

All of us are struggling to understand that life as we have known it is changing daily. Yet, for the most vulnerable among us, COVID-19 has created additional hardships. People in our community have lost their jobs, and are reaching out to the Bucks County Opportunity Council because they don't know how they will pay April's rent, or can't afford to buy food for *this* week, let alone have extra money to stock up.

For the last 55 years, our doors have been open to help those in need. As the lead anti-poverty agency in Bucks County, we are Community Action. Our staff has the commitment, experience, and skills to help those in need, but we are limited in financial resources to help all who need our help during this crisis.

We will continue to operate our food program and have increased other services to help the most vulnerable. As the lead food agency in the county, we distribute public and private donations to over 60 food pantries, senior centers and other sites.

**BCOC needs your help to support clients like Jocelyn and Wayne.** Both have been working hard and were on a path toward self-sufficiency before they were derailed by COVID-19:

- Until last week, Jocelyn was working as a waitress and able to pay her bills. She is a student at Bucks County Community College. Her life with parents who were both suffering from addiction was a struggle, but with hard work and help from BCOC, she was moving forward. The restaurant is closed and now she is out of work. She continues to keep up with online classes, but without a job, can't pay her bills.
- Wayne was living in his car until he began working with BCOC's Rapid Re-housing Program, and now is living in an apartment. He worked as an Uber driver before the virus hit- but since then, very few people are traveling. Like Jocelyn and many others, he was living paycheck to paycheck and faces financial uncertainty. Wayne's plan is to earn the Class A Commercial Driver's license and he has a promising contact for a job once he passes the certification. But today he is sleeping on the floor of his new apartment and has little money for essentials.

The COVID-19 virus has created challenges that will continue beyond the news coverage. And it will take clients who are already living on the edge a longer time to recover.

You can make a difference to serve those in need in our shared community. Together, we will get through this time of stress and uncertainty.

Donate online at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/gendonation> or text *Give2-BCOC* to 77948.

Stay well,

