



NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
State Parole Board**
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For Immediate Release

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STATE PAROLE OFFICERS DONATE FOOD TO “FRONTLINE” MEDICAL WORKERS TO SAY “THANKS” FOR SAVING LIVES

NJSPB NEWARK DISTRICT OFFICES SUPPORT MEDICAL WORKERS AT UMDNJ FOR THEIR SELFLESS, LIFE-SAVING WORK AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

TRENTON, NJ, April 20, 2020— As a way to express thanks to the UMDNJ medical staff during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey State Parole Officers from two Newark district offices, along with the New Jersey PBA Local # 326, presented food to the workers as they continue around the clock efforts saving lives. The parole officers and union raised more than \$700 for the purchase of the food.



“I was reading an article about how medical staff at UMDNJ were crying out of sheer exhaustion,” said Roxy Merlano, State Parole Sr. Parole Officer. “We felt compelled to do something and within minutes, donation started rolling in. We wanted to provide the medical personnel with easy grab and go type food, including more than 30 pizzas, salads and appetizers.”

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New Jersey State Parole Board Sr. Parole Officer, and treasurer of the PBA # 326 Leona Weiss said, “All of us in the 326 are proud to have helped raise money to purchase and provide food for the medical professionals. This was just a small token of gratitude for those working at UMDNJ who are serving on the frontlines providing critical and compassionate support to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus.”

“There is a true camaraderie between first responders and emergency personnel and we deeply recognize how doctors, nurses, and all medical workers are serving at the vanguard of the war on the COVID-19 pandemic,” said New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. “Our parole officers and union fully understand the dedication, professionalism, and human kindness being put forth. The New Jersey State Parole Board commends and thanks all who are doing so much to help those stricken by the virus, as well as assist anyone in need of emergency medical treatment.”

New Jersey State Parole Board, Director of the Divisions of Parole and Community Programming James Dickinson said “I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the officers from our Newark/Elizabeth District Offices, as well as the PBA # 326, who helped support hospital personnel at UMDNJ. As a first responder and more importantly, New Jersey resident, I greatly appreciate the compassionate and exhaustive work to save lives by all of our brothers and sisters within the medical community.”

The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society, and in reducing state’s recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, State Parole officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. The agency’s Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, addiction services, and related services.

Photo Caption:

Presenting the food, from left to right are Sr. State Parole Officers Richard Arroyo and Roxy Merlano. On the far right is UMDNJ CEO Shereef M. Elnahal, MD.

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