

Local partners help Scranton restaurants and residents

BY KATHLEEN BOLUS, STAFF WRITER / PUBLISHED: MARCH 20, 2020

Editor's Note: As Northeast Pennsylvania deals with the coronavirus, residents continue to help their neighbors and serve others. Let us know about the good things happening in our communities by sending an email to the newsroom at shofius@timeshamrock.com or calling us at 570-348-9133.

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The Electric City Connection is bringing Scranton restaurants together to help those struggling in the community and the local economy during the coronavirus pandemic.

The connection, led by the University of Scranton, Scranton Tomorrow and the Friends of the Poor, will give \$15 gift cards, starting Monday, to low-income residents to use for takeout and delivered meals at participating restaurants.

The group seeks monetary donations, made at www.scrantontomorrow.org.

"We are a small business and we like to help whenever we can help," said Al Elghazal, owner of Savory Maza in West Scranton, a participating restaurant.

Other participating Scranton restaurants include: A Little Pizza Heaven in Green Ridge; Abe's Deli, the Black Box Café, Downtown Victoria's Gourmet Cuisine, Pizza by Pappas, Peculiar Slurp and POSH at The Scranton Club in downtown Scranton; Fratelli's Pizza & Pasta House in North Scranton; Mansour's Market Café in the Hill Section; and Vincenzo's Pizzeria & Catering in West Scranton.

"We are seeing tremendous need among families and individuals in our community due to this crisis," said Sister Ann Walsh, IHM, assistant director of Friends of the Poor.


She said they are glad to work together on a program that taps into community generosity and supports local small businesses.

"We all have to band together," said Virgil Argenta, owner of Downtown Victoria's Gourmet Cuisine. "This is who we are."

Julie Schumacher Cohen, assistant vice president for community engagement and government affairs at the University of Scranton, developed the program after learning about similar efforts in other cities, according to a news release.

"The COVID-19 crisis is creating additional hardships for those who were already experiencing economic insecurity," she said. "Finding ways to connect as a community is what will help get us through this crisis."

Contact the writer: kbolus@timeshamrock.com; 570-348-9100 x5114; @kbolusTT on Twitter



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POLL

Are you ordering food for pickup or delivery from restaurants during the coronavirus crisis?

- Yes
- No

Show results
This poll is not scientific and is meant for entertainment purposes.

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