

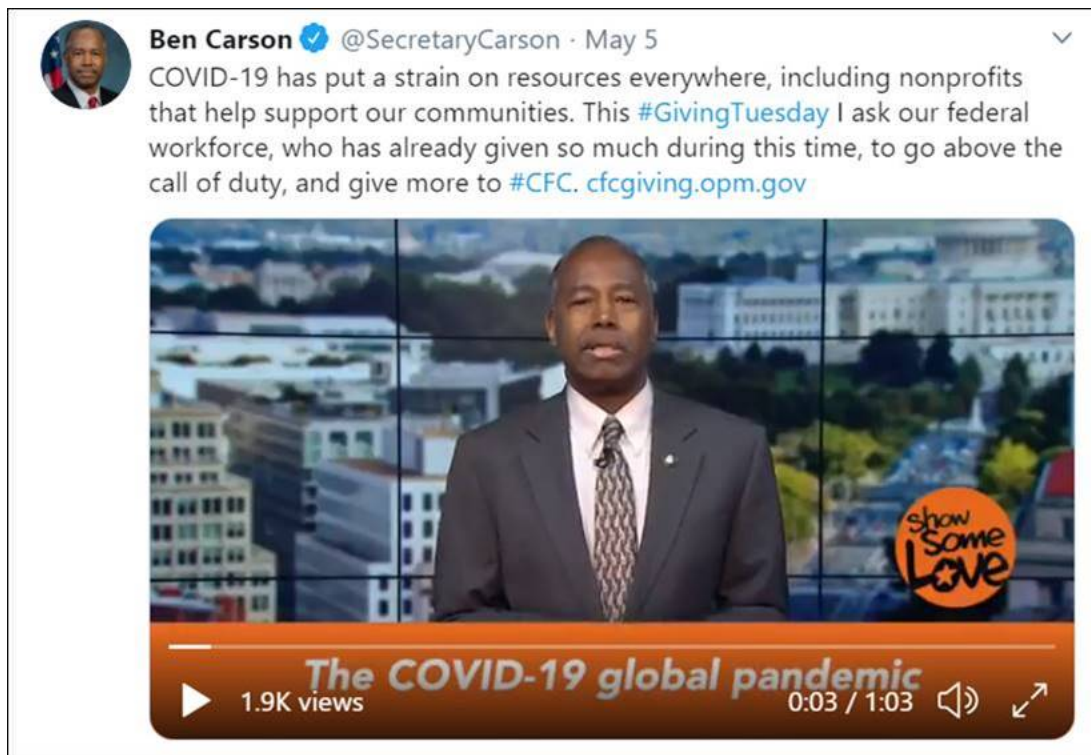


Neighbors Helping Neighbors | Government Employees Go Beyond the Call of Duty To Serve During Coronavirus Outbreak

#Inthistogether

As communities combat the Coronavirus outbreak, HUD is highlighting stories of communities coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Washington, D.C.— Each year, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) provides an opportunity for federal employees to donate volunteer hours or monetary donations to a charity of their choice. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the Office of Personnel Management launched a special solicitation window for the CFC, which will run through June 30, 2020. *“Officials from several federal departments and agencies recently contacted OPM and the Office of Combined Federal Campaign, asking how to do even more to help victims affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,”* Michael Rigas, OPM’s acting director and acting deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, said. *“These officials recognize that non-profit health and human welfare organizations providing critical services during this national emergency are struggling with reduced resources.”* [Read more from the Federal News Network](#)



[Give online through the CFC's Giving Portal](#)

Albuquerque, New Mexico— Patsy Gomez in HUD’s Albuquerque Field Office has been assisting her community in Albuquerque and across state lines in El Paso, Texas throughout the coronavirus pandemic. She coordinated a drive thru food distribution that served over 1,000 families in need and holds a bi-weekly food pantry that serves 100 families. Every Saturday, she also distributes food and essential supplies to people who are homebound due to a disability, elderly residents and veterans. On Easter, she helped deliver over 200 Easter baskets to children who are living in shelters or experiencing home insecurity. She has also been working with local funeral directors in El Paso, Texas

and Las Cruces, New Mexico to provide free or very low-cost funeral services to assist families affected by the loss of a loved one due to COVID-19. [Read the full story from El Paso Times.](#)



Photo courtesy of Patsy Gomez

New York City, New York — For workers serving residents at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) throughout the coronavirus pandemic, personal protective equipment was running short. That's when HUD's New York Regional Office stepped in. Regional Administrator Lynne Patton worked with NYCHA to help secure an unprecedented 500,000 masks for staffers. *"This Administration recognizes the critical role essential workers play during this COVID-19 crisis, particularly here in the epicenter. It is imperative that public housing authorities ensure that residents have uninterrupted hot water and units free of toxins, while wearing the gear necessary to protect those most vulnerable. The additional \$166 million in CARES Act funding specifically for NYCHA will help continue this effort."* [Read the story from The City.](#)



Ben Carson ✓ @SecretaryCarson · May 5

In honor of #GivingTuesday and in keeping with our efforts to ensure that those most vulnerable to this virus are protected, we wish to highlight the efforts of @LynnePattonHUD & her @HUDNY_NJ team in helping to secure 500,000 masks for @NYCHA to safely serve their residents! 🦺



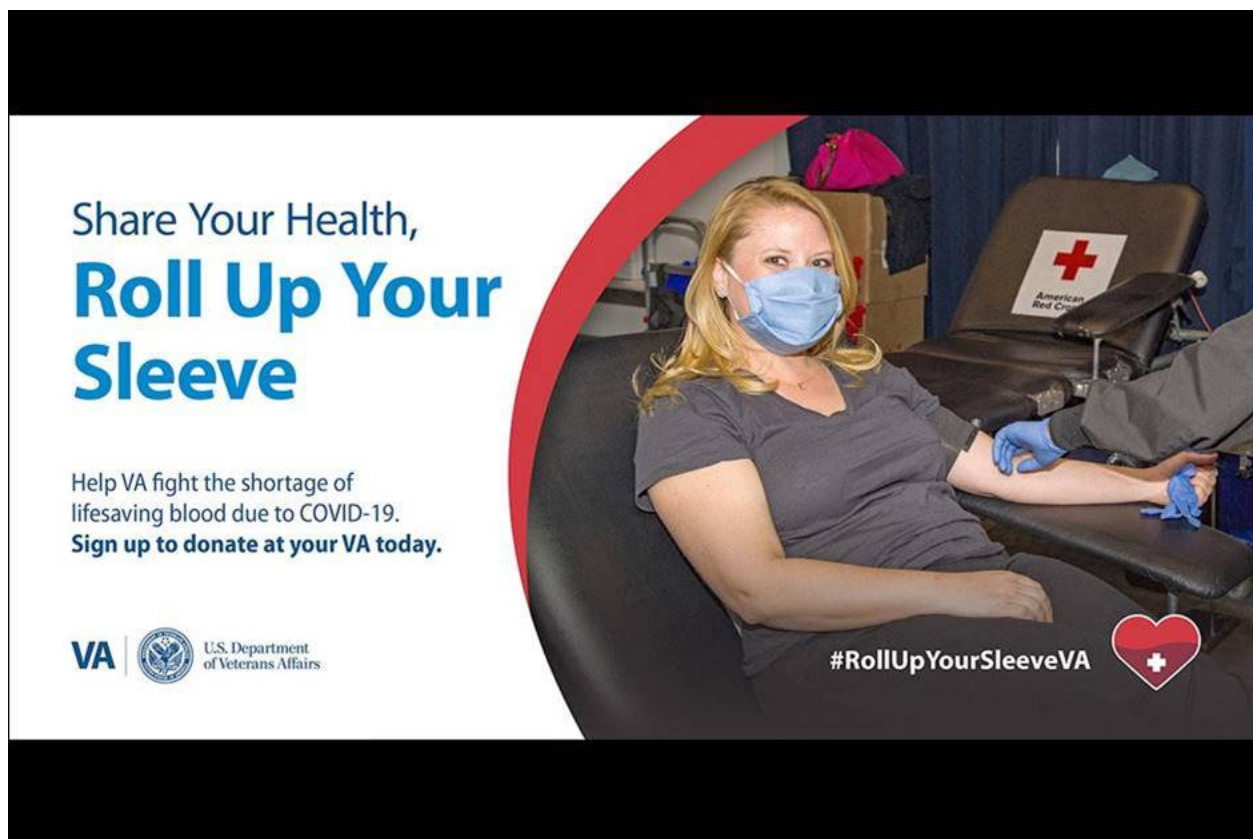
[Photos courtesy of HUD's NY Field Office team](#)

Kure Beach, North Carolina — In North Carolina, city employees are helping to gather donations for the local Help Center during the coronavirus outbreak. The Center provides residents in need with clothing, food, and shelter, among other support they may need. A "no-contact" food drop-off was set up at City Hall so donations could be made while maintaining social distancing. Kure Beach Recreation Director Nikki Keely explained, "*The residents of Kure Beach really stepped up and supported the cause, allowing us to make a tremendous impact.*" [*Read the full story from the Island Gazette*](#)



[Photo courtesy of the Island Gazette](#)

Washington, D.C. — During the coronavirus outbreak, many blood banks are asking for increased donations to help those in need. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has teamed up with the Red Cross to facilitate blood drives across the country as part of their “Share Your Health, Roll Up Your Sleeve today” national campaign. “As a leader in health care, VA has an obligation to step forward to offer this support to our nation,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilke. “This is an important opportunity for citizens nationwide to support their communities.”



[Photo courtesy of the VA](#)

Anchorage, Alaska — This week HUD's Huston Prescott, who serves as a grants evaluation specialist with HUD's Alaska Office of Native American Programs, joined a group of volunteer drivers from St. Andrew's Anglican Church who teamed up to deliver 150 pizzas donated by Dominos to young mothers throughout town as an early Mother's Day gift. The young mothers are participating in a program run by *YoungLives*, an organization that provides mentorships to teen parents. Through the program, participants receive educational guidance and parenting support.



[Photo courtesy of YoungLives Alaska](#)

HUD Resources — Visit HUD's coronavirus resources website at [HUD.gov/coronavirus](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus) to find information specific to the Department and the work of the White House Coronavirus task force.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**HOW TO PREPARE
AND PROTECT
YOURSELF**

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU
THINK YOU ARE SICK**

Read more stories of #NeighborsHelpingNeighbors by following [@HUDgov](https://twitter.com/HUDgov) and [@SecretaryCarson](https://twitter.com/SecretaryCarson) online.