

## Irene and Tamara's Stories

In many of PEC's permanent and transitional housing units, families have needed supplemental food relief since the schools pivoted to virtual learning in March and camps were less available this summer. In one building, a quarter of the residents needed assistance with food access on multiple occasions due to also being out of work. When families worry about basic needs like food, they have less money to use for school supplies. It's also more difficult for children to retain learning when they are hungry. Here are some of the circumstance's families are in right now (names have been changed to protect their privacy). Together, we can help these families stay on track for learning if you visit [www.pec-cares.org/backtoschool!](http://www.pec-cares.org/backtoschool!)

Irene lost her job because she worked in childcare and her center closed. She is barely making ends meet on the unemployment that she receives. She has been going to PEC's meal and food relief hubs to stretch her food budget with healthy options. Irene has three Chromebooks from school— one for each of her children. Between local corporations and PEC's digital inclusion team, she is able to connect to the internet, but still needs headphones with mics for each child to participate in online learning and other supplies for online activities in the home.

The restaurant where Tamara worked closed temporarily in March. When it opened back up, she was excited to hear that she would be offered work again. Unfortunately, her youngest's childcare center was still closed. While Tamara works with PEC's early childhood education programs to connect to another open center, she has to stretch her food and back to school budget as September approaches.

## About Us

**PEC** uplifts the community by providing housing and services that empower our community of 18,000 residents to overcome trauma and navigate life's obstacles to achieve successful and healthy lives. Throughout the pandemic's challenges, PEC nimbly adapted to continue service to residents living in our shelter and our community, without disruption. We have distributed 30,000 boxes of food relief to help replace the loss of school-time meals for families. We have offered digital resources, access, support, and counseling to keep kids engaged in school.

**YSI** offers unique programs and niche services throughout the city, including Philadelphia's only Crisis Nursery program, the first emergency shelter solely for runaway and homeless teens, city-wide family based services, and a truancy intervention program. In March, YSI's pandemic response included best health practices, additional educational assistance, and online programs. During the 2019-20 academic year, YSI served 3,600 school age children and youth.



