Hackensack Main Street Business Alliance Launching Phase Two of Restaurant Voucher Program, Partnering with Carroll Family Foodbank

Ambitious Program Designed to Aid Both Local Restaurants and Families in Need During COVID-19 Crisis

HACKENSACK, N.J. — <u>Hackensack's Main Street Business Alliance</u> is launching the second phase of its Restaurant Voucher Program, which is designed to support both local restaurants impacted by the COVID-19 crisis as well as families in need of assistance. The organization is partnering with the Carroll family, Hackensack residents who recently launched the <u>Carroll Family Values initiative</u> their own food bank and <u>have received widespread acclaim</u> for helping feed hundreds of local families in need. The program will expand the reach of its successful first phase, which involved distributing vouchers for meals prepared by Main Street restaurants to frontline health care workers, first responders and city employees.

"COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the small businesses that make up the backbone of our local economy, and our organization is committed to developing new solutions to help support our local restaurants," **said Patrice Foresman, Executive Director of the Main Street Business Alliance.** "We're excited to build off of the success of our first phase and especially to partner with the Carroll Family Values initiative and help them do even more good in our local community."

Phase Two of the Restaurant Voucher program will expand the distribution of voucher cards to local families in need of assistance. The MSBA will work with Carroll Family Values to identify recipients of the vouchers, who will then be able to redeem them for prepared meals at participating local restaurants.

"When we started providing food to our students last month, we had no idea how much this could grow and how much of a difference we could make in the lives of so many of our neighbors," **said Kelly Carroll, a Culinary Arts teacher at Hackensack High School.** "We're excited to work with the Main Street Business Alliance to help more families in need and it's great that we will now also be able to help support our local restaurants."

"The City Council and I salute the incredible work being done by Carroll Family Values and the Main Street Business Alliance to support both our local businesses and families in need during this crisis," **said Mayor John Labrosse**. "Seeing this kind of cooperation and willingness to help others is truly inspiring and I thank everyone involved in making this program possible."

Donations to Carroll Family Values can be made to:

Venmo: Cori-Carroll-1CashApp: \$chefcarroll

• PayPal: betances805@hotmail.com

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