



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation
for Greater New Haven

70 Audubon Street New Haven, CT 06510
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The
COMMUNITY
Foundation
for Greater
New Haven

COVID-19

The Early Impact on Our Community and The Foundation's Response

SPECIAL REPORT

APRIL 2020



Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen's "grab-and-go" setup.

Preventing Hunger During a Pandemic

In addition to seeing more people asking for assistance, nonprofit food agencies have also had to adjust to new health restrictions while dealing with significant cuts to volunteer, staff and in-kind resources. Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) has transitioned its main dinners and pantry services to a grab and go model. They're also doing check-ins with the chronically homeless, ensuring that anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms is immediately referred to health services through Hill Health's Street Medicine Team. So that the elderly and immunocompromised can stay indoors, DESK has also partnered with United Way, CARE, Loaves & Fishes, and others through the Coordinated Food Assistance Network to begin delivering pantry groceries directly to the homes of those in need. Drivers and volunteers are needed.

More stories inside

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More information
available online at
cfgnh.org/COVID19
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Dear Friends:

In these days of the COVID-19 global pandemic, our community is deeply impacted. While we can only guess how deep and long this crisis will be, we know that right now our local social sector is facing sudden, wrenching and deeply threatening challenges on a scale not previously seen. The very fabric of how our community cares for our neediest, provides health care, educates our children, and nurtures our common bonds is being torn apart. The very existence of many agencies that our community has supported for decades is threatened.

Since mid-March, The Community Foundation has completely re-focused our efforts and our resources to face these dramatic new challenges. We are in touch every day with the nonprofit agencies that are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battle. The stories of compassion and perseverance that emerge from their work are truly inspiring, several of which are summarized inside.

The response of our donors has been inspiring too. In a period of three weeks, we raised \$1.2 Million and contributed an additional \$500,000 of Foundation resources for the COVID-19 Community Fund that we have established in partnership with United Way of Greater New Haven. More than \$600,000 has already been awarded from this new fund. In addition, The Foundation is accelerating and allowing the repurposing of grants from monies already budgeted to help our grantees address the impacts of COVID-19. These efforts will total more than \$6 Million over the next few months.

Even as we are *physically* distanced from one another in this disorienting time, COVID-19 is bringing our community together. As in past times of crisis, we are seeing today a re-doubling of our community's traditions of service and generosity.

Please give in this hour of need — several ways to support your community are set forth on pages 6-7.

William W. Ginsberg
President and Chief Executive

An Unprecedented Challenge for the Nonprofits Serving Our Community

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, The Foundation has been reaching out to our community's nonprofits. What follows below is a synopsis of what we heard and continue to hear. This information has been used to identify immediate and anticipated needs facing our community so that donors, Foundation Board members and others are making informed decisions on how best to respond through philanthropy.

The health of a nonprofit sector under normal circumstances provides a view into the wellbeing of any community. Prior to the crisis, the ladder to opportunity and access was out of reach for a significant share of families in our region. The COVID-19 pandemic has only widened inequities. To compound this, the number of people seeking health and basic needs services is increasing due to the COVID-19 crisis.



Photo courtesy of BHcare

The costs associated with keeping our services open and ensuring we are able to service our patients and residents are growing each day. [Your] funding will help tremendously. Please pass on my thanks to everyone at The Foundation. Stay safe.

Roberta Cook, President & CEO, BHcare

Nearly All Nonprofits Say...

- There is a need for technology, such as laptops, to facilitate working remotely and to “see” and “serve” clients remotely. With schools closed, remote nonprofit workers with children have an extra burden to homeschool with no relief from childcare or babysitters. This is an especially challenging situation for single-parent households.

Heard From Health & Basic Needs Providers...

- There is a concern over the ability to manage widespread illness among clients in residential care and other settings that provide around-the-clock care; this is made more difficult with potential staffing shortages due to call-outs and illness.
- Some nonprofits need to increase staff time and need more cleaning and protective equipment; this is especially critical for residential service providers.
- The wellbeing of patients, service provider employees, children and those already struggling with mental health challenges, is of particular concern as social distancing/isolation for an extended period of time may have implications for the mental health of individuals.
- There is concern with an increase in domestic violence as well as children not being checked-in on or cases of abuse/neglect going unreported as a result of social distancing.
- Nonprofits providing food and shelter are expected to see more people out of work, with a need for food and rent and cash assistance to make ends meet.
- There is an increased demand for volunteers.

Heard From Providers Not Able to Operate...

- Social distancing guidelines and safety mandates have contributed to lost revenues from fundraising event cancellations, complete closures and lost third party reimbursements.
- Arts and culture organizations have effectively shut down; some are online doing performances and virtual gallery tours, without compensation.

Stories of Compassion and Perseverance

Examples of nonprofits coping, adapting and helping our community through the COVID-19 pandemic

Saying Goodbye with Humanity

COVID-19 forced The Connecticut Hospice to stop all bedside visits, a painful decision for people wanting to say their final goodbyes to family members. Now a staff person has been hired for the sole duty of wheeling patients from their rooms to the cafeteria, where they can see visitors through a glass wall. Another staff person sets up FaceTime calls for patients while an entire wing is being set up to accept overflow patients that Yale New Haven Hospital is moving in order to make room for COVID-19 patients.

Cyber Screening Aids Seniors

Early and rapid implementation of a telemedicine platform is helping Fair Haven Community Health Care (FHCHC) serve Bella Vista's 2,000 unit senior housing complex, where several residents tested positive for COVID-19. FHCHC is doing telemedicine visits and assisting with food needs. The program is open to all Bella Vista residents, not just those residents who are already FHCHC patients. Transitioning to telemedicine required additional laptops, IT and training expenses. FHCHC is serving our community, while being burdened by loss of regular revenue, 20 staff furloughs and decreases in clinical staff due to COVID-19-related symptoms, illness or quarantine.

Fighting Social Isolation

Clifford Beers Clinic fully converted to a telehealth model, except for certain services to avoid people having to make emergency room visits. While half of clients have embraced the rapid transition, which was done within a week at a significant cost, concern remains for the wellbeing of those who have not transitioned or

Inclusive Relief and Recovery

A record number of people have filed for unemployment insurance. The \$2.2 Trillion relief package passed by Congress includes provisions to help the growing jobless population as well as relief for businesses and nonprofits. The Foundation is committed to relief and recovery that includes opportunity and access for all.



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who cannot transition because they do not have the technology or economic means to do so. The loss of clients has added a financial burden that will necessitate staff layoffs and compromise the agency's ability to provide services going forward as it will take months to rebuild their workforce. While keeping people connected to their trusted clinicians and psychiatrists is paramount, the agency is also concerned about food insecurity among its clients, over half of whom are low income and many of whom are children under the age of 18.

Making Time for Timeless Theatre

The Elm Shakespeare Company has moved its educational programming online due to COVID-19. Its annual summer camps and signature August show are in jeopardy the longer closures and social distancing mandates are extended. The Company, like so many other arts organizations, is facing significant financial loss, staff cutbacks and performance capacity issues. Though it is facing its own hardship, the organization has started a relief fund for artists who have worked with the Company over the past 25 years.

Sewing Masks for Health Workers

Make Haven, the nonprofit membership organization for makers, creators, tinkerers and dreamers, may be physically shuttered by the coronavirus pandemic but it's holding many virtual activities and classes. Its members are also pitching in remotely to make masks and protective plastic face shields for frontline healthcare workers at Yale New Haven Hospital. The homemade masks are being used by workers treating non-COVID-19 patients, freeing up the N95 masks for workers treating infected patients.

Accelerating Millions in Grants Now and in the Next 3 Months

- On March 27, nearly \$1 Million in accelerated responsive grants was distributed by The Foundation, and its affiliate, the Valley Community Foundation, that would have otherwise been released in the last quarter of the year.
- Pending general operating support grant applications are being fast-tracked so that as much as \$2 Million in awards will be made in early May rather than late July.
- Recipients of approximately \$400,000 in current multi-year project and program grants can repurpose them for general operating support, if needed.
- The Foundation is working to accelerate \$3 Million in designated grants, including \$1 Million in April.
- Small Grants are now refocused to assist for COVID-19 and sponsorships can be repurposed for general operating support.
- Other funding and assistance resources for nonprofits are on The Foundation's website.

Monitoring Our Investments

During the month of March, The Community Foundation experienced a net investment loss of approximately (12.2%), and for the year-to-date period ended March 31st, the net return was approximately (16.1%) and is currently lagging its market benchmark. In the face of this horrendous world crisis, we are even more focused on the fundamental ideas of discipline, balance, diversification and a risk-aware but opportunistic view that have long been tenets of The Foundation's strategy. We are confident in our strategy and will continue to provide updates and analyses to our community through our multiple communications channels over the coming weeks.

Community Fund Launches Addressing COVID-19

- The **Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund** launched on March 20, 2020 to get resources quickly to nonprofit agencies serving Greater New Haven's residents, particularly those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- \$1.7 Million has been raised so far for the Fund, including \$1.2 Million from Foundation donors and \$500,000 of Foundation resources.
- The first round of grants focused on agencies providing frontline healthcare and basic needs services and was distributed on April 3 to 28 organizations. It amounts to \$600,900 for providers of: food (\$92,500), health (\$240,000), housing (\$105,000), social services (\$143,400), and utilities (\$20,000). Going forward, grants will be made from the Fund on a rolling basis and priorities may shift as needs evolve.
- A second round of grants will be awarded on April 17.
- This Fund was created by The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven in partnership with United Way of Greater New Haven.
- Initial grant recipients were determined after staff outreach and voted on by the ad-hoc volunteer committee set up to make grant decisions; this committee consists of current and former Foundation and United Way board members: Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, Andrew Eder, Judith Meyers, Flemming Norcott, Jr., Marcella Nuñez-Smith, and Diane Young Turner.

\$1.5+ Million in Grants Already Distributed

from accelerated multi-year responsive grants and the Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund

Recipient	Amount
Area Congregations Together, Inc. ●	\$40,000
Artspace Inc. ●	\$20,000
Beth-El ■	\$15,000
BHCare ■	\$30,000
Bridges ■	\$15,000
Casa Otonal ■	\$15,000
Catholic Charities — Centro San Jose ■	\$15,000
Center Stage Theatre ●	\$20,000
Christian Community Action ■	\$20,000
Christ Episcopal Church ●	\$25,000
Citywide Youth Coalition, Inc. ●	\$20,000
Clifford Beers ■	\$35,000
Columbus House ■	\$20,000
Community Action Agency ▲	\$55,000
Community Soup Kitchen ■	\$30,000
Cornell Scott Hill Health Center ■	\$40,000
Creative Arts Workshop ●	\$25,000
CT Hospice ■	\$10,000
The Diaper Bank ▲	\$70,000
Emerge Connecticut, Inc. ▲	\$68,400
Fair Haven Community Health Care ▲	\$90,000
Fellowship Place ▲	\$70,000
FISH of Greater New Haven, Inc. ▲	\$27,500
International Festival of Arts & Ideas ●	\$40,000
IRIS — Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services ●	\$25,000

Recipient	Amount
JUNTA for Progressive Action ▲	\$70,000
Liberty Community Services, Inc. ▲	\$55,000
Long Wharf Theatre ●	\$50,000
Marrakech ■	\$10,000
Mary Wade Home ■	\$40,000
Music Haven, Inc. ●	\$20,000
Neighborhood Housing ●	\$30,000
Neighborhood Music School, Inc. ●	\$40,000
New Haven Farms ●	\$40,000
New Haven Land Trust ●	\$10,000
New Haven Legal Assistance ●	\$30,000
New Reach ▲	\$50,000
Operation Fuel ■	\$20,000
Project Access of New Haven ●	\$50,000
Solar Youth ●	\$35,000
Squash Haven, Inc. ●	\$18,000
St. Martin de Porres Academy ●	\$25,000
Student Parenting and Family Services ●	\$18,000
TEAM ■	\$20,000
Urban Community Alliance ■	\$25,000
Urban Resources Initiative ●	\$20,000
Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT ■	\$25,000
WHEAT ■	\$5,000
Women's Health Research at Yale ●	\$30,000
Youth Continuum ■	\$15,000

● Accelerated Multi-Year Grants ■ Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund ▲ From Both Sources



Ways to Give

What You Can Do to Help Nonprofits During the COVID-19 Pandemic

To see the most up-to-date information and sign up to receive information electronically, please visit cfgnh.org/covid19

Thank You to Givers, Past and Present

This is a critical time for so many, including the nonprofit organizations who've benefited from your giving in the past, as well as those who've had to cancel their annual fundraising events or depend heavily on public gatherings.



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1 The Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund

online at cfgnh.org/covid19fund

- A partnership with United Way of Greater New Haven
- Grants directed by funding institutions with expertise and direct knowledge of needs; first round funding priority is to frontline health care and basic needs service providers



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2 The Great Give® 2020, May 5–6

online at thegreatgive.org

- Provides general operating support to hundreds of participating nonprofits
- Donations are eligible for matching funds
- Prizes awarded to nonprofits based on donor activity
- Advance giving starts in April

3 To nonprofits directly via their websites

or online at givegreater.org

- Provides much-needed general operating funds to specific nonprofits of your choice

Other regional COVID-19 response efforts from our friends and neighbors as of publication; for updated list visit cfgnh.org/covid19resources

Organization	Fund	Website	Phone
Arts Council of Greater New Haven	New Haven Creative Sector Relief Fund	NewHavenArts.org	203-772-2788
Branford Community Foundation	COVID-19 Response Fund for Branford	BranfordCommunityFoundation.org	203-444-4898
Connecticut COVID-19 Charity Connection (4-CT)		Connect@4-ct.org	
Guilford Community Foundation	COVID-19 Response Fund for Guilford	GuilfordFoundation.org	203-640-4049
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven & Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven	COVID-19/Maimonides Response Fund	JewishNewHaven.org NewHavenJewishFoundation.org	475-800-8010
The Madison Foundation, Inc.	Neighbor2Neighbor Fund	TheMadisonFoundation.org	203-245-2796
Yale New Haven Health, Yale New Haven Hospital	COVID-19 PPE/Capital Provision Fund & COVID-19 Support Fund	YNHHS.org	833-275-9644 or 833-ASK-YNHH
Yale University (Office of New Haven Affairs)	Yale Community for New Haven Fund	Yale.edu	203-432-8623
The Valley Community Foundation <small>in partnership with Valley United Way, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Valley Health & Human Service Council</small>	The Valley Community Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund	ValleyFoundation.org	203-751-9162

If you are able at this time, please continue to give to organizations you regularly support, and to those that need your help in this crisis.

For those struggling to make ends meet or worried about the ability to get through this difficult time, please call 211 or visit 211.org. The Foundation has also compiled resources online at cfgnh.org/covid19resources.