



## The Kind Mouse Productions, Inc.

1801 16th Street North, Suite B, St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

[TheKindMouse.org](http://TheKindMouse.org) 727-575-7834 45-2455492

Our Mission is to assist families in transition and their chronically hungry children while developing the next generation of volunteers to carry on the mission of The Kind Mouse. No hardworking individual and their family should ever go hungry.

April 16, 2020

Dear Supporters of The Kind Mouse,

As you know, The Kind Mouse serves low-income children struggling with food insecurity. COVID-19 stay-at-home guidelines have placed struggling families in even more need, while causing thousands of once-stable households to now need help to feed their children.

### **Since Covid-19 Closed Schools and Workplaces:**

- Nationwide, the demand for assistance from food banks is up 65 percent.
- The average family has \$400 on hand in case of an emergency. This safety net is long gone by now, so families need our help.
- We now must exponentially boost our services on a weekly basis.
- We filled 13,309 tummies in the first month schools were closed in Pinellas County.
- This is a 56 percent increase over the number of tummies we filled monthly in 2019.
- We need to buy more food to donate and drive our Mouse Van (a gift from a donor in 2018) further to reach more children in the north end of our large county.

### **FOOD DOES MORE THAN STAVE OFF HUNGER**

With children now at home seven days a week, we are concerned for their wellbeing.

- If a child is hungry, they cannot learn whether in the classroom or at home.
- A well-fed child behaves better, helping the mental health of the entire family.
- As parents face increased pressures of working from home or losing their job along with helping teach their kids, stress levels go up and the potential for physical or verbal abuse of children is greater than before.
- By the Kind Mouse providing Mouse Nibbles bags for kids, parents know their children are fed and can have one less stressor during this very difficult time.



Board of Directors: Lauren Carlan President, Stan Wilkins Vice President, Jennifer McGarry Secretary, Samantha Tallyn Treasurer

Directors: Donna Cothron, Brett Vickers, Dr. Lori Harris-Temple, Brian Harrington, Nancy Westphal, Founder and CEO: Gina Wilkins

We have been working hard with fewer of our treasured over-60 volunteers who cannot help. We are distributing food in the following ways:

- St Pete Police is hand delivering Mouse Nibbles to children on the streets and in their homes.
- The Sheriff's Department has a room for families in need to pick up food.
- Our agency partners are running drive-through food pantries as well as delivering to individual homes.
- MOW4Kids is delivering our food directly to the children at home
- Our amazing agency partners are also working harder with fewer people. They include Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger, Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center Food Pantry, Hands Across the Bay, Boley Center and Enoch Youth Ranch.

The Kind Mouse CEO and Founder Gina Wilkins, is the only paid staff member working at the pantry full time. Volunteers who come in once a week for a half day are strictly following the 6-foot social distance rules and wearing masks and gloves.

As a supporter and champion of The Kind Mouse, we wanted to update you on how we are reaching even more children during this very difficult time. Our needs are great, but our abilities and our commitment are greater.

Thank you for all you do and please visit our new website, [www.TheKindMouse.org](http://www.TheKindMouse.org).

Sincerely,

*Gina Wilkins*  
Founder and CEO

Gina Wilkins and The Kind Mouse Staff and Volunteers