


Spring
Summer
2020

BBeverlyBootstraps
EMBRACE · EDUCATE · EMPOWER

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

Strengthening our community one neighbor at a time.



**Giving hope
that hard work
can pay off**

As a follow-up to one of the Gifts of Hope stories the Beverly Citizen did during the holiday, here is the rest of *Christelle's story.

Through the support her whole family had been getting from Beverly Bootstraps, Christelle said she had more time to focus on her own education, and in December was one test away from completing Bootstraps' High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) program. "I want to become a nurse ..." she said. "Bootstraps is helping my kids and helping me as well ... I can't express how grateful I am."

Christelle used our services for several years to study for the high school equivalency exam – a big challenge for someone whose native language is not English. She had to take several years off when she had her last child but came back once he was older. She has been working full time in the health care industry while studying and taking care of her family.

She recently passed the fifth and final test and, after years of hard work and commitment, has received her high school equivalency credential. Now

(cont'd on pg 2)

*name changed and stock photo used for client privacy

BECAUSE OF YOU...

Giving Hope (from cover)

Christelle is preparing, with Beverly Bootstraps' help, for the Accuplacer test to get into a nursing program in a local college. The test is in English and determines what level she will be placed at in college courses so it involves even more studying.

// I can't express how grateful I am. //

Christelle is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished with much perseverance. It is no small task for a working parent to study for and pass these five tests in their non-native language. She is a great example to her children, not to mention others in her classes. She gives them all hope that hard work can pay off and to believe that they too can succeed.

see full Gifts of Hope story on our blog:
www.beverlybootstraps.org/bb-news

Thank you for your support during these challenging times

As all of our lives have changed drastically in the last several weeks, we wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for supporting Beverly Bootstraps through this crisis. Being able to continue to offer food to our neighbors in need has been no easy feat, but our community has been so heartwarmingly giving and helpful that it's kept us going.

We still have our work cut out for us. We will have a severe reduction in funds due to both the cancellation of our Boots & Blooms Gala and the closure of our Thrift Shop, which typically contributes one-third of our annual operating budget.

We are so grateful for all of you who have already donated to help us through.

If you haven't given and would like to, you can go to: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/bbemergencydonations>



You make it possible to help people in need:

"I am in need of food. I am 94 and my husband is 95. We are not driving. Our family members who help us have medical concerns and also work in hospitals so they are not available."

"I'm a single mom of middle-school-aged twins. With the kids being out of school, we just don't have enough food and I don't have the extra money for more groceries."

"I'm having trouble with my Section 8 voucher. It requires my roommate's ID, which is expired. He can't get a new ID because the DMV is closed due to COVID."

"I'm a single father with a two-year-old and was recently laid off from work. I need help with rent and keeping food in the house."

"I need food for my kids and formula for my four-month-old. Due to health issues, our doctors have asked us not to leave the house. Please, anything you can do to help."

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Food Pantry emergency model



In order to be able to distribute food safely from our Food Pantry, we made several changes. First, we put all programs other than Case Management on hold and reassigned staff to help with food distribution or to work from home. To keep the number of people in the building at any one time to a minimum, we have staff working in multiple smaller shifts to pre-pack bags of food and keep to a strict cleaning regimen.

To keep the number of clients in the building at any one time to a minimum, we extended our Food Pantry hours so they can spread out their visits throughout the day. Also, instead of our usual shopping model, clients pick up the pre-packed bags of food and go on their way. In addition to requiring those in the building to wear masks, we have hand sanitizer throughout the lobby/pantry areas and have marked off waiting spots that are 6 feet apart, in accordance with social distancing recommendations.

Feeding kids

When schools are closed, families typically have a tough time keeping their children fed. In response, while the Weekend Food Bags program is on hold, we have instituted our Summer Food model, allowing families with school age children to come to the Food Pantry every week for the duration of this school closure.



Volunteers enable home delivery to seniors

As we know, our seniors are a part of the population most vulnerable to the coronavirus and are advised not to travel outside of their homes. With the help of a few volunteers, our staff has been able to deliver food to five Beverly income-



based senior housing sites including Federal Street, Garden City Towers, Turtle Woods/Turtle Creek, Apple Village and Balch Street, covering 408 senior units.

Staff and volunteers carry bags consisting of shelf-stable and perishable items from the Beverly Bootstraps truck into the buildings and deliver food to each resident by leaving bags at their front door, knocking, and moving on.

We have seen 872 Food Pantry visits and delivered 680 food bags to seniors in five local income-based housing complexes in the first month since we have changed our program model.

Thank you to all who have helped to get food out during this crisis.

Case Managers answering the call



Our Case Managers are working remotely but continue to help people in need. Those seeking assistance are asked to fill out an online form that is then sent directly to our Case Management team. Those without access to the internet can call our office and the front desk staff will fill the form out

for them. Case Managers are then calling back or having email conversations to help clients get the assistance they need during these challenging times.

BOOTS & BLOOMS GALA

Generous sponsors continue their support

By March 12 we had decided that holding our annual Boots & Blooms Gala would not be in the best interest of our community. Although this event is our largest fundraising event and a great way to welcome in spring, we felt it prudent to keep the health and safety of all involved as our highest priority.

Since making that decision we have reached out to all of our sponsors and each one continued their commitment to support the work we do to help those in need. Their sponsorship will be featured in our upcoming online program book, here in this newsletter and in additional print materials and social media posts.

Thank you to:

Tivoli Gardens Sponsors:



Kew Gardens Sponsors:



Boboli Gardens Sponsors:



Thank you to the program book ad purchasers:

Jan-Pro Cleaning Systems of Massachusetts,
Temkin Financial Group and SV Design

See the full program book

We invite you to take a look at the full program book on our website (www.beverlybootstraps.org/gala) to see the full listing of all those who have helped us with this event



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Keep busy by planning your own creative fundraiser

People are getting creative during social distancing not only to keep themselves going, but also to help others. Take, for example, Devin Jones, who had been training for a marathon when everything got canceled. He moved his marathon to his own neighborhood and created a crowdfunding campaign to benefit Beverly Bootstraps. (To see Devin's fundraiser go to: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/BeverlyBootstrapsCommunityServices/>)



Another example is the #FrontStepsProject, where photographers keep busy and help document these times by taking families' photos in exchange for a donation to a charity.

What do you like to do to keep busy? Could you turn it into a fundraiser? Maybe a non-bakesale (donate money instead of the brownies), an online billiards tournament on your phone, a walkathon (everyone's walking to keep active these days!).

You'll feel empowered knowing that you're helping during this crisis. If you are interested in setting up a online crowdfunding campaign for Beverly Bootstraps, please contact Heather Johnston, Director of Donor Relations, at hjohnston@beverlybootstraps.org

Did you know:

Section 2204 of the CARES Act provides incentives for charitable donations during 2020 regardless of whether the donor itemizes deductions. The primary benefit allows individuals to get an "above-the-line" deduction for up to \$300.



Planned Giving:
Make a difference for generations to come.

A planned gift can provide financial security, maximize your assets, legally protect from federal taxes, and provide continued support to your favorite charity. Contact Heather Johnston, Director of Donor Relations, at hjohnston@beverlybootstraps.org or 978-927-1561 for more info.

Virtual School Supply Drive

When kids head back to school this fall, many families and likely many more than we have seen in past years, will need help providing their children with backpacks and school supplies. You can help now by participating in our virtual school supply drive. Visit the link below, shop for items you would like to donate to kids right here in our community, and the supplies will be sent to Beverly Bootstraps. We will then distribute them to families in need.



For nearly 20 years, this program has been helping local children be prepared for academic success and lessening the financial burden on families. Please help us continue this tradition.

Start shopping now at <https://www.roonga.com/beverlybackpacks>

This program is brought to you by Leslie S. Ray Insurance Agency, Inc.

HOURS

OFFICE & SERVICES

35 Park Street, Beverly
PHONE: 978-927-1561
BeverlyBootstraps.org

*For Case Management services,
please fill out form at
<https://form.jotform.com/200727212739958>
or call the number above.*

THRIFT SHOP

198 Rantoul Street, Beverly
PHONE: 978-921-4710
*Closed until further notice. Please
do not leave donations outside
the building while it is closed.*

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY HOURS

M, Th 10:00am–2:00pm
T 2:00pm–6:00pm
W 10:00am–6:00pm

The **BOUTIQUE** *at 198* helps support our programs

Were you aware that the proceeds from sales at the Thrift Shop go directly back into the programs that we provide our clients? Not only is it an affordable place for all to shop, but it provides a third of the agency's revenue. With the expansion of our upscale merchandise section, now called The Boutique at 198, we are in need of high-end clothing, jewelry, shoes, handbags and accessories. Donating to The Boutique at 198 is a great way to clean out your closets, be environmentally friendly and directly support your neighbors in need. But please save your donations until the shop reopens!

Exciting Changes to our Food Assistance Team

We congratulate Samantha Prescott on her promotion to Food Assistance Supervisor. Sam has worked as the Food Assistance Coordinator for the past 4 years and will now be overseeing all of our Food Assistance programs. We also welcome Kim Vanacore to the team. Kim has extensive background in restaurant management and has volunteered in our pantry for the past year.

JOIN THE CIRCLE OF HOPE



When you join the Circle of Hope, your automatic monthly recurring gift will provide a steady flow of hope to our clients, no matter how long this situation lasts.

Hope is believing things can change. Hope is what we, with your help, provide our clients.

Please join the Circle of Hope. Because with hope, everything is possible!

To join, go to: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/bootstrapscircleofhope>

Thank you for giving back locally!

For more info, see BeverlyBootstraps.org, visit our online event calendar and follow us on  and 

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