



40 STORIES

# NEW YEAR, ONGOING SUPPORT

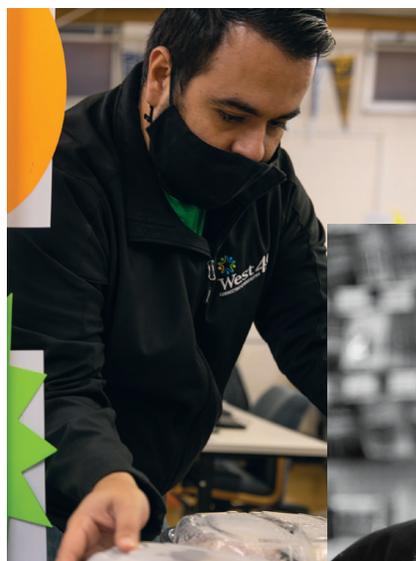
## TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

Happy New Year! As we begin school in 2021, West40 remains flexible, responsive, and accommodating to meet the needs of our community. This includes helping to make sure families have food on the table. Last Thanksgiving, we joined forces with the community to get turkey dinners out for the holiday. In addition, we maintain food distribution resources within our districts and a list of resources beyond our districts. To see all, visit us at [West40.org](http://West40.org) and click on "WEST40 FOOD OUTREACH" at the bottom right corner of the website.

## TIRELESS. RESOURCEFUL. DETERMINED.

These are the words Frank Giosa, Principal of the West40 Regional Safe Schools Program, used to describe his team. Together they made Thanksgiving happen for 20 of their school families. First, they reached out to Rick Linares of Torres Fresh Market

in Berkeley who generously agreed to donate 100% of the Thanksgiving meals. Then the team followed through, delivering an entire Thanksgiving meal to each of these students' homes! As Giosa said, "It is so humbling to work with a group of people that leaves no stone unturned. If there isn't a way, they find a way!"



# DELIVERING SMILES

Our ALOP team partnered with The Great Escape Restaurant for three Thanksgiving Drive-Thru events. Between the Proviso Area, East Leyden/Hester Junior High, and West Leyden/Mannheim Middle School, they served a combined total of 1,172 meals!



According to Ben Lewis, ALOP Director serving Leyden/Mannheim/Hester/OPRF/Ridgewood, seeing the students pull up in their cars was pure joy. They joked, laughed, and smiled a ton. Lewis said it seemed like things had returned to "normal" for a few hours. For families who couldn't make any of the meal pickup dates at our schools, our West40 advocates delivered to them! To see our video, scan the QR code or visit [youtu.be/N11Fds8qO2c](https://youtu.be/N11Fds8qO2c)



"OUR ADVOCATES MAKE ME BETTER. THEY MAKE OUR STUDENTS BETTER, AND THEY TRULY MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE."

- Ben Lewis, ALOP Director



## KEEPING TRADITIONS

This year posed some challenges to our usual holiday celebration, but we got creative and made it happen. Check it out in this video by scanning the QR code or going to [youtu.be/Z4wWBwJUB\\_8](https://youtu.be/Z4wWBwJUB_8)



We love hearing stories of how lives have been changed by what we do here at West40. Want to share your story? Send it our way at [amooney@west40.org](mailto:amooney@west40.org).

## MESSAGE FROM MARK

Hello colleagues, friends, and family members.

The focus of this newsletter is our connections with our communities! In this extraordinary time, it seems as though there is a new challenge every day. Our entire community, state, country, and world are experiencing layers of stress and turmoil.

In West40, we believe that the best way to combat these barriers is to view them as hurdles. There are ways to overcome, succeed, and be victorious. We also believe that the strongest strategy is to come together and work in concert. We are stronger together! I trust that you are familiar with our

Mission Statement:

**We will meet you where you are**  
**We will be what you need**  
**We will walk further with you**  
**We will stand strong with you**

This mission statement was developed before the start of 2020, but it certainly guided us through that bizarre year and into this one. I encourage you to watch the videos above. Nothing stops us and we served our families both at Thanksgiving and Christmas. In living out our mission, we are finding ways to support the West40 community and beyond!

Be safe and be well. Let us know how we can best serve you!

