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**500 MEALS DELIVERED TO CRITICALLY-ILL KIDS AND THEIR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES  
THROUGHOUT ORANGE, LOS ANGELES, RIVERSIDE & SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES**

*Food service to one of our community's most vulnerable populations was made possible through a collaborative partnership between LEAD OC's WeTogether movement, Miracles for Kids, and Sapphire Culinary Group.*

Irvine, CA (June 24, 2020) – On select Thursdays throughout the month of June, Irvine-based nonprofit organization [Miracles for Kids](#) used a \$25,000 gift from LEAD OC's WeTogether Movement in order to provide 500 meals to critically-ill children and their low-income families in need throughout Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The meals were provided by Sapphire Culinary Group and sent to centralized locations within each community. Through the assistance of 20+ volunteers, the meals were delivered directly to families' homes and/or more localized pick-up locations on June 4, June 11 and June 18 and helped to stretch already scarce budgets and keep families home where it is safest.

"Miracles for Kids feels very fortunate to have been a part of this initiative that helped so many of our families and brought smiles to faces of those who need it most," notes Miracles for Kids Co-Founder and CEO, Autumn Strier. "These families are facing even more challenges than usual due to our world's current events and we're thankful that LEAD OC's WeTogether movement helped bring them a little bit of comfort and peace during this time."

Thanks to a partnership like this, along with the support of many donors, government officials, board members, volunteers and staff, Miracles for Kids continues to assist our community's most vulnerable low-income families with critically-ill children as they face the combined impact of their child's life-threatening illness, a devastated economy, and the effects of COVID-19 on their child's already compromised immune system.

"We're glad to see fabulous cooperation among the four organizations to make this meal delivery campaign happen," notes Ada Yan, WeTogether PR and Event Ambassador. "The three-week food drive is truly a tremendous support to the families in need in Southern

California, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. It sent out a message that we, as a community and responsible citizens, will strive to protect children and families in need. The world is still full of love. We especially want to thank the volunteers of the food drive as their warmhearted contributions made this a great success. We also want to thank the LEAD OC WeTogether community, who provided lovely cards that went out with the food to each family.”

All of the teams involved came together to support a mutual cause, with those receiving the meals offering their upmost appreciation and gratitude for the food delivery service. Miracles for Kids, LEAD OC's WeTogether movement, and Sapphire Culinary Group each brought a different strength to the partnership that helped make the campaign a three week-long success.

“It is amazing to see so many organizations come together to support children and families who need our help now more than ever,” says Brian Davis, LEAD OC's Founder and Board Chair. “My team and I feel honored to be able to give back in such a meaningful way and look forward to continuing to do so through this pandemic and beyond.”

Volunteers who helped to make the meal deliveries possible include Aliso Niguel High School M4Kids Club, Artemis Search Partners, CLOUD, the Cruse Family, Melissa Kish, Mike Meyer, Moustaches for Kids OC, National Charity League Capistrano Coast, National Charity League North Tustin, Pepperdine University, RedRock Technologies, Inc., and Valerie Starn.

### **More About WeTogether**

WeTogether is a collaboration of local business leaders founded in March 2020. Since its establishment, it has donated more than 200,000 PPE items to first responders, healthcare workers and senior neighborhoods in Orange County.

Our initial focus has been to support front line workers and groups at risk during this pandemic. Now we're expanding to support more who are impacted in different ways by global crisis. This will be our long-lasting mission, and we want to do what we can to make a difference.

In addition to gathering donations on its website, WeTogether also plans to collect stories of donations and front line moments to publish on its website [www.wetogether.me](http://www.wetogether.me) to give our heroes more recognition.

### **More About LEAD OC**

LEAD OC provides a platform for Orange County's leading executives to combine their skills and resources to advance & raise awareness for various local philanthropic causes championing children & military families. The mission of the organization is to alleviate the financial burdens of these charities so they may fully dedicate their efforts towards affecting positive change. LEAD OC sets itself apart not only by developing leaders through education and mentorship, but by emphasizing the ultimate goal of leaving a positive and profound impact on communities throughout Orange County.

### **More About Miracles for Kids**

Miracles for Kids is one of the only organizations on the West Coast that provides monthly financial assistance, subsidized housing, mental health services and wellness activities to families with a critically-ill child. The services help create stability when families are crumbling from the financial and emotional devastation of fighting for their child's life. Founded in 2002, Miracles for Kids has a main office in Irvine, CA and a subsidized housing complex, Miracle Manor, in Orange, CA. To learn more about how Miracles for Kids has joined forces with parents and loved ones, visit [www.miraclesforkids.org](http://www.miraclesforkids.org). To donate, visit [www.miraclesforkids.org/donate](http://www.miraclesforkids.org/donate).

### **More About Sapphire Culinary Group & Chef Azmin Ghahreman**

Azmin Ghahreman is a notable local Southern California chef with worldwide contacts in this industry. He is CEO of Sapphire Culinary Group, an umbrella organization for his varied operations, an innovative school, and higher education dining program provider (Sapphire at School), a full-service catering company for social and corporate events with (Sapphire Catering), and a customized corporate dining director through (Sapphire at Work). He is the former Executive Chef of the St. Regis Monarch Beach and of various Four Seasons & Regent Hotels worldwide.

Sapphire Culinary Group is honored to be a part of the local community and has partnered with many different charities and public service opportunities along the way. We live, love, and understand the diversity of cultures and implement ethnic foods into our menus. We invest more in our quality of ingredients to maintain the genuine authenticity of the highest nutrition.

Sapphire Culinary Group is committed to improving childhood nutrition, redefining the food experience, and offering wholesome, carefully prepared meals for communities to enjoy.

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