A community organization for seniors and their families in Brooklyn is making sure their members don't go hungry during the pandemic thanks to overwhelming volunteer support.

At a time when a lot of senior centers are closed due to the coronavirus, Heights and Hills in Park Slope is still finding a way to serve the most vulnerable population.

“They've turned the concept 180 degrees, because it was like people coming in and providing the services in a specific space. Now the center is going out,” says volunteer Kathy Price.
Prior to the pandemic, Heights and Hills regularly provided meals, learning and exercise programs and social activities through the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging. They've now taken all of that virtual and expanded their meal deliveries.

"It took an hour out of my day to walk over to the senior center to pick up six deliveries. It was a small task, but all of us together, we were helping serve a population of people who wouldn’t otherwise be able to get food," says Price.

Heights and Hills says it had 400 volunteers sign up in the first week, but it has a waiting list of over 500 people in need. Right now, they're delivering food twice a week to about 50 seniors.

"People are so appreciative. We're getting calls from people all over the city, which we don't have the capacity to do that and we have a limited area that we serve," says Judy Willig, executive director of Heights and Hills.

Willig says luckily, they received a COVID-19 grant from the Brooklyn Community Foundation to help provide more food, toiletries and background checks for new volunteers.