United Way News Release

of Central Ohio

360 South Third Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215-5485

tel. 614.227.2700

www.liveunitedcentralohio.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kermit Whitfield, United Way of Central Ohio

614.519.0352 kermit.whitfield@uwcentralohio.org

**United Way of Central Ohio**

**COVID-19 Community Response Fund**

**Invests $373,000 in Local Nonprofits**

*17 United Way partners will receive grants immediately*

*to respond to increased needs*

Columbus – The first round of grants from United Way of Central Ohio’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund are being distributed immediately.

* 17 United Way nonprofit partners will receive a total of $373,000.
* The fund has grown to more than $1.3 million including a match pool of $500,000.
* A second round of investments from the fund will be made the week of April 13.
* 100% of the fund will be distributed in two-week cycles to meet the evolving needs of our nonprofit partners.
* United Way continues to work closely with the City of Columbus, Franklin County and The Columbus Foundation to ensure urgent community needs are met in a coordinated way.

These emergency assistance grants, ranging from $8,000 and $50,000, will help our network of nonprofit partners continue their difficult work on the front lines of this crisis in a variety of ways including:

* **Increased food distribution**: With school closings and families losing incomes, more people need food, and nonprofits are stepping up to meet that need. United Way is assisting nonprofits such as Directions for Youth and Families, NNEMAP, Freedom a la Cart, Lutheran Social Services and LifeCare Alliance with funding to safely provide food to expanding vulnerable populations.
* **Supporting education**: Families began pulling children out of early childcare centers even before centers were required to close. The disruption of services creates additional strain for parents and severely reduces funding for centers, which ultimately impacts learning for our community’s children during a critical time of development. Action for Children, South Side Early Learning and Columbus Early Learning Centers will receive funding to provide immediate support for families and to maintain operations.
* **Providing emergency services**: The pandemic has created the need for nonprofits to quickly change existing delivery models or add new services to meet sudden needs in the community. Community Shelter Board will receive funds for feeding and housing 200 men in a temporary shelter in order to maintain safe social distancing. Funds to Charitable Pharmacy will help in adding triage tents and securing adequate protective equipment, and the YWCA will use funding to assist in operating a pandemic childcare center for essential workers.
* **Maintaining operations and essential services**: Many nonprofit partners lost substantial revenue from closed social enterprises or discontinued paid services, as well as canceled fundraisers. Columbus Early Learning Services, Alvis, Furniture Bank of Columbus, YMCA and Catholic Social Services are among the nonprofits receiving funding to help them continue providing essential short-term and long-term client services.

United Way is encouraging donors to continue to give generously and keep the momentum going for this much needed fund. Online donations can be made at [www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/responsefund](http://www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/responsefund).

About the COVID-19 Community Response Fund

On March 16, United Way launched our COVID-19 Community Response Fund with generous support from key corporate sponsors and leadership donors. In just two weeks, sponsors and donors answered the call, contributing more than $1.3 million in both match pool dollars and contributions toward the emergency assistance fund.

The fund benefits United Way’s network of more than 80 highly effective nonprofit partners. United Way is working with nonprofit partners to identify critical needs and has quickly implemented an application and allocation process.

Online donations can be made at www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/responsefund. All donations will receive a 50% match from a match pool provided by our generous corporate partners and individual donors. Example: A $100 gift will be matched with an additional $50.

The fund addresses critical community needs, including access to food and household essentials, childcare, and keeping the community’s safety net strong.

*(Detailed list of grants included below.)*

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*United Way of Central Ohio provides opportunities for people to prosper.  We do that by acting as a catalyst for lasting improvements and by mobilizing our community to give and volunteer.  We raise funds and invest in a network of more than 80 funded partners that work to ensure people in crisis get food, shelter and assistance; help children succeed from cradle to career; engage residents, businesses and government in neighborhood revitalization efforts and teach people the skills they need to get and keep a good job. We bring leaders together to improve the policies and systems that directly affect thousands of lives, and we develop and implement innovative and integrated ways to reduce poverty.  We work intensively in priority neighborhoods to create broad positive changes by empowering neighborhood leaders and residents to change the places they live.  We are dedicated to making the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion a foundation for everything we do because we know the best decisions are made when all voices are heard and respected.  As one of the largest United Ways in the country, we bring together more than 60,000 donors and volunteers.  For more information, visit www.liveunitedcentralohio.org.*

United Way of Central Ohio COVID-19

Community Response Fund

First Round of Grants

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| Organization | Description of Services | Grant Amount |
| Action for Children | To create and distribute 1,500 Columbus Cares Kid Kits for under-resourced families using local Nationwide Children’s Hospital Close to Home locations.  | $10,000 |
| Alvis | To support operation expenses and rental assistance for clients unable to pay rent. | $20,000 |
| Catholic Social Services | To offset the costs to procure computers to sustain the social work efforts of the organization. | $10,000 |
| Charitable Pharmacy | To support additional short-term professional staff, to purchase medication, protective equipment, thermometers, and to temporarily install two tents for triage. | $15,000 |
| Columbus Early Learning Centers | To support the increased cost of cleaning supplies and to meet payroll and benefits for employees across all childcare center sites. | $20,000 |
| Community Shelter Board | To help underwrite the operation of the temporary 40 West Long St. Shelter facility, including food, housing and shelter for 200 men. | $50,000 |
| Direction for Youth and Families | To provide payroll for staff delivering needed counseling services to families and for food to provide meals. | $20,000 |
| DOMA (Freedom a la Cart) | To keep workforce development participants engaged and pivot to providing sack meals to victims and survivors of human trafficking. | $8,000 |
| Furniture Bank of Central Ohio | To provide furniture to 200 families in need typically funded through surplus from thrift store operations. | $10,000 |
| Legal Aid | To maintain staff attorneys to meet increased demand.  | $20,000 |
| Lifecare Alliance | To support the increased numbers of seniors receiving home delivery of meals.  | $50,000 |
| Lutheran Social Services | To support the Champion Avenue food pantry including increased cost with maintaining stricter sanitation standards.  | $20,000 |
| NNEMAP | To support additional staff payroll and cover increased food costs. | $10,000 |
| South Side Early Learning | To provide Care Kits to families and provide support to meet staff costs and needs.  | $20,000 |
| Star House | To support food and clothing costs due to stricter sanitation standards as well as to supplemental transportation to essential services. | $10,000 |
| YMCA | To provide essential services, operations, and programming. | $50,000 |
| YWCA | To meet payroll for essential services at the pandemic childcare, homeless center and permanent supportive housing. | $30,000 |