

**Love Let Go Project Proposal : Entry # 1341****Submissions for this round of proposals will be due before the end of the day, May 17, 2020.****Sponsoring Congregation Member Name**

Janet Brahier

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N/A

**Project Proposal Name**

For I was hungry and you fed me...

**Brief, one sentence summary of the project proposal.**

This project provides funding through December 31, 2020 for the paper goods and non-entree food items used in bag lunches Soup For You (SFY) provides now that our cafe/table service has closed due to the pandemic.

**Name and Contact Information for non-PoP Recipient:**

Chef Judah, Soup For You % Bethany Lutheran Church, 2511 E. Franklin Ave. Minneapolis MN 55406

**Total Amount Requested**

\$15,000.00

**Other Funding Sources and Amounts to be Contributed**

Soup For You partners with a network of organizations that provide essential in-kind contributions of food for use and distribution at the soup kitchen. See the section on partners for details. In addition, individual volunteers provide significant in-kind contributions as well. For example, as many PoP members recall, I provide labor and ingredients for granola bars. With the shift to bag lunches, I have now tripled my output, providing granola bars three days per week instead of just one day per week. Since the pandemic began, I've contributed over 1,000 homemade, individually wrapped granola bars that are included in SFY's bag lunches, reducing the number of non-entree food items SFY needs to purchase for each bag lunch. I do receive some donations of some ingredients, but everything else for the granola bars is contributed by me.

**Who will be the "Fiscal Agent" for this Project?**

Bethany Lutheran Church

**Detailed Description of Grant Proposal**

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When the pandemic hit the Soup For You cafe was closed for table service and we immediately transformed to providing bag lunches for pickup without missing a single day of service to our community. As of May 15, 2020 we have provided over 2,700 bag lunches. The entrees in these lunches are not just sandwiches. Instead, each person we feed receives one of Chef Judah's creations such as Hungarian Goulash, Pasta Puttanesca, and Curried Root Stew, all still created primarily from excess produce provided by our partners. However, with the cafe closed, we can't serve using the reusable plates, bowls and cutlery in our cafe. Instead, we must use one-time-use items such as compostable paper bowls, forks and spoons and a paper lunch sack. In addition, a complete sack lunch meal needs to provide something more than an entree so Soup For You is now purchasing items like apples, tangerines, and cheese sticks. All of this has dramatically increased the cost of each meal. We used to be able to serve all of our guests for approximately \$100 total each week. This has increased to \$325 per week. Our donations have also decreased as many times volunteers would contribute needed items (food and/or cash) however we are now running on a skeleton team and therefore are receiving fewer donations. The need is great right now and these funds will ensure Soup For You continues its mission in a safe way at least through the end of 2020 while also giving us some time to secure additional funding to keep us going in 2021,

**Who is the "target community" being served?**

Soup For You serves the Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis, especially our homeless and low-income neighbors there. The recent, dramatic, increase in unemployment has hit these people hard and Soup For You is currently fulfilling a high demand for food each day with bag lunches as well as bags of groceries as available.

**Specify any partnering groups or organizations.**

Soup For You relies on a network of partners to provide our services. We receive food donations used in SFY's delicious, chef-made entrees from organizations such as Sisters Camelot, a 23-year-old Twin Cities non-profit committed to feeding the hungry and inspiring the world, and Seward Co-op, a community owned consumer co-op.

**How can PoP members be involved?**

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, strict safety measures are required which prohibit expanding in-person volunteering.

**How many people do you anticipate this project will serve?**

Soup For You currently distributes 300 bag lunches each week. Also, when additional produce/grocery items are available that cannot be used in bag lunches, we prepare bags of groceries and have a team of volunteers providing doorstep delivery to community members who have been identified as needing food.

**How does this project further PoP's mission\* in the community being served?**

This project carries out the portion of PoP's vision statement, "We are Sent," which includes "serving the least of these among us." Months ago, the last words we would hear at the end of many worship services were "Remember the poor." I am committed that we move forward from awareness and remembering those in need to action and making a difference for the poor among us, especially during these exceptionally tough times.

**Anticipated Start Date**

06/01/2020

**Anticipated End Date**

12/31/2020

**Other information you would like to share with the committee:**

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I have been volunteering at Soup for You for over three years. The head of the cafe, Chef Judah, along with each of the volunteers, has a huge heart for serving the community. The pandemic has been challenging to us financially, logistically and psychologically. We want to be there for our guests and provide our much needed services. This funding would take a great deal of stress off the organization and allow us to focus on what we do best . . . feeding people during their time of need.

### Notes



**Love Let Go Project Proposal (ID: 5cad0140e204d)**

added May 17, 2020 at 1:16 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.