

## **White Pony Express Rises to Meet Challenges of Delivering Food to Those in Need during the Pandemic**

In 2013, Dr. Carol Weyland Conner established [White Pony Express](#) (WPE), whose mission is to help eliminate hunger and poverty by delivering the abundance all around us to those in need - with love. Our recipient agencies serve a wide variety of demographics and include shelters, community centers, senior living facilities, foster youth programs, homes for people with disabilities, low-income schools and more. By providing free food and clothing to these agencies, they are able to focus their limited budgets and energy on the services they specialize in.

When the pandemic hit, we quickly put together a [COVID-19 Rapid Response Plan](#) to meet the challenges of this crisis. Because of the skyrocketing demand for our food, we went from delivering an average of 7,000 lbs./day (pre-COVID-19) to 15,000-37,000 lbs./day to meet the spike in community need! To handle our expanded services, we are now sharing a warehouse space in Concord with the Food Bank and other non-profit agencies. This has enabled WPE to partner with major food distributors like Vesta FoodService and CDS Distributing, two companies who deliver [USDA Farmers to Families Food Boxes](#) to WPE, which, in turn, are distributed to our community members who need this food.

WPE has also established “Drive-Throughs” where we serve the families of children who are without school meals, seniors and other isolated neighbors via temporary “drive-through” distribution and drop-off points. [Click here](#) to see one of these distributions. We have launched new pilot projects focused on homebound and isolated neighbors and new immigrant families who do not have a support structure in place. Providing healthy food, clean clothing and opportunities to serve helps our community be productive and successful. When people have these basic needs met, they are able to focus on their families, their education and their work... and the City thrives.

To support the work of White Pony Express, either as a [donor](#) or a [volunteer](#), please visit our web site: <https://www.whiteponyexpress.org>.