

**COVID-19 Update from Michelle Le Beau
SDRM, Director of Church Partnerships**

April 30, 2020

First, how the crisis is impacting me personally, our SDRM staff and our families.

Most of our corporate team (including me) are still working from home, but coming in from time to time as necessary. We're using just one entrance now at the Mission (at 120 Elm), where all staff and students must wear masks and wash their hands at the hand-washing station outside before entering. Then they must stop at the screening station in the lobby where they're asked a series of questions and their temperature is taken. The same screening process occurs across the street in the PACE building where our corporate staff works.

The staff at the Mission have all been working on site as usual. Their dedication and hard work has been incredible to see and the additional programs they've put in place to keep our students active spiritually, mentally and physically are very impressive! I think the parents on our staff who have kids at home are having a tougher time, especially when their spouses are also working full time. .

Side note: Both of my sons, Jimmy (25) and Jake (23), are City Lifeguards who have been working the last several weeks at the Convention Center as Safety Officers. Their job is to maintain social distancing, enforce hand-washing and masks, conduct entry screenings, and basically care for the ongoing needs of the men and women temporarily sheltered there from Alpha Project, Veteran's Village, and Father Joe's/St Vincent de Paul. It's been quite the experience and they've had a chance to build relationships and pray with those going through pretty tough times. We love how God has put ¾ of our family into roles serving the same population of people. Such a blessing!

Second, how COVID-19 is impacting the ministry of SDRM and the communities we serve:

Most importantly, everyone is healthy! No cases of COVID 19 at all on site. Praise God!

The temporary shutdown of our Emergency Shelter has allowed us to install all new bathrooms and showers, which will be completed before we reopen! Also, as a result of a major pipe burst one week into the shutdown which caused flooding throughout our building, we are now installing new paint and flooring on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors.

Our City Heights warehouse has been sold and we've purchased another in National City. During this time that our thrift stores have been closed, our staff members have been able to start preparing for the eventual move to the new location.

Our church partners have taken 700+ kits of twin size fleece to make blankets for our students, our neighbors still living on the streets, and the men and women now in temporary shelter at the Convention Center.

Our Food Recovery program "Partners for Hunger Relief" has been distributing food in overdrive! Where we used to serve 20 food pantries and smaller food banks a week, we are now serving 25 a day!!

We're also using this time to analyze and make improvements to certain programs like Spiritual Training, so we can re-launch stronger and better than ever.

We are not taking any donations at 120 Elm that are outside of our Current Needs List ([attached](#)).

Specific Prayer Requests:

Please pray for our staff who are single-mothers of school-aged children or parents whose spouses also work full time.

Please pray for the continued strength, perseverance, resilience and fortitude of our students. They've been in the building with little freedom to come and go for a month and a half now. Pray that their attitudes remain positive and their faith increases.

Praise God for his provision and the many ways he's working through this crisis to reveal his POWER to us in amazing ways. Praise God for no COVID-19 cases!