



As we continue to monitor the ongoing evolution of the global health emergency, we at the MARK Project are working to draw our community together to provide necessary safety nets for vulnerable populations, including our business community.

Following are some actions that MARK is currently formulating and implementing:

1. We are coordinating with public health officials, media, governmental, and business leaders to organize resources and share accurate information.
2. We are working with Freshtown on the donation of points for food cards which MARK will responsibly distribute to those in need. So, if you have unused points and are in the position to donate, please email [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**points**". Keeping social distancing as a priority, we are trying to develop a system in which you can do this over the phone or via email.
3. We are building systems to work with area food providers to ensure those families on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program are receiving what they need during this time of school closure. If you are a food provider and would like to participate, please email [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**school lunches**."
4. We are purchasing eco-friendly disposable take out containers to distribute to area restaurants so they can transition into take out only. If you own a restaurant and would like to receive containers, please email [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**take out**."
5. We are working to put funds in place for business relief/rental mortgage assistance. If you are a business owner in need, please contact [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**business**."
6. We are coordinating volunteers for various aspects of community service. If you wish to volunteer, please email [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**volunteer**."

Experts globally are saying that the best way to manage this emergency at this time is to limit person to person contact at this time, practicing "social distancing." This can help to slow the spread of the virus enough that our health providers can manage severe cases.

With that in mind, as of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, the MARK staff will be operating remotely, and the Erpf Cultural Center will be closed to the public. If you have questions or need assistance the best way to contact us is via email [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org) with the subject header "**help**" or you can call the office at 845.586.3500. We will be receiving those messages remotely, and will get back to you.

This is only the beginning. As this evolves, so will we and the community. We are tough here in the Catskills, and we will help each other, as much as we need.

Stay well my friends!

Peg Ellsworth, Executive Director and the Staff and Board at the MARK Project.