



Mayoral Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing Area Parent Teacher Associations for Community Assistance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- WHEREAS,** in March 2020, Parent Teacher Association Presidents Meghan Holland McDonald (Takoma Park Elementary School), Sarah Goupell (Piney Branch Elementary School), Kathleen Bartels (East Silver Spring Elementary School), and Gretchen Weigel Doughty and Fred Azcarate (Takoma Park Middle School) recognized the difficulties faced by many Takoma Park and nearby Silver Spring families in getting food during the pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** in conjunction with others in the four schools and the community, including Wendy Kent (Pantry Coordinator), Bryan Goehring (TPMS Difference Makers), Adrienne Tilton (Takoma Park Middle School) and Leticia Read (Jr. Warden, The Episcopal Church of the Ascension), and many volunteers, organizations and donors, efforts were made to begin providing food to families in need; and
- WHEREAS,** the first efforts served 33 families in March 2020 and now regularly serve 300 families with produce and shelf stable foods; and
- WHEREAS,** the four Parent Teacher Associations reached out to solicit grants and donations, resulting in a Montgomery County Public Schools grant for the produce and \$150,000 in donations so far from the community through a link on the Takoma Park Elementary School website; and
- WHEREAS,** each effort of packing of food boxes or food distribution involves 9-12 volunteers; and
- WHEREAS,** many of our Takoma Park and nearby Silver Spring families who have not been able to have enough food are receiving food through the commitment and hard work of these four Parent Teacher Association leaders and members and others in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, do hereby express appreciation to the Parent Teacher Associations of Takoma Park Elementary School, Piney Branch Elementary School, East Silver Spring Elementary School and Takoma Park Middle School for recognizing the need to provide food to families during the COVID-19 pandemic and stepping up to immediately do what needed to be done for our community.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2020.

Kate Stewart
Mayor