

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Rosa's Thanksgiving Dinner returns Monday

'Mother Wims' feeds the neighborhood for 33rd annual event

ROCHESTER – One of the city's most benevolent residents turns 96 next month, but that won't stop Rosa Wims from inviting hundreds of her neighbors over for a warm, holiday meal.

The 33rd edition of "Rosa's Thanksgiving Dinner" is scheduled for Monday at the Montgomery Neighborhood Center on Cady Street. The event begins at noon.

"Mother Wims," 95, as she is known in the neighborhood, has dedicated her life to public service. She is recognized as the first black nurse's aide at Rochester General Hospital and later became a licensed practical nurse. She founded the Faith Community Health Awareness Center on Genesee Street, which later was renamed in her honor, the Rosa Wims Family Wellness Center.

What began as a small holiday gathering on Jefferson Avenue has transformed into a yearly tradition that feeds hundreds. Volunteers from the health care community help serve the food, much of which is prepared by Foodlink's Community Kitchen, led by Executive Chef Casey Holenbeck. The turkeys are generously donated by Palmer Food Services, and pies are donated by Special Touch Bakery.

Wims has spent most of her life in the Third Ward and Corn Hill neighborhoods since moving to Rochester as a teenager. She has earned several awards and honors for her work, including the "W" Award, Susan B. Anthony Award, and the W. Burton Richardson Lifetime Achievement Award.

WHO: Foodlink, Rosa Wims & all her friends and neighbors!

WHAT: 33rd annual Rosa's Thanksgiving Dinner

WHEN: Monday, November 12, 2018; Noon until food runs out

WHERE: Montgomery Neighborhood Center; 10 Cady Street, Rochester

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Reporters who wish to speak with Rosa should plan on arriving between 12-1 p.m. Thank you!

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About Foodlink

Foodlink is a community food resource center and the Feeding America food bank serving Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties. For 40 years, we have leveraged the power of food to transform lives, end hunger and build healthier communities. Through good stewardship, innovation and collaboration, Foodlink mobilizes a diverse network of partners and stakeholders to eradicate both the symptoms and root causes of hunger.

Our suite of food access programs provides new access points to nutritious and affordable food in underserved communities. Our team of nutrition educators empowers people at risk of diet-related illness with the skills and knowledge to make healthy choices. Our food banking operations distribute millions of pounds of food to a network of hundreds of human service agencies throughout our service area. The Foodlink Community Kitchen prepares and delivers thousands of meals daily for Rochester children, supports our regional agricultural economy by slicing locally grown apples, and hosts a one-of-a-kind career empowerment program to train individuals with barriers to employment for careers in the regional food industry. Learn more about how we are creating healthy futures for every community we serve at www.foodlinkny.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at @foodlinkny.

For more information, contact:

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