



It has been close to a month since many restaurants and businesses throughout the country have been forced to temporarily close or limit hours and services. It's clear that the effects of this public health crisis are going to be more disruptive to our communities than we originally anticipated — many restaurants remain closed or cut back to basic offerings including take out services and packaged meals ready for pick up.

This sudden change has been extremely difficult and challenging for most of our independent Hometown Restaurants. Many of these establishments do so much for the communities in which they are located and in many ways are the heart of their hometown. Many have had to lay off the majority of their staff, limit their hours and switch from dine-in environments to take-out... requiring new supplies, packaging and in some cases menu changes that are better suited for this type of delivery. This has all come at a great cost.

Recognizing these challenges and wanting to do something about it, Storage Zone Self Storage and Business Center's President and C.E.O. - James Nault has pledged to purchase a minimum of \$50,000 in gift certificates from the independent Hometown Restaurants serving Storage Zone market areas.

Most Storage Zone locations will be purchasing a minimum of \$1,000 - \$2,000 in gift certificates from independent restaurants located in or near their neighborhoods. These gift certificates will be redeemed at a later date – after the current crisis is over – as customer appreciation gifts, new customer incentives, employee rewards, and corporate Christmas gifts.

Our goals are threefold:

1. Provide some operating cash to smaller independent restaurants at a time when it is most needed.
2. Encourage other businesses and individuals to purchase gift certificates from their neighboring independent hometown restaurants as future marketing investments or as very simple, thoughtful Christmas gifts.
3. Get people back in these restaurant establishments once this crisis is behind us.

We are also issuing the following three challenges:

- 1. To the vendors, suppliers and stakeholders of Storage Zone – all of whom will continue to be paid by Storage Zone during and after this crisis – to step up and join us in this effort.**
- 2. To our competitors – most of who are not experiencing the best of times, but certainly not the worst of times either – join us.**
- 3. To our neighboring businesses, our customers and other individuals and families – please consider gift certificate purchases from your local independent hometown restaurant if you are able., which can be tax deductible under certain circumstances for businesses, and make great Christmas gifts for all.**

Will you accept our challenge? Will you “Pay it Forward” – both literally and figuratively?

Thank you – please visit Facebook/Storage Zone for Hometown Gift Certificate Challenge updates.

Storage Zone Self Storage & Business Centers provides self storage and small business space at 34 locations in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.