



TOWN OF WELLESLEY
525 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
781-431-1019



COMMUNITY FUND FOR WELLESLEY
3 Eliot Street Natick, MA 01760
508-647-2260



Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Awards \$13,000 in a Second Round of Grant Funding

May 8, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is announcing a second round of grant funding to local non-profits and Town departments. This announcement comes just one week after rolling out initial grants of more than \$12,800 to programs providing critical assistance to residents. Today, the COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded an additional \$13,000 in grant money to fund much-needed supplies for long-term care facilities and a new initiative to address social and mental health needs in our community.

Established just three weeks ago, the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, and the Wellesley Board of Selectmen, that addresses unmet needs in our community resulting from the Coronavirus crisis. Grant proposals are reviewed by the members of the COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee which is comprised of community members, elected officials and staff from the Town of Wellesley, and are awarded to local non-profits and Town departments on a rapid and rolling basis.

The two second round grants were chosen based on immediate need and to support the rise in anxiety and stress levels in residents caused by the ongoing pandemic.

- **Comforting those in long-term care facilities:** The Wellesley Health Department, working with Elizabeth Seton Residence Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation and the Newton Wellesley Center for Alzheimer's Care, is receiving a grant that will fund booties and socks for 200-225 residents in those facilities, to help keep our senior and most vulnerable citizens warm and comfortable.
- **Community Support Forums to address Covid-19 related mental health issues in Wellesley:** The Human Relations Service, Inc. (HRS), Wellesley's private, non-profit community mental health agency, has received grant funding to provide free, online community support forums, facilitated by HRS clinicians. Town social services staff, public health nurses, Wellesley's Health Department and Wellesley Public Schools have collaborated with HRS to identify areas of urgent need in the community. The current forums include: *Parenting Young Children in a Time of Pandemic; Parenting High School Juniors and Seniors Who are Worried about the Future; Grandparenting from Afar; Connecting Senior Citizens During Social Distancing; Bereavement in the Time of Covid-19; Supporting Covid-19 Caregivers; and Supporting Covid-19 Survivors*. Resource materials on these topics will be developed by HRS staff and posted at www.hrshelps.org Some groups will launch as soon as May 13, others will begin as soon as possible.

"HRS is eager to extend its reach to help more residents in this time of anxiety and stress. These groups will provide a safe space for residents to share concerns and support each other during this unprecedented and difficult time, said HRS Executive Director, Mark Kline. "We are excited and grateful to have grant funding for this initiative."

Donation Match Challenge

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund was established with an initial gift of \$10,000 from the Community Fund for Wellesley to ensure an immediate source of grant support and grew to more than \$20,000 thanks to generous donations from Wellesley residents and the business community. Earlier this week, the COVID-10 Relief Fund announced two anonymous contributors have pledged to match all donations to the Relief Fund, up to \$12,500 between now and May 18, 2020, in hopes that this effort will generate up to \$25,000 in additional emergency funding.

Up-to-date information on the COVID-19 Relief Fund and photos of the grant recipients and programs are regularly shared on the [Town of Wellesley website](#) and on the Community Fund for Wellesley's Facebook page [@CFFWellesley](#).

To donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

Donations are accepted electronically using the link above or by sending checks made out to the Foundation for MetroWest; please specify in the memo line 'Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund' and mail to:

Community Fund for Wellesley
c/o Foundation for MetroWest
3 Eliot Street
Natick, MA 01760

About the Community Fund for Wellesley

The mission of the Community Fund for Wellesley is to promote the common good and to benefit all residents of our Town. The Fund serves as a permanent source of funding to foster innovation and collaboration in support of community needs and opportunities. The Community Fund for Wellesley was established in 2008 in celebration of Wellesley's 125th birthday. A dedicated group of Town residents had a vision to create a fund that would exist to benefit members of the Wellesley community for generations to come. In the past 11 years, the Fund has made grants of over \$400,000 to more than 30 local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments.

-END-