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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants \$5,500 in Third Round Funding to Masks and Meals

May 13, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is announcing a third round of funding to local non-profits and Town departments. Today, the Relief Fund awarded \$5,500 to two key assistance programs: supporting a local sewing group that is crafting homemade face coverings to be used by residents who have difficulty with traditional masks, and continuing a pilot program that is supplying meals from local restaurants to medically isolated families, seniors and veterans.

These most recent grants bring the total amount of money awarded by the Relief Fund to nearly \$32,000 in just three weeks. 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.

- **Sewing to protect our seniors:** The Wellesley Fire Department is receiving a grant on behalf of the group “Sewing COVID-19 Help – Working Together” comprised of approximately 70 individuals from Wellesley and surrounding communities who are sewing and distributing homemade cloth face coverings at no cost. To date, the group has made more than 10,000 cloth masks. Grant funds will be used to purchase stretchy fasteners/elastic material to craft masks for residents who have challenges with dexterity (seniors, children, medically compromised) making a traditional mask difficult for them to put on. This material is expensive and must be special ordered. The Fire Department will coordinate the distribution of these special face coverings.
- **Preparing meals from Wellesley restaurants for residents isolated at home:** Grant funds will continue to support this program that is supplying 60 meals from Wellesley restaurants per week (including delivery) to COVID-19 affected residents identified by Town social services and nursing staff. A collaboration between the Wellesley Health Department, Wellesley Council on Aging, and Wellesley Housing Authority, this program initially received funding for a two-week pilot that proved successful and necessary. Additional funding will provide meals through the middle of June, supporting both residents and the local business community.

Many local restaurants are taking part in the program. The four participants to date are: Mark’s Pizza and Subs; North End Pizza; Alta Strada Wellesley, whose chefs created a special menu for meal recipients; and The Captain’s Table and Take Away at Captain Marden’s Seafoods, whose staff

delivered meals last week.

“We were pleased to partner with the Town of Wellesley and the Wellesley Covid-19 Relief fund to prepare and deliver meals to Wellesley’s seniors. It was the highlight of our week. We are also grateful to our restaurant staff for doing such an awesome job. It was very gratifying to our delivery drivers to see the many happy faces in our community when they received their food,” said Nancy Goodall, vice president of Captain Marden’s Seafoods.

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 has grown quickly thanks to generous donations from Wellesley residents and the business community. The COVID-19 Relief Fund is in the second week of a donation match challenge. 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.

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