



The Wawa Foundation Announces the Four Finalists for 2020 “The Wawa Foundation Hero Award”: Calls for Public Vote to Determine Top Grant Recipient

Four Non-Profits Serving Philadelphia Will Be Celebrated During Wawa Welcome America, Which Include: Broad Street Ministry, People’s Emergency Center, Visiting Nurse Association of Philadelphia and The Salvation Army

Wawa, PA. (June 16, 2020) – After receiving more than 200 submissions, The Wawa Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded to support Wawa’s charitable giving and philanthropic activities, is thrilled to announce the 2020 finalists for “**The Wawa Foundation Hero Award**.” The Wawa Foundation Hero Award is an honor given to a non-profit organization serving the greater Philadelphia area that rise to meet the immense challenges facing the community by providing services to protect others, preserve independence, and provide care and life-saving support to those in need. **The four finalists are:**

- 1) [Broad Street Ministry](#)
- 2) [People’s Emergency Center](#)
- 3) [VNA of Philadelphia](#)
- 4) [The Salvation Army](#)

Vote from June 16 – June 29 to Help Choose a Winner

The winner will be chosen by public vote on [The Wawa Foundation’s website](#) from June 16 – June 29. The organization receiving the most votes will be presented to The Wawa Foundation Hero Award Panel for final approval.

The Wawa Foundation Hero Award and Wawa Welcome America

Launched during Philadelphia’s *Wawa Welcome America* festivities, The Wawa Foundation Hero Award will be presented as part of the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony on July 4th. The recipient of The Wawa Foundation Hero Award will receive a \$50,000 grant, and the three runners up will each receive \$10,000 grants. “All of us at Wawa were truly inspired to hear about the work that so many area non-profits are doing to help others and improve their communities,” said The Wawa Foundation President, Jay Culotta. “We can’t wait to celebrate these four non-profits during the *Wawa Welcome America* festivities as they tell their stories of what it means to be a hero. We invite all who applied to stay connected with The Wawa Foundation and find out more about the support The Wawa Foundation offers to non-profit organizations in Wawa’s operating areas.”

About the Finalists

Broad Street Ministry

Broad Street Ministry (BSM) believes we can transform our city, our neighborhoods and ourselves when we attend to the needs of our neighbors living in the most vulnerable of conditions. Through Radical Hospitality, BSM opens its doors to everyone of all races, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, ethnicities, ages, and socio-economic statuses to provide five weekly meals, alongside critical services and basic needs to 6,000 individuals per year with the goal of leading individuals back on better path of mental, physical and spiritual wellness and wholeness. BSM was instrumental in helping launch the #StepUptoThePlatePHL initiative in response to COVID-19, which provided daily meals at three food distribution sites, totaling 129,866 meals in the City of Philadelphia to help relieve hunger.

People's Emergency Center

People's Emergency Center's (PEC) mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change. PEC offers multi-dimensional solutions for addressing the social, economic, health, and quality of life challenges that impact Philadelphia. Our holistic approach includes social services, housing, community organizing, youth programming, and public policy work. We primarily serve families and youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In response to coronavirus, PEC is providing extra services to help families during and after the crisis-- including increased emergency food distribution for Philadelphia's most vulnerable residents. We have distributed more than 20,000 meals to families, seniors, and other people in need since March.

The Salvation Army

Since its founding in Philadelphia 141 years ago, The Salvation Army is on the front line feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless, leading emergency disaster relief, addressing poverty with social services, and offering congregational life, educational and wellness programs for youth and seniors. With the crisis presenting more of a challenge to obtain access to essentials, The Salvation Army implemented a "Corps at the Door," approach at food sites where individuals and families could receive boxed food outside of Salvation Army facilities from staff wearing masks, gloves and practicing social distancing. The Salvation Army Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Division has now served over 5 million meals to thousands of individuals and families in need, with nearly 2 million meals served in Greater Philadelphia alone.

VNA of Philadelphia (Visiting Nurse Association)

As the oldest health care agency in the region, VNA's mission is to provide comprehensive home health, palliative and end of life care of the highest quality to all people, regardless of their ability to pay. VNA Philadelphia provides care to approximately 1,200 patients each day through our home health, palliative and hospice programs. VNA Philadelphia operates a 15-bed Inpatient Hospice Unit; an innovative Home Health program which includes Home Health Aides, LPNs, RNs, BSNs, Nurse Practitioners, Therapists and MSWs; a Palliative Care program which helps chronically ill patients and their families improve quality of life and a Population Health program with MSWs and Clergy. In addition to supporting the community in 1918 during the Spanish Flu, VNA has helped during COVID-19 by providing health care and frozen meals and fresh produce from its food pantry to patients which staff hand delivered to patient homes and provided extra food to community partners to help those most impacted by food insecurity.

About The Wawa Foundation Hero Award Submission Process

Non-profit organizations applied by submitting a video and/or a short story to The Wawa Foundation website that provided background on their organization's work with, and impact on, the community. The Wawa Foundation Grant Committee selected four compelling stories of organizations serving the Philadelphia community with the best fit to the award focus area and criteria. The four finalists will be put to a public vote, and the organization receiving the most votes will be presented to The Wawa Foundation Hero Award Panel for final approval and determination. The winning organization will receive a **\$50,000 grant** from The Wawa Foundation, and three runners-up will each receive **\$10,000 grants**. For more information on The Wawa Foundation Hero Award and eligibility requirements, terms and conditions, please visit www.TheWawaFoundation.org. To be eligible to receive this award, non-profit organizations needed to meet the grant selection criteria of The Wawa Foundation for support of organizations providing assistance to causes representing everyday heroes.

About The Wawa Foundation

The Wawa Foundation is an extension of Wawa's commitment to fulfilling lives every day. The Wawa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded to support Wawa, Inc.'s charitable giving and philanthropic activities – and ultimately to help build happier, stronger communities. The Wawa Foundation focuses its support on non-profit organizations committed to health, hunger and everyday heroes through local, regional and national grants. Since the inception of The Wawa Foundation in 2014, The Wawa Foundation and Wawa have contributed more than \$86 million to non-profit community organizations.

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