



Media Contact:

Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone

Herrin House of Hope

Cell Phone: 217-725-7565

Or Office Phone 618-997-2940

@Community of Faith Church Office

Email: troy@cofchurch.org

Press Release

The HERRIN HOUSE OF HOPE continues its commitment to serving those in need of a meal throughout this COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS crisis, by moving its service to curbside pick-up effective immediately to fulfill Gov. JB Pritzker's order to all Illinois Restaurants.

Herrin, IL, March 15, 2020 – THE HERRIN HOUSE OF HOPE (HHOH), a ministry of the Herrin Ministerial Alliance (HMA) as a part of its COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS serve plan, is moving its hot meal service to a take-out platform with a front-main door/curbside pick-up, effective immediately. Meals will be provided between 11:00a-1:00p, Monday-Friday. This is in response to the Sunday's ordered suspension of all Illinois Restaurant Dine-In Service beginning Monday, March 16 through Monday, March 30 by Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker. Gov. Pritzker's order does allow for curbside pick-up service.

The HERRIN HOUSE OF HOPE will begin this as of Monday, March 16th. Lunch pick-up service will continue until this order is lifted. Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone, Media & Public Information Coordinator and a local pastor who was part of the launch team for the HHOH shared: *"The Herrin House of Hope, a ministry of the Herrin Ministerial Alliance will continue our commitment to making sure we are able to provide a warm and nutritious lunch to anyone in the Herrin Community that has a need. In the last 7 ½ years, since opening, the HHOH has served nearly 200,000 meals, and normally we serve 100-200 people per day with peak service taking place during the summer, when the kids are out of school, so we expect demand will be very high in the coming weeks ahead!"*

The HERRIN HOUSE OF HOPE is located at 112 N. 14th St., in the heart of downtown Herrin. They are asking people needing a meal to simply come to the front entrance and a take-away meal will be provided. **However, they are asking that if anyone is experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, to refrain from coming to The Herrin House of Hope at this time. Instead, you are encouraged to help us all by contacting the SIH 24-HOUR COVID-19 HOTLINE**

at 1-844-988-7800. They have also requested that regular workers and scheduled volunteers who are not experiencing any of the above-mentioned symptoms come to the back entrance, as normal, to help with service at your regular times. If you would like to come and assist from 10:00a-2:00pm Monday-Friday, they are glad to receive your help. The Director of the Herrin House of Hope, John Steve, will meet and screen all of our volunteers and staff daily at 10:00a and will provide additional information and training to meet the standards for providing safe-service meals in this new environment. Please, see the attached note below to guide you in getting the proper assistance and to help in keeping the virus properly contained:

SIH ESTABLISHES 24-HOUR COVID-19 HOTLINE

(CARBONDALE, IL) To meet the needs of our regional community regarding COVID-19, SIH has set-up a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline to provide telephone screening, information and to answer general questions: 1-844-988-7800. Clinicians will answer questions, assess each caller and advise on next steps for evaluation or potential testing in accordance with current Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

This resource is for individuals who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, which include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. SIH urges the public to call this number or their family doctor before visiting a clinic, physician's office or emergency department. The SIH COVID-19 hotline is designed to protect the community, healthcare providers and patients from potential spread of the disease.

John Steve, Director at the HHOH said: *"One of the challenges we face every day in putting together these resources and making sure it all works together to create healthy and nutritious meals for our guests, is what we call the donor gap. Now we are faced with what will be a very high, summer like demand, without the Summer Children's Assistance Program that is there normally to help fund us. We are expecting a real challenge to meet this donor gap in the weeks ahead. One of the best ways you can help us, is through your generosity in becoming a SPONSOR FOR THE DAY. When you SPONSOR A DAY, that gift helps us fill those gaps needed to take the food donations we receive and transform those daily donated food commodities into meals on a plate, changing lives and giving hope to local Herrin residents in need. Despite donations of food and supplies, our daily gap is about \$250. This breaks down to around \$1.25 a meal. The program allows you to designate a special day, if you choose, and you can even do it "in honor of" or "in the memory of" a loved one. The Sponsorship gift we are seeking is a recurring \$250 per year gift, which can be given one-time annually or done with our monthly online giving option at \$21.00 per month."* You can learn more and even make a gift to Sponsor a Day at the website www.herrinhouseofhope.org.

If you would like to serve, donate money, food supplies or assist in any way to help with the on-going operations during the COVID-19 Crisis, you can contact John Steve, our Director at (618) 751-0053 or by email at steve87success@yahoo.com. If you have Media/Public Relations questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone who will be serving as our Media and Public Information Coordinator during the COVID-10 Crisis and can be reached at (217) 725-7565 or by email at Troy@cofchurch.org.