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United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire Community Foundation, and Community Foundation of Chippewa County Announce Response and Recovery Community Fund to Support Chippewa Valley Nonprofits

United Way contributes $500,000 endowment gift to support COVID-19 recovery in the Chippewa Valley, bringing collective impact to almost $1 million!

CHIPPEWA VALLEY, JUNE 12- In an effort to help local nonprofits support residents as they recover from the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic, United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley (UWGCV), The Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF) and the Community Foundation of Chippewa County (CFCC) announce partnership efforts for COVID19 recovery.

UWGCV’s Board of Directors and Endowment Board are proud to announce a gift to the fund of $500,000 from UWGCV’s endowment. Thanks to the success of UWGCV’s annual Golf Tournament and several large gifts from community members over the years, the Endowment Board considered the endowment strong enough to make disaster funding available to make an impact at this critical time.

“We hope the investment inspires creative thinking around new partnerships and methods and also helps grow and strengthen programs and processes that are already positively impacting residents who are struggling in our communities,” said Dr. Marc Goulet, Administrator, UW-Eau Claire and UWGCV Recovery Grant Lead.

UWGCV and ECCF and UWGCV and CFCC will partner in the review of recovery grant requests. The partnerships take different forms, but both bring collaborative benefits. “We are grateful for the local United Way leadership and proud of their efforts to assist nonprofits serving our communities at this time. Working alongside them and the ECCF on recovery efforts will allow for even more organizations and neighbors to be served effectively,” said Jill Herriges, Executive Director, CFCC.

Funds will support Chippewa County and Eau Claire County non-profit agencies by providing encouragement and resources to help Chippewa Valley residents recover from the damage done by the COVID-19 global pandemic, and mitigate risks associated with recovery. The UWGCV funds will be targeted to support programs which improve mental health, children's readiness to enter school, financial stability, and access to food, shelter and medical care. Grants from
CFCC and ECCF will be used similarly and will also help nonprofits continue serving the community in a safe and effective manner despite risks.

UWGCV and ECCF partnered to deploy the money from the new fund, initially called the Quick Response Community Fund, in March of 2020. Both organizations saw the strength and value in the partnership that was formed due to this unique situation; together, they were able to distribute almost $275,000 to help nonprofits serve community members in need. The success of Phase I inspired them to continue the partnership as our community moves into the COVID-19 Recovery Phase.

“Although our organizations differ somewhat in their funding strategies, our overall goal is the same: To strengthen recovery in the Chippewa Valley,” commented Sue Bornick, Executive Director of ECCF. “When you consider the amount granted in Phase 1, the approximately $160,000 ECCF will grant in Phase II, and the generous contributions of UWGCV and CFCC, our collective impact on the Chippewa Valley is about $1 million!”

Applications for nonprofit organizations will be available on the ECCF, CFCC, and United Way websites at the end of June. Applications will be open to all nonprofit organizations in Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. The application process is not limited to current UWGCV funded program partners.

Visit https://eccfwi.org/ to learn more about the Response & Recovery Community Fund.

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