

Citymeals-on-Wheels & HCCI Respond to Harlem Emergency

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Citymeals-on-Wheels delivered 2,100 emergency meals to needy Harlem residents, including the elderly and children, who reside in buildings that are expected to be without gas, and unable to cook, for up to six weeks as a result of a watermain break.

Citymeals was alerted to the problem late Tuesday afternoon by a local nonprofit organization called Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement and immediately set in motion its emergency response team. Staff at the Citymeals emergency warehouse in Brooklyn quickly loaded its truck with 700 boxes of food -- each containing three shelf-stable meals including microwavable rice, juice, tuna and other food staples.

The emergency food boxes were delivered this morning to the community center at 2890 Frederick Douglass Blvd at 153rd Street. Later in the day, the Harlem Congregation Community, in conjunction with building management, distributed the boxes to needy residents. Depending on the duration of the gas outage and the anticipated need, this is expected to be the first of a few deliveries.

"With this emergency delivery today, Citymeals is fulfilling an important part of our central mission: to make sure that needy aging New Yorkers never go a day without a meal," said Rachel Sherrow, LCSW, and Director of Programs and Community Affairs at Citymeals. "Our work is made possible only through the generous contributions of everyday New Yorkers who know that 100% of every dollar they give to Citymeals goes directly to support the preparation and delivery of these lifelines."

Sherrow added that beginning tomorrow Citymeals will fund the the delivery of hot meals to elderly and disabled residents in the local community.