



**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**

### **Year-end Grant to WPD Brings Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Totals to Nearly \$117,000 for 2020**

**December 15, 2020 (Wellesley, MA)** – A grant to the Wellesley Police Department is helping local officers with efforts to enforce the current Massachusetts mask/face covering mandate and set a positive example for our community. This week, the Community Fund for Wellesley’s COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded \$1,470 to the Police Department to support the purchase of WPD branded masks and two-ply gaiters for all uniformed officers and extra masks to distribute to residents.

“Our officers are on the front lines every day protecting our community and enforcing the tightened restrictions necessary to keep Wellesley safe during the pandemic. These masks and face coverings are a heavier weight for the winter months and will standardize our uniforms, and will help us portray a positive, consistent public image as we work to educate, inform, and remind everyone about the importance of mask wearing,” said Wellesley Police Chief Jack Pilecki.

The COVID-19 Relief Fund was established in April 2020 to help meet unprecedented needs in our community caused by COVID-19. With this most recent grant, nearly \$117,000 has been awarded to local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments during the past eight months. Money donated to the Fund has been used for programs and activities that support at-risk seniors, youth, and families; assist struggling restaurants and businesses; address hunger, health care, and mental health; and provide PPE that is critical for keeping everyone in our community safe. Specific examples include:

- Restaurant Meals Program - provided and delivered hot meals from local restaurants to at-risk families and senior citizens;
- “Back to Business” PPE program - purchased PPE and sanitizing stations to help local merchants safely reopen their doors to customers;
- Mask Up Wellesley initiative - provided KN95, N95, and handmade masks to vulnerable residents and senior citizens, and purchased supplies for local sewing groups to make masks;
- Technology assistance - helped purchase iPads and PockeTalkers to improve communication and reduce feelings of isolation at long-term care facilities;
- Mental Health aid - funded online COVID-19 community support forums facilitated by professional counselors;
- Youth empowerment programs – assisted Wellesley Green Shirts corps and “Power of Play” programs to create jobs and mentoring opportunities for local teens;
- Recreation activities – helped purchase sprinkler mats for families and funded staff and operations for Town-wide Mobile Movie Nights to ensure safe fun for everyone!

“When we started this Fund in April, it was impossible to imagine the range of challenges our community would face. Through the incredible generosity of so many, in the past eight months the Fund has equally supported critical needs across all segments of the Wellesley population. We are grateful to be part of such important work to help protect everyone in our community,” said Jamie Ebersole, Community Fund for Wellesley Board Chair.

**Show Your Support**

With COVID-19 cases surging and hospitalizations increasing, support for the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is more critical now than ever.

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 Select Board. One hundred percent of donations are returned to the community and directly benefit all residents. To give to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: [www.CFFW-COVID.org](http://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.

-END-

