



**LIBERTAS**  
Center for Human Rights

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

# INTRODUCTION

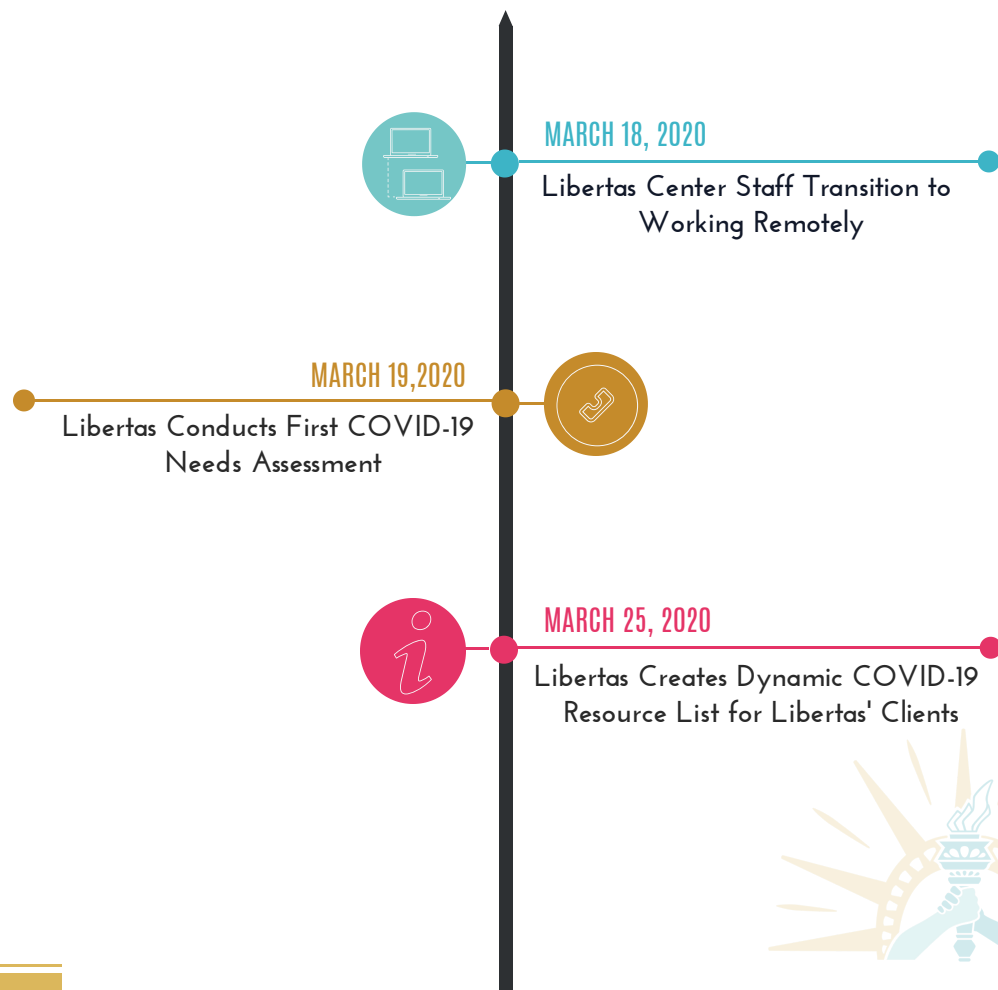
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Libertas has responded to an unprecedented need in our community - with your help! Team Libertas is so incredibly grateful for the generous support we have received and wanted to take this time to reflect, highlight and celebrate the work we have done together as we stand in solidarity with the torture survivor community.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

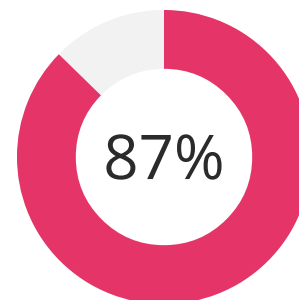
At the onset of the pandemic, Libertas transitioned to remote services to provide uninterrupted care to our clients.

Libertas staff immediately began to compile the overwhelming amount of information and resources available to the public and to clients and created a resource directory on our website.



By the end of March, 65% of Libertas clients had their employment affected by COVID-19, 60% experienced anxiety or depression and 25% reported no access to food.

These overwhelming COVID-related basic needs were reflected in the 7.5-fold increase in the number of client crisis encounters managed by Libertas from mid-March to mid-April compared with the month prior.



With 87% of clients in crisis, the need for crisis intervention surged.

APRIL 9, 2020

Libertas Delivers 100 boxes of Donated Food to Clients Reporting Food Insecurity



*"I have no words to express the joy I feel,  
no one has helped us like this before."*

-Libertas Client

APRIL 15, 2020

Libertas Receives significant A to Z  
Impact Foundation Grant to Provide  
Cash Assistance Directly to Clients



APRIL 27, 2020

Fundraising Campaign for Libertas  
Created by Mt. Sinai Emergency  
Medicine Resident Dr. Lockwood  
Exceeds \$30,000



BEFORE



AFTER



In April, Libertas delivered the first 100 of  
over 300 boxes of nonperishable food  
(donated by the Queens Borough  
President's office and Fresh Direct)  
to clients throughout the city.





MAY 7, 2020

Libertas Partners with Forest Hills Collective and Receives Large Donation of Face Masks, Children's Clothes and Toys



MAY 12, 2020

Libertas reaches 10% of Libertas GoFundMe Campaign Goal in Under 10 Days



Partnering with generous volunteer groups, Libertas provided 2000 face masks to clients to keep NYC safe, baby supplies such as diapers and clothes to families in need, and toys to keep home bound children stimulated.

MAY 12, 2020

Libertas Creates Partnership with COVID Courage to Deliver Face Masks



MAY 20, 2020

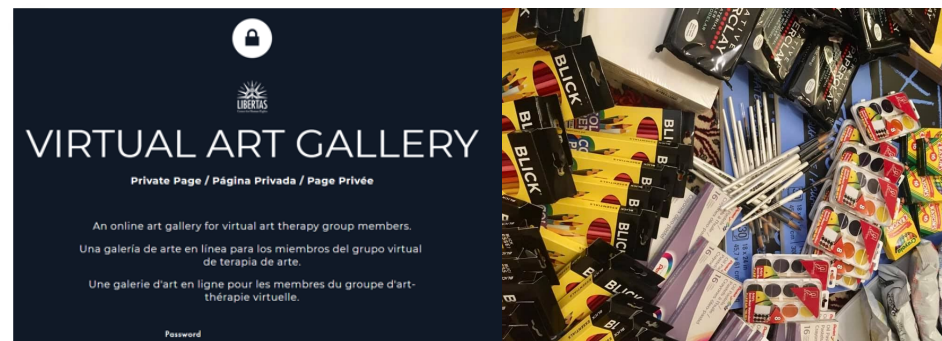
Libertas Receives Large Donation of Face Masks from Elmhurst Hospital Auxiliary





MAY 29, 2020

Libertas Mails Out First Batch of Cash Assistance Gift Cards



Libertas mailed art kits for clients to continue remote art therapy with the Libertas therapist, and created a virtual art gallery on our website for clients to share their art.

JUNE 5, 2020

Libertas Creates Art Therapy Supply Wishlist that is Filled in 30 Days by Donors



Despite intensive relief services provided by Libertas, clients' needs continued to rise between March and June.

Food Insecurity

25% >>>> 42%

Anxiety and Depression

60% >>>> 73%

Loss of Income

65% >>>> 93%



JUNE 19, 2020

Libertas Creates Follow-Up Needs Assessment in English, Spanish & French





JULY 30, 2020

Libertas Distributes over \$90,000 in Cash Assistance to Clients

AUGUST 21, 2020

Libertas Awarded Emergency Cash Assistance Grant from The Robin Hood Foundation



SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Libertas Awarded Emergency Grant from The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

OCTOBER 1, 2020

164 Clients Receive \$500-\$1000 in Cash Assistance



OCTOBER 27, 2020

Libertas Awarded Emergency Grant from The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

In May, Libertas developed an Emergency Cash Assistance Program to address critical client needs.



**\$250,000+**

Fundraised for  
Direct Emergency Cash Assistance  
and \$500 - \$1500 Provided to 209  
Clients Over the Past 6 Months.



**83%** of Libertas clients  
reported using their cash  
assistance to buy food.

*"I just received the card..I am SPEECHLESS...  
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"*

-Libertas Client after receiving Emergency  
Cash Assistance Card



# Looking Forward

With your support, the Libertas Center for Human Rights got to work to meet our clients' multifaceted health, economic and social crises resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We developed and delivered humanitarian relief services to meet the profound needs of over 400 clients.

In addition, we continued to provide comprehensive medical and mental health care, legal (46% of clients are experiencing pandemic-related immigration hearing delays) and intensive social case management, and remote medical and psychological evaluations in support of clients' asylum cases.

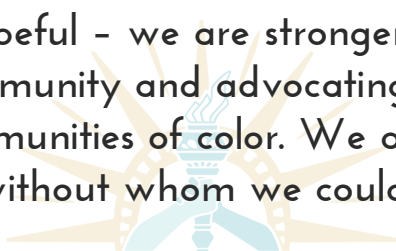
The Libertas Center is proud of the care we have delivered. However, we know much remains to be done. As of September,

- 41% of clients were two or more months behind on rent; 22% were facing eviction.
- Over 22% did not have access to reliable internet.
- 35% were behind on paying their utilities; 9% had a utility disconnected.

Nevertheless, your partnership keeps us hopeful - we are stronger together. We remain committed to resourcefully meeting the needs of our community and advocating to change systems that disadvantage vulnerable immigrant populations and communities of color. We are so grateful for the remarkable generosity from our partners, donors and supporters without whom we could not do this important work.



**Your caring and shared humanity has given our clients hope and made such a difference in their lives at this difficult time – THANK YOU.**



# A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Funders, Donors, and Supporters

March 1, 2020 - December 1, 2020

*"Thank you is not enough" - Libertas Client*

The Robin Hood Foundation  
The A to Z Impact Foundation  
New York Immigration Coalition  
The Office of Refugee Resettlement  
NYC Council, Immigrant Health Initiative  
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture  
International Rehabilitation Council For Torture Victims  
Elmhurst and Mt. Sinai Hospitals and Departments of Emergency Medicine

Fresh Direct  
COVID Courage  
COVID Couriers  
Elmhurst Hospital Auxiliary  
Queens Borough President's Office  
Patterson, Belknap, Webb, & Tyler  
Forest Hills Collective/House of Playful Soul  
Allison Lockwood and Donors to her GoFundMe Campaign

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Theresa Alvey  
Anu Anandaraja  
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Charlene Yung  
Eli Zarkhin  
Judith Zeckhauser  
& to our anonymous donors -  
we thank you!







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