



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 Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Awards Help Wellesley Mask Up and Stay Well

November 9, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is announcing new grants to support revised rules now in effect to stop the spread of Coronavirus, and to assist with efforts to offer safe, afterschool activities for kids in our community. Aided by recent generous donations, the money will fund a Mask Up community campaign for the Wellesley Police Department, supervised sports and recreation sessions for middle school students with high school student coaches, and a surprise holiday-themed mobile movie.

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund was established in April and has granted nearly \$115,000 to date to local non-profits and Town of Wellesley Departments to develop programs and activities to meet unprecedented needs in our community caused by COVID-19. With the recent surge in Coronavirus cases in Massachusetts and stricter State orders for all residents, these new grants from the Fund come at a critical time and meet key needs.

- **Mask Up Wellesley campaign:** The Wellesley Police Department is using funds to buy packaged, disposable face masks that will be placed in cruisers and provided to residents in a pro-active effort to educate, inform, and remind everyone about the new mask mandate. This revised order requires anyone over 5-years old to wear mask or face covering when in public, whether indoors or outdoors, regardless of social distancing.

“Our department is very grateful for the grant. If we come into contact with citizens who need a mask, we can provide one in a friendly manner rather than issuing a citation,” said Wellesley Police Chief Jack Pilecki.

- **PowerPlay Flag Football program:** This afterschool program is run by Community Investors, a local non-profit, and supports teen mental and physical wellness. More than 30 middle school students take part in weekly flag football sessions held outdoors or at the Boston Sports Institute during bad weather, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and are coached by high school students. A registration fee is usually required for the program to support coaching stipends; this fall it is offered for free to encourage participation. COVID-19 Relief Fund money will pay coaching stipends to support the program through a full run until the end of November.

For participants, and their parents, the fall program is providing important social connections to help kids combat feelings of isolation during the pandemic. “There are so many other activities that aren’t happening this fall, these sessions give my son something to look forward to every week,” said Aimee Munro, mother of a PowerPlay participant.

- **SURPRISE Holiday Mobile Movie and Toy Drive on November 14:** One final mobile movie night, funded by the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund, will take place in the Tailby lot on **Saturday, November 14 at 5 p.m.** Registration will be managed by the Recreation Department. Watch for a special announcement with movie details later this week! The movie night will also kick-off a Town-

wide holiday toy drive for our community that will run through Thanksgiving. Residents are encouraged to donate unwrapped toys that will be distributed to families in our community. Toys will be collected at the Tailby lot beginning on Saturday, November 14.

Please Show Your Support

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is unique to our community and separate from other local fundraising initiatives.

The 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. One hundred percent of donations are returned to the community and directly benefit all residents. Continued financial support for these programs and many others is critical to keep Wellesley residents safe as fall and winter months approach with no end to the pandemic in sight. To give to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

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](#).

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 \$500,000 to more than 30 local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments.

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