



\$85K Deployed to Nonprofits Helping with Shelter, Housing

COVID-19 Community Response Fund Shares Second Round of Grants

ATHENS, Ga. (May 4, 2020) – The COVID-19 Community Response Fund, hosted by the Athens Area Community Foundation in partnership with United Way of Northeast Georgia, announced its second round of grant distributions to 18 nonprofits today. Informed by data from United Way of Northeast Georgia’s 211 and the Athens Wellbeing Project, community insight, and county government knowledge, the second round of fund deployment went to organizations providing shelter and housing assistance in response to the pandemic. A total of \$85,000, 35% of current funds, were dispersed to nonprofits across the 12-county region. Grants were focused on nonprofits supporting individuals and families affected by, or at risk for, homelessness and partner violence, as well as individuals living with chronic conditions, behavioral health, and substance use disorders.

The recipients of the second round of grants include:

Acceptance Recovery Center	Peace Place
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems	Potter’s House
Athens Area Homeless Shelter	Project Adam
Bigger Vision	Project Safe
Circle of Love	The Salvation Army (Athens)
Family Promise	St. Vincent de Paul
Georgia Options	Supporting Immigrant Families in Crisis
Heart Haven (NEGACDV)	The Ark
Hope Haven	The Cancer Foundation

“Philanthropy has a role in good times and in bad. Our region has an incredible culture of giving and sharing, all of which has been magnified by this public health crisis. Through the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, we have been able to mobilize generosity and match resources to the growing needs of our community.” said Sarah McKinney, President and CEO of the Athens Area Community Foundation.

“A stable and safe home is critical, and especially now when we are all encouraged to stay home in order to stay healthy,” said Kay Keller, President and CEO of United Way of Northeast Georgia. “A place to weather the storm – physically, emotionally and mentally – is something every person deserves. We are thankful for these organizations who are ensuring people have that, whether that’s being able to stay in their own home with rent assistance or find shelter through one of these organizations so they can hopefully sleep more soundly and safely.”

The Athens Area Community Foundation and United Way of Northeast Georgia are grateful for the financial stewardship of more than 315 individuals, organizations and businesses. We are especially thankful for the major gifts and contributions from CareSource Foundation, First American Bank & Trust, Foundation for the Carolinas, Georgia Power Foundation, Dr. Ross and



United Way
of Northeast Georgia



Leigh Campbell and Georgia Skin Cancer and Aesthetic Dermatology, The Caterpillar Foundation, The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, Truist, and Athens Area Community Foundation Fundholders.

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. 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. For more information, visit our website at www.unitedwaynega.org .