

# Coming together for nonprofits

Kenia Garnica-Avila | Leeann Marshel | Fostering Together

In the midst of the current pandemic, restaurants, schools and other businesses have been closed for the safety and health of our communities. As a result, the economy will inevitably enter a downturn, and nonprofits will take a hit.

A great number of people have been supported by nonprofits whether it's through food pantries, emotional and physical assistance and care, foster care support, housing and so on. However, with the current state of things, nonprofits will continue to suffer from the decrease in staff, volunteers and donations and the increase of demand for services.

Nonprofit organizations have supported the economy tremendously and it is our job to be aware of this moving forward. According to [Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies](#), nonprofit organizations employ 12.3 million paid workers, making them the third largest workforce of any United States industry in 2016. Contrary to popular belief, nonprofits also provide higher average wages in most fields than for-profit organizations.

In addition, [1.56 million nonprofits](#) have been actively aiding communities across the U.S. With the large impact the coronavirus has on the overall workforce, more people than before are turning to nonprofits for support. The issue here isn't about asking for help, it's about the underwhelming amount of goods and services nonprofits are able to provide compared to the overwhelming amount of people needing help.

Not only this, but many nonprofits have been forced to close indefinitely. For instance, [Meals on Wheels People](#) in Portland, Oregon had to close 22 dining locations, switching to a three-day-a-week delivery system for its 15,000 clients.

Nonprofit organizations have been helping communities in the U.S. since the Progressive Era that took place in the late 1800s through the early 1900s. The YMCA being one of the first nonprofit organizations in this period of political reform and social activism, according to [Nonprofit Hub](#). It is now our turn to help nonprofits in any way we can. Now more than ever, it is time to come together as a community, even if it is from the safety of our homes.

As someone who has been helped by nonprofits and strives to assist others as a nonprofit employee, I urge you to help this cause. Do this by donating to your local nonprofits, if possible, and advocating for the nonprofits by letting your representatives know the importance of nonprofits. Hopefully, when this situation surpasses, our nonprofits will be financially strong to continue to support our communities.