



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### FLAG Metro Detroit targets fundraising during National Volunteer Week

*Answers call for help from local hospitals reaching capacity during COVID surge*

**April 19, 2021, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich.** – What did the team at FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group) Metro Detroit do when several local hospitals that are reaching capacity for COVID patients asked for some extra help feeding their hospital workers?

“Of course, we immediately agreed,” said Monica Toomey, one of six FLAG Metro Detroit co-founders. “These front line heroes are being stretched to the limit again. We can’t just watch this happen, so we decided to focus our fundraising efforts on them for at least a week.”

The week is April 18 through April 24, which is also National Volunteer Week. All contributions to FLAG Metro Detroit during the week will be used to purchase meals from local restaurants for these five hospitals:

- William Beaumont, Royal Oak
- William Beaumont, Troy
- Henry Ford, Detroit
- Henry Ford, Macomb
- St. Joseph Mercy, Ann Arbor

“We’ve set a modest goal of \$10,000 for the week,” said Toomey. “That allows us to get meals not only to all five hospitals but to other medical facilities that might need some help.”

FLAG Metro Detroit organizers have made it easy to donate.

Donate safely and securely online at [flagmetrodetroit.org](http://flagmetrodetroit.org)

#### **Donate by mail to:**

Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Memo: FLAG Metro Detroit Fund

500 Water Street

Port Huron, MI 48060

Please do not send cash.

## **About FLAG Metro Detroit**

Since it began in March 2020 FLAG Metro Detroit has helped 103 restaurants, raised \$430,000, and provided 59,000 meals to front line workers at 43 local hospitals and 18 sub-acute care facilities. FLAG Metro Detroit has 23,000 Facebook members. Donations to the group are generally in the \$10 to \$20 range. Any size donation is welcome.

FLAG Metro Detroit, a nonprofit organization, was started by a group of six local women looking for a way to help during the coronavirus pandemic. Along with Toomey the other co-founders are Dani Gilman, Laura O' Brien, Lindsay Pollina, Lauren Edgell and Sarra Brinjikji. Additional team members include Claire South and Linda Scheidemantel.

FLAG Metro Detroit partners with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. All contributions to FLAG Metro Detroit are used to purchase meals for hospital workers from locally owned restaurants. No money is used for salaries or operating costs.

*Front Line Appreciation Group (FLAG) Metro Detroit is a nonprofit organization based in Southeast Michigan. The group formed in March 2020 to provide meals to front line hospital workers from locally owned restaurants in the Metro Detroit area.*

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