase thread and elastic and at the end of program 2020 purchase sewing machines for many who participated in program. Christ Church/Highland Park facilitated the training and space and many donated sewing machines. Funded by Christ Church.

Once a month for 5 months / about 10 people helped each month / about 200 kids masks were produced and distributed with food boxes

CHILDRENS MASKS – Curt’s Contribution was to purchase masks and packaging and package half of the asks, which were distributed to children in Lake County. Funded by Northwestern Medicine.

Provided 21,050 masks to young children and 1,250 masks to older children in Lake County

CHILDRENS DIY KITS – Curt’s Contribution was to design kits, with help of Oakton Community College Phi Theta Kappa Team and two amazing volunteers, purchase products, package products, deliver kits to Highwood Library for distribution with Food Boxes once a week . Partially funded by Medline.

October – November / 6 unique projects / Produced 3,850 DIY bags for kids to help normalize their lives during these troubling times for them and their parents

ALL WHILE RUNNING CAFES WITH DAILY BUSINESS, DINNER & DIALOGUE AND WEEKEND BOXES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY KEEPING OUR CUSTOMERS, STUDENTS AND EACH OTHER SAFE!



MUCH GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO THE STAFF AT CURT’S CAFE



So, How Are The Children?

- 6,186 received food from boxes you helped to fill with food
- 614 received DIY Art and Fun Kits that you helped fund
- 7,499 have face masks to help them stay safe and healthy
- 8,350 parents have face masks to keep themselves safe to they can take care of their children
- 7,000 parents have sanitizer to share with the family to stay free from Covid
- 18,689 boxes of food kept parents healthy
- (above based on ¼ of meals served are for children)

51 STUDENTS OF CURTS CAFÉ AND OVER 50 GRADUATE STUDENTS OF CURTS CAFÉ HAD 2-3 MEALS A DAY, CLASSEES TO HELP THEM CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, FULL TIME SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT AND LOVE – LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVE!