



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Ellen Montgomery, Marketing Associate, SCVF
emontgomery@scvfoundation.org m: 612-703-8438

VALLEY WIDE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$200,000

Initial Grants Go To Organizations Meeting Basic Needs

[Hudson, Mar 31, 2020] –The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley this week distributed \$195,500 to 22 nonprofit organizations working to meet basic needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. The 22 organizations received grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$500 to help respond to needs for food, shelter, financial assistance and mental health.

The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley was established as a collaboration between the St. Croix Valley Foundation (SCVF), United Way St. Croix Valley (UWSCV) and United Way Washington County East (UWWCE). The Response Fund will support community organizations responding to COVID-19 related needs in Chisago and Washington counties (Minnesota) and Burnett, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties (Wisconsin).

Initial funding was provided by the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation (\$150,000), the Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation (\$150,000) and the SCVF (\$35,000). Contributions have also been made by SCVF fund advisors, community businesses and the general public. Contributions may be made online at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19>.

Grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley will continue to be made weekly. Local nonprofit organizations responding to basic needs are encouraged to apply at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19-form-nonprofits>. The application deadline for next week's grants is 9am Monday, April 6.

[continued below]

FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

Week of March 30, 2020

Grantee	Amount	Basic Need	County
The Salvation Army-Faith House (Siren, WI)	\$5,000.00	Financial Assistance, Housing	Burnett
Yellow Lake Food Distribution (Danbury, WI)	\$2,500.00	Food	Burnett
Burnett County Foster Closet (Siren, WI)	\$500.00	Food	Burnett
Friends of Grantsburg Library - Little Free Pantry (Grantsburg, WI)	\$500.00	Food	Burnett
Center for Independent living for Western Wisconsin (Menomonie, WI)	\$5,000.00	Food, Mental Health	N/A
Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence (River Falls, WI)	\$15,000.00	Housing, Mental Health	Pierce
Assistance & Resource Center (River Falls, WI)	\$10,000.00	Financial Assistance	Pierce
Our Neighbors' Place (River Falls, WI)	\$10,000.00	Food, Housing	Pierce
St. Croix Valley Restorative Services (River Falls, WI)	\$5,000.00	Mental Health	Pierce
Community Referral Agency (Milltown, WI)	\$15,000.00	Housing, Mental Health	Polk
Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County (Milltown, WI)	\$10,000.00	Food, Mental Health	Polk
Clear Lake School District - Backpack Program (Clear Lake, WI)	\$1,000.00	Food	Polk
The Salvation Army- Grace Place (New Richmond, WI)	\$20,000.00	Financial Assistance, Housing	St. Croix
West CAP (Glenwood City, WI)	\$20,000.00	Food, Financial Assistance	St. Croix
Operation HELP (Hudson, WI)	\$10,000.00	Financial Assistance	St. Croix
UWSCV John Coughlin Food & Resource Center (Hudson, WI)	\$10,000.00	Food	St. Croix
Five Loaves Food and Clothing (New Richmond, WI)	\$2,500.00	Food	St. Croix
Somerset Community Food Pantry (Somerset, WI)	\$2,500.00	Food	St. Croix
Hudson Area Backpack Program (Hudson, WI)	\$1,000.00	Food	St. Croix
Canvas Health (Oakdale, MN)	\$20,000.00	Mental Health	Washington
FamilyMeans (Stillwater, MN)	\$20,000.00	Mental Health	Washington
Youth Service Bureau (Stillwater, MN)	\$10,000.00	Mental Health	Washington

100% DISTRIBUTION

In a consolidated effort to help those most affected by COVID-19, the SCVF is waiving all administrative fees for the Response Fund. This means (with the exception of fees charged by banks/credit card companies) that 100% of a donor's gift will be used to help those most affected by COVID-19 in the St. Croix Valley.

The Response Fund will be administered in multiple phases to address immediate and longer-term needs related to this crisis. During Phase One, priority will be given to organizations working to meet the basic needs of those most significantly impacted by this crisis. Phase One includes proactively identifying grant recipients using input, guidance and research from organizations and others in the community in order to make grant decisions. Future grant phases will be communicated as fundraising continues throughout the crisis, making it possible to quickly adapt to evolving needs.

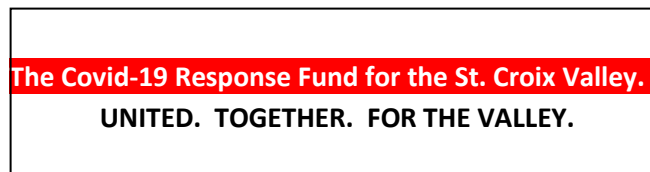
The COVID-19 Response Fund will make grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools and other public entities.

THE GRANTMAKING PROCESS

Grants from the Response Fund will be recommended by an advisory committee appointed by the SCVF, UWSCV and UWWCE. These appointees could include staff, board members, affiliated community foundation board members and/or other community partners of the SCVF, UWSCV and UWWCE.

A listing of grantees will be published on the websites of St. Croix Valley Foundation www.scvfoundation.org, United Way St. Croix Valley www.unitedwaystcroix.org and United Way Washington County East www.uwwce.org websites.

In the unlikely case that all funds contributed are not able to be distributed to COVID-19 response efforts, any remaining balance will be granted evenly to the UWSCV and UWWCE to support future basic needs grantmaking.



The St. Croix Valley Foundation is a philanthropic organization with the mission of enhancing the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley. Accredited by the Charities Review Council and the Council on Foundations' National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the SCVF serves two counties in MN (Washington, Chisago) and 4 counties in WI (Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, Pierce). Ten affiliated community foundations are hosted under the structure and guidance of SCVF. For more information contact Heather Logelin, President at hlogelin@scvfoundation.org or 715-386-9490.

The United Way St. Croix Valley helps ensure that all people in the St. Croix Valley can lead a healthy life, receive quality education, and experience financial stability. The United Way St. Croix Valley coordinates services in Polk, Pierce, St. Croix and Burnett Counties and provides the 211 Get Connected. Get Help. service (responding to immediate needs).

For more information contact Ann Searles, Executive Director at ann.searles@unitedwaystcroix.org or 715-377-0203.

CALL 211 if you need help locating services.

The United Way of Washington County-East works to unite our community and local resources to give each person the opportunity to build a better life. Areas served include river communities from Afton to Marine on St. Croix, also Woodbury, Lake Elmo, Stillwater, Hugo and Withrow. For more information contact Jessica Ryan, Executive Director at jessica.ryan@uwwce.org or 651-439-3838.

CALL 211 if you need help locating services.

##