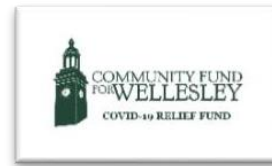




TOWN OF WELLESLEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Grants Enhance Care at Elizabeth Seton Residence

July 9, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The most recent grants from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund will support and assist residents and staff at the Elizabeth Seton Residence in Wellesley. Today, the Fund awarded \$6,779 to the skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility which has been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

These grants bring the total amount of money awarded by the COVID-19 Relief Fund to nearly \$94,000 in 10 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.

Grant money will help Elizabeth Seton Residence purchase technology hardware that will enhance communication between residents, staff, and families, and fund disinfecting equipment that will make cleaning and sanitizing more efficient at the facility.

- **Boogie Board Writing Tablets** to help caregivers better communicate with residents. Wearing masks eliminates visual cues between nursing staff and residents and creates frustration. Grant money will purchase 86 tablets for resident rooms that can be quickly used to communicate information and needs. The tablets can also be easily sanitized.
- **PockeTalkers and Headphones** will enhance the quality of communication between residents and families. Many elderly residents have difficulty hearing or become frustrated when hearing is impacted by other noises during socially distanced visits and online conversations with families. These tools will greatly help to improve resident visits and satisfaction. Eight PockeTalkers and 50 personal headsets will be purchased with this grant.
- **Hygienica Electro-Hygiene Atomizing Technology Disinfecting equipment** has recently become available to purchase; it's been out of stock since February. Long-term care facilities are following strict cleaning protocols. This technology along with standard cleaning and disinfecting protocols will significantly improve the facility's ability to disinfect large areas more thoroughly and in a much more efficient manner.

- **Webcams and Speakers** are another communication enhancement that will improve resident care. Meetings with families, including care planning meetings with residents, are now carried out by telephone and without visual cues, the residents and rehabilitation patients often can't follow phone calls and don't know who is speaking. The cameras and speakers will be used to hold video Zoom calls and provide hardware for clinicians who do not have cameras or speakers on computers.

“The support of the Wellesley Covid-19 Relief Fund has been invaluable to the Elizabeth Seton Residence Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation facility during this challenging time. As we continue to practice safe distancing while wearing masks, communication with our nursing home residents is extremely difficult. Nursing staff and residents struggle to ensure they understand each other, while families and residents are frustrated during their outside visits in our courtyard because masks muffle voices from six feet away,” said Lori Ferrante, Elizabeth Seton Residence administrator. “Through the support of the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund, we are now able to enhance the quality of our residents’ social and clinical interactions. These innovative, low-tech solutions immediately reduce frustration and enable clearer communication for all our residents.”

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](#).

Show Your Support

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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