



United Way of York County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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York County COVID-19 Response Fund Launched

York, PA — In challenging times like these, collaboration, generosity and community are most needed. That's why York County Community Foundation (YCCF) has established the York County COVID-19 Response Fund in partnership with the United Way of York County and other philanthropic partners. The Fund will provide financial support to nonprofit organizations rising to the challenge of meeting the increasing needs of our community during this crisis.

The fund is seeded by a \$100,000 lead gift from YCCF's Fund for York County, the foundation's most flexible grantmaking fund designed to address the county's greatest needs. Additional contributors are the W. Dale Brougher Foundation, Arthur J. & Lee R. Glatfelter Foundation, Kinsley Foundation, Powder Mill Foundation, and J William Warehime Foundation. Recognizing that community needs are growing and changing, this Fund will welcome additional contributions. 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards grants to nonprofit organizations.

"The Community Foundation knows that in times of need, York Countians step up to support each other," said Jane M. Conover, MSW, President & CEO of YCCF. "By collaborating with the United Way of York County, philanthropic leaders and community partners throughout the County, we are able to strategically and rapidly deploy our collective resources to organizations with the greatest capacity to meet the immediate demands for basic services such as food and housing that have increased as a direct result of the novel coronavirus. As community needs evolve over the next months, we will adapt the grantmaking focus as well."

Grant recipients will be identified by surveying and engaging in dialogue with nonprofit and government agencies responding to the impacts of the pandemic. A community advisory committee is being formed to provide input on priority needs and will include representatives

from local agencies, health and human service sector experts, and representatives from the community. The York County COVID-19 Response Fund will initially focus on supporting nonprofit agencies with the greatest capacity to provide food and shelter to the most vulnerable residents. No grant applications are being accepted.

“In this unprecedented crisis, United Way of York County remains committed to serving our neighbors who are especially vulnerable in times of uncertainty,” said Anne Druck, President, United Way of York County. “The York County COVID-19 Response Fund is an opportunity to engage our community members who are able to give back, and work together to ensure our nonprofit partners have the critical resources necessary to continue to meet our community’s needs.”

There are many ways to support our community in this time of need. In addition to considering a gift to the York County COVID-19 Response Fund, residents are encouraged to continue to support the charities they care about who are struggling with diminished revenue.

Although many nonprofit organizations have paused their volunteer opportunities due to recommendations on social distancing, you can still help support urgent community needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are healthy and able, please visit United Way’s COVID-19 Resource page at <https://www.unitedway-york.org/covid-19>, which is updated regularly with volunteer opportunities as we receive them. Know of a volunteer opportunity that should be added? Reach out to Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Bryce Kruger at krugerb@unitedway-york.org.

The health and human services helpline 211 is also a powerful resource to be shared with individuals who may need additional resources for childcare, food, housing and other needs in this challenging time. Anyone can dial 211 or text your zip code to #898-211 to talk with a resource specialist for free.

For more information about the fund, please visit <https://yccf.org/covid-19responsefund/>.

To contribute to the York County COVID-19 Response Fund please visit www.yccf.org or www.unitedway-york.org.

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About York County Community Foundation

York County Community Foundation creates a vibrant York County by engaging donors, providing community leadership, and investing in high-impact initiatives while building endowment for future generations. York County Community Foundation holds more than 575 endowed funds and assists donors and nonprofits in reaching their charitable goals. The Community Foundation granted \$6.7 million in 2019 throughout York County and beyond, and stewards approximately \$165 million in assets.

About United Way of York County

For over 99 years, United Way of York County has worked in the York County community to improve people's lives. It began as The York Welfare Federation, an organization that raised funds on behalf of 17 member agencies. Today, as the United Way of York County, the mission of raising community funds remains the same, but the strategies have broadened in order to meet the growing and changing needs of people living in York County.

United Way has adapted over the years and now collaborates with other public and private organizations to engage the community in addressing the complex issues facing York County. By developing initiatives that get at the root causes of these issues, United Way and its partners find solutions and fund programs that improve the lives of one in four people in York County. Through gifts to the Community Fund, United Way is able to invest those dollars into 66 programs supported by 35 Partner Agencies. These programs address human services needs across three Focus Areas: Education, Health, and Financial Stability. This enables United Way to tackle the immediate and continuing needs of York County families and individuals and to create real, lasting change that matters to you and our community.