

Restaurants in Crisis Feed Hungry

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shelter teams and make sure our shelter guests had plenty of delicious food.”

With Gov. Kate Brown’s Stay Home, Stay Safe order for restaurants to offer only takeout, many restaurants have had to close and may not survive. Hardest hit are often family owned restaurants in less prosperous areas like east Portland.

Receiving \$5.50 for 180 meals

each week adds up for these small businesses. Right now, the effort costs \$8,000/month for 1,450 meals; each restaurant earns \$4,000 each month. Volunteer drivers transport the food from the restaurants to both shelters in time for dinner.

Nelly’s Taqueria was happy for the opportunity.

“Nelly’s Taqueria is really grateful to have gotten the opportunity to work with Rosewood on such a great program to cater to

the homeless community. Thanks to this we are able to keep our doors open and continue to grow and continue to serve food for people. Gracias,” a statement from the company said.

Staff from the Human Solutions’ emergency shelters says the program is a game changer. Tamara

Holloway, who manages Lilac Meadows near Southeast 82nd and Powell Boulevard said, “Our shelter team is doing amazing frontline work right now during the COVID pandemic. When a hot, ready-to-serve dinner is delivered by a volunteer driver from a local restaurant, our staff and shelter residents feel cared for by our community. We couldn’t be more grateful for this delicious food and all the donations we have been getting from everyone in our incredible community. Thanks to each and every one of you. We are for sure stronger together.”

The teams at Human Solutions and The Rosewood Initiative are looking to grow the program by inviting the community to invest so they can feed more vulnerable people and support more local businesses. To make a contribution online, visit

charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/send-a-meal-support-a-rosewood-business.



Paul Knauls Sr. and his late wife Geneva Knauls, were the founders of Geneva’s, which became a center for African American life in the heart of Portland’s historic black community, drawing a loyal and expansive customer base that included Portland Trail Blazers, dignitaries and extended family members.

Geneva’s Closed for Good

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The Knauls family still owns the property where Geneva’s is located and said they plan to lease the building named for Geneva Knauls to another African American business to keep its historic ties to the community preserved for future generations.

Paul Knauls Sr. told the Portland Observer he’s going to miss his customers and staff the most, and all the people he enjoyed seeing on almost a seven days a week basis. But at 89-years old, the elder Knauls, affectionately known as the “Mayor of Northeast Portland,” says he’s ready to slow down.

Knauls said he’s a happy man as he looks back at how both he and his wife were married for 50 years and had successful careers, including ownership of the former Cotton Club in Portland and Geneva’s Restaurant and Lounge. He said they got their start in the personal care business by shining shoes in Arkansas before moving to Portland.



Salvador Arreola and Oscar Ocampos of Nelly’s Taqueria in east Portland prepare weekly dinners for the residents of Human Solutions’ two emergency shelters, Lilac Meadows for Families and the Gresham Women’s Shelter.

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