



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New PPE for Seniors and Children Purchased with Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants

July 17, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund continues to focus on ways to keep our community safe during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. In preparation for an expected second wave of COVID-19 outbreaks in the fall, the Fund recently awarded \$3,300 to the Wellesley Fire Department. This money will be used to replace critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for senior citizens and purchase supplies to sew homemade masks for children in our community.

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 pandemic. 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 grant money awarded this week will provide the Fire Department with funding to support an unforeseen future in our community.

- **New KN95 masks for Senior Citizens and Medically Vulnerable Residents.** These medical-grade masks are critical for the safety of high-risk residents but are not intended for long-term use and supplies continue to be scarce. Grant money awarded in May was used to buy 1,800 KN95 masks. This additional grant will purchase 900 more masks that can be distributed to residents this fall and winter.
- **Materials for Child Masks.** While homemade adult masks continue to be sewn by many local groups, this PPE is often too large and may be uncomfortable for many children and teens. To ensure this group remains protected, money from the Wellesley Fire Department grant will assist the Sewing COVID-19 Help – Working Together group with sourcing fabric and small ear loop materials to make 2,500 homemade masks for young members of our community.

“Ensuring that our most vulnerable residents, both young and old, have proper PPE has become one of the most important goals of the Wellesley Fire Department during this pandemic,” said Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Peterson. “With money from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund, we can meet that goal. The KN95 masks give seniors freedom and confidence knowing that they are properly protected from the virus. The homemade mask materials ensure our children will be safe when going back to school and taking part in other activities in the fall.”

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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