



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2020

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Fareground, Inc. Expands “Dinner To Go” Program with Support from the Related Affordable Foundation

Beacon, NY – May 27, 2020 – Fareground, Inc., a women-run anti-hunger and food justice non-profit focusing on food insecurity since 2012, has partnered with the Related Affordable Foundation to expand their ‘Dinner To Go’ program. The initiative delivers food to communities in need during the current pandemic on a weekly basis including at Tompkins Terrace.

“We are grateful for the support from our community and for Related Affordable Foundation to rise to the occasion during this pandemic. Hunger exists because of choices we, as a country, have collectively made. Attending to this problem requires an extraordinary commitment to our disadvantaged community members. Our plan is to distribute food to our neighbors because they need help today. But we need to think bigger, ask the difficult questions, and confront the larger issues of poverty, inequality, and inequity if we ever hope to end hunger once and for all,” says Kara Dean-Assael and Karen George of Fareground.

“Thank you to the organizations and individuals that have donated needed funding and necessary volunteerism to help their fellow residents in this time of need. The City was happy to make a connection with these entities. I applaud your commitment to our community,” says City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou.

Fareground has become a first responder to the immediate lack of food that adults and families in Beacon and Dutchess County are facing during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Serving 900 grocery bags a week, filled with essential foods, the ‘Dinner To Go’ program was established at the beginning of quarantine through the Beacon City School District and other non-profit organizations. Fareground is collaborating with multiple groups to pack bags for distribution for delivery as well as helping people sign up for SNAP if needed.

Co-founder, Kara Dean-Assael and Fareground President, Karen George, are working with local box stores, small family owned stores, farmers, mutual aid groups and volunteers to continue supporting this immediate need.

Please visit www.fareground.org for more information.

About the City of Beacon:

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19th and 20th Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21st Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition

spaces in the country for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill Creek and Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

About The Related Affordable Foundation:

The Related Affordable Foundation (RAF) is a charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization committed to enriching the lives of affordable housing residents and breaking the generational cycle of poverty. Established in 2016, the Related Affordable Foundation sponsors impactful programs and activities in the areas of education, food security, health & wellness, and workforce development. To date the foundation has awarded nearly \$1,000,000 to organizations that address the unmet needs of affordable housing residents and the neighboring communities. For more information on the Related Affordable Foundation, please email RelatedAffordableFoundation@related.com.

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