



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 21, 2020

COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE FUND UPDATE

Butler County, OH –

As previously announced, Butler County United Way and the Hamilton Community Foundation are partnering with Greater Cincinnati Foundation and United Way of Greater Cincinnati in the fight against COVID-19. As part of this collaboration, a dedicated source of funding was earmarked for Butler County through the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati's COVID-19 Regional Response Fund to address critical needs in this region related to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are extremely pleased with how this process has been working. Requests for funding have been coming in steadily and we've been able to respond to those requests within just a day or two," stated Mag Baker, President and CEO of Butler County United Way. "The purposes of the requests have been varied ranging from Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for front line workers, to housing support and rent assistance, to food supplies and food delivery."

Targeted services such as food insecurity, medical needs, housing and shelter, and childcare and senior services have been the initial focus. It is believed that support of these services will have the most impact on speeding up the human and economic recovery from COVID-19.

One recipient of Regional Response funding is Primary Health Solutions. "We are very grateful and appreciate the support to help our community members in a time of great need," commented Marc Bellisario, CEO and President of Primary Health Solutions. "The funds received from the Butler County COVID-19 Regional Response Fund will benefit people who may have lost their insurance or their job and need help to pay for medical care. The funds will go a long way to assist people who are negatively affected by this pandemic."

Contact:
Pamela R. Cottle
Vice President of Operations
Butler County United Way
513.785.2348 or pcottle@bc-unitedway.org

Fairfield Food Pantry also received funding to assist with emergency food supplies. “As expected, we are experiencing a surge in the number of people seeking our help for emergency food supplies during this critical time,” stated Becca Desai, Trustee and Vice President of Revenues & Grants for Fairfield Food Pantry. “We have served at least 25% more people than we were expecting to serve in our first quarter, which equates to about 30% of the people living in the City of Fairfield as of 12/31/19 or a total of 12,300 people. We would not have been able to meet this increased need in our community, without the extra financial help we received from this COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. We are deeply grateful!”

Initial financing of this Butler County-focused fund to address COVID-19 needs, came from Greater Cincinnati Foundation who reserved \$150,000 specifically for Butler County. In addition, the funds provided by Butler County United Way, First Financial Bank, Hamilton Community Foundation, Meijer, and Truist Foundation (formerly Suntrust and BB&T) were matched up to an additional \$150,000 by Greater Cincinnati Foundation through the Regional Response Fund. All total, \$450,000 has been allocated to assist in the fight against this pandemic.

“At this point, over \$172,000 of the \$450,000 has been approved and distributed and other requests are in the pipeline to be approved,” John Guidugli, President and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation, commented. “Turning these requests around quickly is important, while being mindful that we must also be good stewards of the funding made available to us.”

Nonprofit organizations who wish to apply for funding should visit www.bc-unitedway.org/covid-19 for additional information. All decisions are made locally, based on the need and the impact it will have on the residents of Butler County. A short fillable-form application has been developed for quick processing. Applications will be reviewed as received with an answer rendered within three business days.

Additional donations toward this fund are welcomed and appreciated. Major contributions of \$10,000 or more should be made to Greater Cincinnati Foundation (www.gcfdn.org/COVID-19). Smaller donations may be directed to the sites below:

www.bc-unitedway.org

<https://bc-unitedway.org/covid-19>

<https://www.hamiltonfoundation.org>

Butler County United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United...by forging unlikely partnerships... by finding new solutions to old problems...by mobilizing the best resources...and by inspiring individuals to join the fight against their community's most daunting social crises.

We invite you to join the fight by giving, advocating or volunteering. For additional information, contact Butler County United Way at (513) 863-0800 or visit www.bc-unitedway.org.

Created in 1951, The Hamilton Community Foundation, located in the historic Lane-Hooven House in Hamilton, Ohio, manages 700 individual, family and corporate funds, as well as nonprofit agency endowments. As a public charity with \$90 million in assets, we focus daily on helping make our community a better place to live, work and play.

For additional information, contact the Hamilton Community Foundation at 513.863.1717 or visit info@HamiltonFoundation.org.

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