



COVID-19 Community Response Fund Deploys \$40K to Area Nonprofits

*Nonprofits Providing Emergency Food Access and Distribution
Will Receive First Phase of Funds*

ATHENS, Ga. (April 22, 2020) – The COVID-19 Community Response Fund, hosted by the Athens Area Community Foundation in partnership with United Way of Northeast Georgia, is deploying its first round of funds to nonprofits serving Northeast Georgia. This first phase will distribute 20% of the current funds to 18 local nonprofits that are providing food access and distribution to those impacted by the pandemic. A total of \$40,000 will be dispersed to nonprofits across the United Way of Northeast Georgia’s 12-county region.

This first phase of grants will go to support:

A.C.T.S. (Area Churches Together Serving)	Madison-Morgan County Caring Place
Athens Area Emergency Food Bank	Madison County Food Bank
Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA)	Live Forward
Banks-Jackson Food Bank	New Path
East Athens Development Corp.	Oconee Area Resource Council (OARC)
Food Bank of Northeast Georgia	Oglethorpe County Senior Center
Greene County Food Pantry	Our Daily Bread
Hart County Cupboard	Rainbow Pantry
iServe Ministries	The Salvation Army (Elberton)

The grant reviewers - a collection of community leaders, nonprofit advocates, business men and women, and government associates - determined the first phase would go to nonprofits offering food distribution and access based on data gathered from 211 and the Athens Wellbeing Project, and insights from community and county leaders.

“With supply chain disruption, financial distress and health concerns, accessibility to affordable food is increasing for many of our regional residents. Those organizations that are providing emergency food distribution and access are critical at this time to ensure our neighbors are being fed,” said Kay Keller, President and CEO of United Way of Northeast Georgia.

A second phase of funds will be distributed in the coming weeks. The fund is still open and accepting donations. Anyone can help by making a donation to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund. To make a donation, please visit www.athensareacf.org.

“We are so thankful for the philanthropic spirit of Northeast Georgia. We know that times are hard, but any amount donated to this fund will make a dynamic impact for those organizations serving our hardest hit residents. The opportunity for us to distribute this first phase of funds continues to show the amazing culture of giving within our community,” said Sarah McKinney, President and CEO of the Athens Area Community Foundation.



The Athens Area Community Foundation and United Way of Northeast Georgia are grateful for the financial stewardship of more than 250 individuals, organizations and businesses. We are especially thankful for the major gifts and contributions from CareSource Foundation, First American Bank & Trust, Georgia Power Foundation, The Caterpillar Foundation, The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, Truist, and Athens Area Community Foundation Fundholders.

For more information, please email info@athensareacf.org. Funds will be granted to highest needs areas and to organizations based on data and community insights and assessments. The funding will not be restricted to current United Way of Northeast Georgia- or other collective nonprofit-funded organizations.

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ABOUT ATHENS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The history of the Athens Area Community Foundation is rooted in the trusted leadership of community members focused on expanding our ability to serve as a public grantmaking foundation partnering with donors, nonprofits, and institutions to grow, preserve, and share philanthropic assets. Its stated mission is **“to help passionate donors leave permanent legacies, foster strategic philanthropy, and shape effective responses to community needs through collaboration.”** Serving Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison, Oconee, and Oglethorpe counties. For more information about the Athens Area Community Foundation, please visit www.athensareacf.org.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Since 1954, United Way of Northeast Georgia has been helping families and individuals in need. United Way of Northeast Georgia is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit that motivates and mobilizes resources to meet the highest priority needs of families and individuals in Northeast Georgia. With a Community Impact model, United Way of Northeast Georgia strategically funds programs that move the needle in three focus areas: basic needs, early childhood success, and workforce development. By working with leaders and community members across our region, we can focus on improving conditions for all of our neighbors in our twelve counties which include: Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Greene, Hart, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee and Oglethorpe.