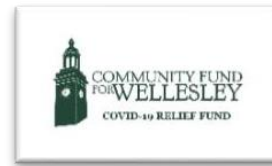




TOWN OF WELLESLEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants \$4,000 to Expand Meals Program for Most Vulnerable

June 17, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The most recent round of grants from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund will continue and expand a key program supplying hot meals from local restaurants to medically vulnerable families, isolated seniors, and veterans. Today the COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded an additional \$4,000 to the Meals Program, extending this service through the end of July.

In this third round of funding for at-risk and food insecure residents, as well as local restaurants, the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund has granted \$10,000 in total for these initiatives specifically. This grant brings the total amount of funds awarded to all initiatives by the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund to just under \$75,000 in seven weeks. 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, the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund addresses unmet needs in our community resulting from the ongoing Coronavirus crisis.

The Meals Program is a collaboration between the Wellesley Health Department, Wellesley Council on Aging, Wellesley Public Schools, Wellesley Housing Authority, and Wellesley Service League; meals prepared by Wellesley restaurants are delivered to 60 participants on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The participants have been identified by Town social service workers, Health officials, School officials and first responders.

The program initially received money from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund in April for a two-week pilot. Additional funds were awarded in May after the program was determined to be successful and necessary. To date, more than 330 meals have been provided during the past two months, supporting both residents and the local business community.

“This program is making a such difference in the lives of the participants. It is an amazing feeling in this challenging time to call to a resident impacted by COVID-19 and let them know they will continue to receive hot meals from our local restaurants. The fact that we are also able to bring in restaurant partners, give them business and support their employees makes it a win-win situation for all,” said Maura Renzella, Wellesley Youth Commission Director and COVID-19 Fund Advisory Board member.

Local restaurants taking part in the program to date are Alta Strada Wellesley, California Pizza Kitchen, The Captain’s Table and Take Away at Captain Marden’s Seafoods, Fiorella’s Cucina, Juniper Restaurant, Mark’s Pizza and Subs, The Maugus Restaurant, North End Pizza, and Papa Razzi Wellesley.

Unmet Needs Persist

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund was established in early April with an initial gift of \$10,000 from the Community Fund for Wellesley to ensure an immediate source of grant support for critical programs helping those in the Wellesley community impacted by the Coronavirus crisis. Donors have generously contributed to fundraising efforts, which included a \$12,500 donation match challenge from two anonymous supporters.

However, as the pandemic continues, unmet needs in our community persist and additional funding is necessary. As the school year ends and childcare programs and camps are closed, Town officials are working to find ways to provide summer activities for children and youths, to address a growing food insecurity among residents, and to respond to other concerns.

“It’s heartwarming to see first-hand how much these grants are helping and how much the community has supported this Fund. However, this crisis is far from over; we need to keep raising money so we can protect even more residents,” added Renzella.

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

Up-to-date information on the Wellesley 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](https://www.facebook.com/CFFWellesley).

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.



