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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Programs for Youth Empowerment and Employment Receive COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants

August 13, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – Two local non-profits supporting Wellesley youths are the most recent organizations receiving grant money from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund. Awards totaling more than \$3,000 will go to Community Investors to fund additional youth coaching scholarships for the Terriers Sports Summer Camp, and to Kids Backing Kids, Inc. an organization co-founded by Wellesley teens that is providing COVID-19 backpacks for vulnerable families in Wellesley.

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund was established in early April to help address unmet needs in our community resulting from the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, and 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. To date, more than \$100,000 in donations has been raised and distributed back to the community.

These new grants directly benefit programs that are providing Wellesley teens with jobs and public service opportunities.

- **Employment for middle school teens:** [Community Investors](#) will fund scholarships to support 12 additional Coaches-in-Training (CITs) at the Terriers Sports Summer Camp. Terriers features week long programs, with morning and afternoon sessions, of structured, outdoor activity for younger children who are supervised by high school-aged Coaches and middle school-aged Coaches-in-Training (CITs). Through this grant, Community Investors and Terriers Sports will help address a lack of summer jobs for teens in our community due to COVID-19 cancellations and restrictions.
- **COVID-19 backpacks to help vulnerable families with anticipated school delays:** [Kids Backing Kids](#) is a youth-driven non-profit giving young volunteers experience with public service and philanthropy. Award money is helping buy supplies for 15 backpacks provided to needy families in Wellesley as identified by Town and School social service workers. The backpacks will include COVID-19 supplies like masks, sanitizer, gift cards for food, gas, or clothing, as well as do-at-home activities and other necessities to support families during the anticipated delay in back-to-school.

“The Terriers summer CIT program offers opportunities to play as well as coach and the CITs and Coaches have as much fun as the players. These funds will allow more kids to enjoy the program and earn coaching stipends,” said Joe Roberts, executive director of Community Investors.

The grant money for Kids Backing Kids is playing a dual role – teaching the group founders and volunteers about philanthropy and helping them meet a specific community need.

"The COVID pandemic and the hybrid school model present many difficult challenges for vulnerable families with young children. These funds will help us prepare "COVID Backpacks" filled with helpful resources, games, and activities that families can use while spending more time at home together because of the pandemic and remote learning," said Grace Rodrigue (WHS '21), co-founder of Kids Backing Kids, Inc.

Please Show Your Support

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](#).

As unmet needs persist in Wellesley, continued funding and support for these programs is critical. To donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

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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