

# Staten Island Advance

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## Take a break: Good news stories from our readers

July 20, 2020 7:30 AM

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Even as the city reopens, life has been changed drastically for many Staten Islanders in their personal and professional lives due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

While frontline workers continue to support the community, the community has been continuously making strides to support them in return.

From food donations to PPE allocation, Staten Islanders have been looking out for those in need since the start of the pandemic.



A trunk is stockpiled with meals from BurgerFi as a part of a nationwide donation. (Courtesy Eden II)

### SEVEN EDEN II LOCATIONS HONORED WITH HOT MEAL DONATIONS

Staff and residents of seven Eden II group homes on Staten Island and Long Island were provided with meals to thank them for their dedicated work.

The Marcum Foundation and BurgerFi joined together to create an initiative that has provided nearly 20,000 meals to COVID-19 frontline workers in 14 states.

Eden II, which provides programming that supports people with autism throughout the five boroughs and Long Island, was one of the most recent to receive support from the two companies.

BurgerFi chose to support Eden II programs due to Evan, who resides at an Eden II group home on Staten Island.

“When I saw the Marcum Foundation in my local BurgerFi donating meals to frontline workers, I immediately thought of all the hardworking staff from my son’s group home,” said Evan’s mom, Lauren Baker-Anderson.

The restaurant is Evan’s all-time favorite restaurant, so when Baker-Anderson reached out the company sprung into action.

“It was an easy decision to include Eden II in our healthcare heroes program. COVID-19 has been a true hardship for everyone in group residential communities of all kinds, as the quarantine prevented families from visiting for weeks and new health protocols put extra stress on staff and residents alike,” said Shaun Blogg, chairman of the Marcum Foundation and West Palm Beach office managing partner at Marcum LLP.

“We are deeply appreciative of Marcum and BurgerFi’s willingness to treat our staff and residents to these amazing burger meals,” said Eden II’s Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser. “It was a genuine bright spot for everyone, and we greatly appreciate the kindness.”