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**CORNERSTONES OF CARE IS AWARDED GRANT FROM  
GENYOUth'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND**

*Grant Will Help Local School Nutrition Professionals Provide Essential Resources and Equipment  
to Feed Their Students During Pandemic School Closures*

**Kansas City, MO – June 10, 2020** – Cornerstones of Care – Gillis Campus has been selected as the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from GENYOUth's COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Fund. The grant is part of a nationwide campaign by GENYOUth, alongside America's dairy farmers and other partners, to support schools in providing essential nutrition to students during coronavirus pandemic school closures. Cornerstones of Care has educational day treatment schools on their Gillis and Ozanam Campuses.

There are currently 124,000 schools closed across the country, impacting 55 million students, yet the majority of those public schools remain open for feeding purposes. Federal funding continues to support school feeding programs for the 30 million students who rely on school meals daily, but additional funding is crucial to provide schools with the necessary resources and equipment as they adapt to new means of delivering healthy meals to our nation's children,

"Ensuring our kids are getting the nutritious foods they need is critical," said Byron Lehman, a dairy farmer from Newton, Kan. "As a dairy farmer, I'm excited schools have the opportunity to benefit from this grant and also want to thank our frontline workers, including school nutrition professionals, bus drivers and volunteers who are taking extraordinary measures to distribute and deliver school meals through a variety of ways that enable social distancing, including grab and go, bus stop drop off and summer feeding sites."

"This grant couldn't have come at a better time," shared Heather Wirsig, manager of nutritional health services at Cornerstones of Care. "Not only are we providing the meals and snacks, but we need take-out containers to transport the food to the children. That is an expense that we had not budgeted for and where the grant money will be utilized."

Recognizing the urgent need, [GENYOUth's COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Fund](#) launched on Monday, March 30, to help schools maintain continuity in the school meal program by inviting schools to apply for up to \$3,000 to purchase equipment and resources urgently needed to get healthy meals distributed and delivered to youth and families. While schools traditionally serve meals within the school building, they now are in urgent need of equipment and resources for cold storage of perishable items (milk/dairy, fruits, vegetables, proteins), transportation, single-serve packaging, and safety and sanitation tools to provide meals through non-traditional means. Over 10,000 schools have applied for grants nationwide.

To support this unprecedented need, GENYOUth launched a national movement, "For Schools' Sake – Help Us Feed Our Nation's Kids!" This is a national call-to-action for corporations, foundations, athletes, influencers and individuals to raise their hands with urgency and compassion to support the COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition

Fund. They are spreading the word to help feed the need #ForSchoolsSake by making a donation at [genyouthnow.org](http://genyouthnow.org) and by posting pictures with their hands raised in support for school nutrition professionals and volunteers on their social media channels.

Donations to GENYOUth's Emergency COVID-19 School Nutrition Fund can be made at [genyouthnow.org/donate](http://genyouthnow.org/donate) or by texting "SCHOOLS" to 20222.

#### **About Midwest Dairy**

Midwest Dairy® represents 6,500 dairy farm families and works on their behalf to build dairy demand by inspiring consumer confidence in our products and production practices. We are committed to Bringing Dairy to Life! by Giving Consumers an Excellent Dairy Experience and are funded by farmers across a 10-state region, including Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. For more information, visit [MidwestDairy.com](http://MidwestDairy.com). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and find us on [Facebook](#) at Midwest Dairy. For relevant conversations about issues and trends in the dairy community, listen to [Dairy on the Air](#).

#### **About GENYOUth**

GENYOUth is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that creates healthier school communities. We convene a network of private and public partners, including Fortune 100 companies and foundations, to raise funds for youth wellness initiatives that give youth the inspiration, motivation and programs to be healthy high-achieving students. GENYOUth's flagship program, Fuel Up to Play 60, enrolls over 73,000 U.S. schools, reaching over 38 million students. Our school nutrition grants increase access to healthy school meals among food insecure students. NFL FLAG-In-School is GENYOUth's fastest growing program with over 20,000+ school communities reaching over 11 million students while AdVenture Capital brings out the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of students with the support of corporate mentors to solve real world problems. For more information about GENYOUth, visit [genyouthnow.org](http://genyouthnow.org) or contact Eric Slutsky, director of integrated communications, at [eslutsky@genyouthnow.org](mailto:eslutsky@genyouthnow.org).

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#### **About Cornerstones of Care**

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children and families to create safe and healthy communities. It serves more than 15,000 children and families through education, mental & behavioral health, foster care & adoption, youth & family support, and community trainings in Kansas, Missouri and beyond. For more information, visit [cornerstonesofcare.org](http://cornerstonesofcare.org).