



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Ellen Montgomery, Marketing Associate, SCVF
emontgomery@scvfoundation.org m: 612-703-8438

VALLEY WIDE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING

Grants from Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation Raise Fund to \$335,000

[Hudson, Mar 27, 2020] –The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley was announced Monday and today the fund has received support from both the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation (\$150,000) and the Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation (\$150,000). This funding adds to seed funding of \$35,000 from the St. Croix Valley Foundation’s Health & Wellness Fund putting the COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley at \$335,000.

Nonprofit organizations in the region are encouraged to “raise their hand” to be considered for grants from this fund by filling out a brief application at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19-form-nonprofits>. The first round of grantmaking from the fund will take place on Monday March 30, 2020. Additional rounds of grantmaking will follow at intervals which will be posted at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19>.

Contributions to the Covid-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley are being accepted at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19>

The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley the been established as a collaboration between the St. Croix Valley Foundation (SCVF), United Way St. Croix Valley (UWSCV) and United Way Washington County East (UWWCE). The Response Fund will support community organizations responding to COVID-19 related needs in Chisago and Washington counties (Minnesota) and Burnett, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties (Wisconsin).

This COVID-19 Response Fund has been established to coordinate efforts and quickly get charitable resources where they are needed most, with an initial focus on the basic needs of those most significantly impacted by this crisis. Because this is a challenging time for local nonprofits, as many do not have the staff to meet growing needs and raise funds, this initial focus for the COVID-19 Response Fund will empower community members to donate and help fill critical gaps to ensure people are getting the services they need.

GIVING TO THE FUND

The COVID-19 Response Fund is designed to help simplify a complex situation and answer the question “How Can I Help?” While donors are encouraged to continue their regular support of area nonprofits, **the COVID-19 Response Fund will simplify giving and allow funds to be directed where need is the greatest.**

Donors have many options for contributing:

- Give online at <https://www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19>
- Checks can be sent to SCVF, 516 2nd St Ste 214, Hudson, WI 54016 (payable to SCVF/COVID-19).
- SCVF donor advised fund holders can recommend a grant to The St. Croix Valley Foundation with "COVID-19 Response Fund" as the grant purpose.
- SCVF can also accept appreciated stock and other assets. Call SCVF for assistance with those donations.

REGIONAL FOCUS OF THE RESPONSE FUND

The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley will prioritize community-based organizations that serve Chisago and Washington Counties (Minnesota) and Burnett, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties (Wisconsin).

The SCVF has ten affiliated community foundations (Amery, Chisago Lakes, Hudson, Lower St. Croix Valley, New Richmond, Northwest Alliance, Prescott, River Falls, Somerset and Stillwater) throughout the six-county region. If a donor chooses to designate a gift to one of those areas, SCVF will ensure that dollars are granted to support that community.

100% DISTRIBUTION

In a consolidated effort to help those most affected by COVID-19, the SCVF is waiving all administrative fees for the Response Fund. This means (with the exception of fees charged by banks/credit card companies) that 100% of a donor's gift will be used to help those most affected by COVID-19 in the St. Croix Valley.

The Response Fund will be administered in multiple phases to address immediate and longer-term needs related to this crisis. During Phase One, priority will be given to organizations working to meet the basic needs of those most significantly impacted by this crisis. Phase One includes proactively identifying grant recipients using input, guidance and research from organizations and others in the community in order to make grant decisions. Future grant phases will be communicated as fundraising continues throughout the crisis, making it possible to quickly adapt to evolving needs.

The COVID-19 Response Fund will make grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools and other public entities. This Response Fund is not currently able to fund businesses, or nonprofits with 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) status.

The COVID-19 Response Fund is not able to provide grants to individuals. Instead, during the Phase One of grantmaking, staff will work to move resources as quickly as possible to those community-based organizations directly supporting those most affected by this crisis.

THE GRANTMAKING PROCESS

Grants from the Response Fund will be recommended by an advisory committee appointed by the SCVF, UWSCV and UWWCE. These appointees could include staff, board members, affiliated community foundation board members and/or other community partners of the SCVF, UWSCV and UWWCE.

A listing of grantees will be published on the websites of St. Croix Valley Foundation www.scvfoundation.org, United Way St. Croix Valley www.unitedwaystcroix.org and United Way Washington County East www.uwwce.org websites.

In the unlikely case that all funds contributed are not able to be distributed to COVID-19 response efforts, any remaining balance will be granted evenly to the UWSCV and UWWCE to support future basic needs grantmaking.

The Covid-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley.
UNITED. TOGETHER. FOR THE VALLEY.



[The St. Croix Valley Foundation](#) is a philanthropic organization with the mission of enhancing the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley. Accredited by the Charities Review Council and the Council on Foundations' National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the SCVF serves two counties in MN (Washington, Chisago) and 4 counties in WI (Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, Pierce). Ten affiliated community foundations are hosted under the structure and guidance of SCVF. For more information contact Heather Logelin, President at hlogelin@scvffoundation.org or 715-386-9490.

[The United Way St. Croix Valley](#) helps ensure that all people in the St. Croix Valley can lead a healthy life, receive quality education, and experience financial stability. The United Way St. Croix Valley coordinates services in Polk, Pierce, St. Croix and Burnett Counties and provides the 211 Get Connected. Get Help. service (responding to immediate needs). For more information contact Ann Searles, Executive Director at ann.searles@unitedwaystcroix.org or 715-377-0203.
CALL 211 if you need help locating services.

[The United Way of Washington County-East](#) works to unite our community and local resources to give each person the opportunity to build a better life. Areas served include river communities from Afton to Marine on St. Croix, also Woodbury, Lake Elmo, Stillwater, Hugo and Withrow. For more information contact Jessica Ryan, Executive Director at jessica.ryan@uwwce.org or 651-439-3838.
CALL 211 if you need help locating services.

##