

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Rosa's Thanksgiving Dinner set to feed hundreds this Friday

'Mother Wims' hosts 32nd annual event at the Montgomery Center

ROCHESTER – Thanksgiving is like Christmas for Rosa Wims.

It's the happiest time of year for the 94-year-old Rochesterian, who will host "Rosa's Thanksgiving Dinner" for the 32nd year this Friday at the Montgomery Neighborhood Center on Cady Street. The meal traditionally welcomes hundreds of her neighbors from Corn Hill and the surrounding communities.

"Every bit of 300," Wims said when asked how many mouths she expects to feed this year. "If more come, we'll always have a pea in the pot for 'em."

"Mother Wims" 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. The turkeys are generously donated by Palmer Food Services. Although Rosa is still front and center at the event, always welcoming attendees with a warm smile, she has ceded some the organization of the event in recent years to her close friends and to Foodlink's staff.

This year's event begins at noon and lasts "until the food runs out."

WHAT: Rosa's 32nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner

WHEN: Friday, November 10, 2017; Noon until food runs out

WHERE: Montgomery Neighborhood Center; 10 Cady Street, Rochester

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Reporters who would like to speak with Rosa should plan on arriving between 12-1 p.m.

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About Foodlink

Foodlink is a regional food hub and the Feeding America food bank serving Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties. Our operations alleviate food insecurity by distributing food to a network of human service agencies and target the root causes of hunger through our state-of-the-art commercial kitchen and dozens of food-related programs.

Last year, Foodlink distributed 17.4 million pounds of food, including 4.9 million pounds of produce. Foodlink's nutrition educators empower people to make healthy choices and our food access programs provide new access points to nutritious food in underserved communities. Our innovative approach directly addresses diet-related health disparities related to food insecurity. Learn more about our mission to end hunger and to leverage the power of food to build a healthier community at www.foodlinkny.org.

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