



## PRESS RELEASE

Rob Williams For Immediate Release: March 15, 2020  
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# The Sheridan Story partners with Otto Bremer Trust to provide meals to hundreds of thousands of food insecure children during Coronavirus pandemic

Roseville, MN – March 15, 2020

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is significantly disrupting all aspects of our community, especially for our children. With Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz today announcing that all K-12 schools will close starting no later than Wednesday and continuing through March 27, hundreds of thousands of children will face a substantial increase in food insecurity. Facing this pandemic, school districts will need to prepare for closings for even longer periods of time.

The Sheridan Story and our network is preparing [a swift and unprecedented response](#). Our largest funding partner, the [Otto Bremer Trust](#) has generously provided \$379,000 of emergency funding for our efforts, making it possible for us to prepare and distribute well over the initial goal of 330,000 meals to the community.

“This is uncharted territory for all of us, but Minnesota’s strongest asset is our ability to work together to serve the children,” says Rob Williams, Executive Director at The Sheridan Story.

Brian Lipschultz, Co-CEO and Trustee at the Otto Bremer Trust responded by saying that “The Sheridan Story is stepping up to provide children in our community with healthy meals during the upcoming school shut-down. We are proud to work with Rob and his team to support some of Minnesota’s most vulnerable community members during these challenging times.”

The Sheridan Story is working with over 30 school districts in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin to provide a nutritious source of food directly to children. The districts include 30% of all Minnesota children receiving free or reduced meal support at school. We anticipate the need to increase significantly as the schedules and resources are upended.

We are not stopping until we ensure our children have food for every meal during this unsettling time. We need additional support from the community to continue quickly adapting and moving forward through this dynamic situation. Please consider [donating today](#), [volunteering to pack food](#), or asking others in your network to support us as well. **Every \$100 makes it possible for 25 children to receive meals.**

“We WILL and we MUST ensure children have food during this unsettling time. Thank you for your partnership, now and always” expresses Williams with genuine gratitude.



### **ABOUT THE SHERIDAN STORY**

Over 200,000 children in Minnesota live in food insecurity – they don't always know if they'll have food for their next meal. In order to fight this devastating reality, The Sheridan Story focuses on the food gaps, the times throughout the year when children aren't able to receive free and reduced meal programs at school. In the last six years, The Sheridan Story has grown from serving one school with a weekend food program to implementing multiple food gap programs serving over 10,000 children across 300 locations.

### **ABOUT THE OTTO BREMER TRUST**

The Otto Bremer Trust is a bank holding company and a private charitable trust based in Saint Paul, Minn., that works at the intersection of finance and philanthropy. Created in 1944 by Otto Bremer, it is today one of the region's largest philanthropic organizations and is committed to supporting a better quality of life for residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin. OBT is the majority owner of Bremer Financial Corporation, a regional financial services company, and manages a diversified investment portfolio. Since its founding, OBT has invested more than \$750 million in people, places, and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Visit [ottobremer.org](http://ottobremer.org).

### **LINKS:**

[www.thesheridanstory.org/coronavirus](http://www.thesheridanstory.org/coronavirus)  
[www.thesheridanstory.org/get-involved/donate](http://www.thesheridanstory.org/get-involved/donate)  
[vimeo.com/360834111](https://vimeo.com/360834111)  
[ottobremer.org](http://ottobremer.org)

### **VISUALS:**

Warehouse operations, food packing, food delivery loading, and volunteers at 2723 Patton Road, Roseville, MN 55113

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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