

## A Place at the Table

Dear friends,

Trinity Place was established in downtown Geneva when the vestry and people of Trinity Church, Geneva made the challenging decision to leave their historic and cathedral-esque building several years ago. It had become a burden they could no longer afford to support and still engage in serious mission work. That move and the establishment of Trinity Place, located in a renovated wine bar, has brought a sea-change amongst the people who have stayed with the parish. Worship, programming, and outreach have all evolved in very different ways from what they were - and all very positively.

Since the pandemic began, the people of Trinity Place have sought new relationships and ways to participate in outreach in the community that would make significant differences. Rather than trying to create their own outreach program that would be limited in scope, they are working to support several ecumenical partners and community groups to provide food and other necessities to the people of Geneva who most need it. But their funding is limited and informal. An injection of money would make a huge difference to these programs. Unfortunately, the Linden Exchange, a resale shop run by Trinity Church for seventy years, closed due to the pandemic, and had been a significant source of funding for outreach in the past.

Trinity Place is working:

- In support of [Blueprint Geneva](#) providing 140 fresh food dinners each week.
- With Catholic Charities providing Go-Bags filled with essentials for those temporarily housed in motels.
- With the [Center of Concern](#) ministry supplying gas and food cards along with special requested food items collected by the congregation.
- Assisting in the lunch program at the Methodist Church along with providing produce and kitchen supplies as requested. They would very much like to expand their involvement with Blueprint Geneva, which touches many lives in the community. (More on that below.)

Trinity Place is setting an example for us all in their embrace of mission and ministry in new and exciting ways and in the midst of this overwhelming pandemic. They are an innovative congregation with fewer than fifty members. One quarter of the members are new to Trinity within the past five years. That's why they have been selected for the Bishop's "Mission Home Run for Jesus" initiative.

You can donate directly to Trinity Place, P.O. Box 287, Geneva, NY 14456 or take a look at their website @ <https://trinitygenevany.org/where-2/> for more information about their parish, programs, and commitment.

Peace,

The Very Rev. David Hefling, Northeast District Dean  
The Very Rev. Ginny Mazzarella, Southwest District Dean  
The Very Rev. Dan Burner, Southeast District Dean

## **Blueprint Geneva**

In the City of Geneva there are three standing sources of food for those in need: The community Lunch Program serves a daily lunch; the Center of Concern and Salvation Army food pantries operate Monday through Friday for about 2 hours each day. But we have had no weekend food assistance prior to COVID, and when the pandemic caused changes to the existing services, (bag lunches only at the weekday Community Lunch program, increased need but reduced volunteer capacity at the two food pantries), BluePrint Geneva started filling the gaps.

But it wasn't just a need to help existing clients access food on the weekends, there was now a clear influx of new people needing to stretch food dollars due to unemployment or other COVID-related emergencies. We were concerned that the existing capacity could not handle the increased strain. Samantha Buyskes, an amazing Finger Lakes chef who has appeared on Food Network found herself unemployed and agreed to volunteer to plan, shop, and cook meals that would be served cold in to-go containers, but could be enjoyed hot and would feature fresh, local ingredients.

So with a beginning budget of \$200/week, the goal was to feed 100 people 2 meals (each container holds two portions). Now they feed over 140 people, and still run out in under an hour each Saturday afternoon. There is also a premium put on environmental concerns as well. Committed to environmental sustainability, because they don't want to help in the short term only to cause harm in the long term, they use entirely biodegradable packaging.

Like all three programs Trinity Place supports and is active with, it is a cooperative community effort. Geneva Blueprint utilizes the certified kitchen at the Methodist Church, which is also the host of the weekday Community Lunch program members of Trinity volunteer at and supply produce for.

Meals go to people in emergency housing without transportation and might be the only food service they receive all week. Meals are also delivered to four long-term assisted housing locations, two boardinghouses where residents do not have access to a full kitchen, a subsidized apartment building with over 30 apartments, and a facility where recovering addicts are living. While the school district has provided weekday breakfast and lunch service to families with school aged children since the school closure went into effect, and the Boys and Girls Clubs (with help from St. Peter's) ran a two month dinner service to the same families, the majority of people served by this program do not have school aged children and are therefore not receiving those services.