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Takeout Central Looks Back at a Collaborative 2020, Plans to Leverage Model to Help Even More Small Businesses in 2021

After helping others through to an unforeseen year, continued focus on community will be the theme for 2021

CHAPEL HILL, NC — February 1st, 2021 — After a year that challenged our communities like no other, and at the onset of a new year that will bring its own difficulties, [Takeout Central](#), the NC-based multi-restaurant delivery service, is taking stock of what it was able to do in 2020 to help local restaurants, drivers, and customers. That model will serve as a blueprint for further partnerships into 2021.

With an unprecedented pandemic straining the restaurant industry, Takeout Central was able to utilize its flexible model to help keep independent restaurants in business both during the mandatory shutdown period in the spring and beyond. Keeping small, local businesses' doors open is a priority in many towns and cities amid the economic uncertainty of the pandemic, and Takeout Central's unique ability to provide a new revenue stream to restaurants with minimal setup was a game-changer for many.

Over 200 restaurants partnered with Takeout Central for the first time in 2020. Some were able to supplement their reduced in-person sales by adding a delivery option; for others, it was the only way they could stay in business, with changing and often strict safety measures for in-person dining reducing their ceiling for sales.

"This pandemic has given us the opportunity to make a difference in the communities we serve, said Takeout Central CEO Wes Garrison. "Customers continue to tell us how much they appreciate us being here for them during this time. We've also been able to partner with local restaurants and organizations to get food to those who are in need—at times like this it's important for each of us to do what we can to help one another out, and it's been a real honor to be able to assist our neighbors across North Carolina."

One of the crucial ways the company was able to help in 2020 was to keep its customers safe. Thanks to Takeout Central, populations particularly at-risk for COVID-19 were able to order from their favorite eateries without needing to leave their home. A large influx of orders started across the board in March when stay-at-home orders began, and the company noticed a large portion of them were coming from people in this risk category.

Takeout Central also represented a financial lifeline for many individuals who were laid off or furloughed during the turbulent year.

"I was a barista; when the lockdown happened and we lost our jobs, I signed on with Takeout Central," said Darbie Lynn. "I was able to get a paycheck the next week and didn't have to worry about missing bills or a rent payment. I still drive with them because I actually make more money than I did before!"

The flexibility of positions working with the company is welcome to many of its drivers:

"I work an 8-4 job during the day where I'm responsible for a lot of people's care," said Trevor Kirby. "It is nice to be able to be alone in the car, put my playlist on, and make some money. I'm grateful for this opportunity!"

As the previous year called for services like those of Takeout Central to help people and businesses in need, the leadership at the company made sure they were leveraging the increased activity to benefit those who were struggling, and "we're in a position to continue serving our community even more effectively in 2021," said Garrison.

To learn more about how Takeout Central helps restaurants stay competitive and connects communities, visit <https://www.takeoutcentral.com/>.

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About Takeout Central

Takeout Central was founded in 1996 as Tarheel Takeout and is one of the leaders in multiple restaurant delivery. It is headquartered in Chapel Hill and partners with over 350 restaurants and 200 delivery drivers throughout North Carolina. Takeout Central operates across Wilmington, Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Cary, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Asheville.

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