FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

112 AREA NONPROFITS RECEIVED COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDS TOTALING OVER $1 MILLION

[Hudson, November 30, 2020] – As the year comes to a close, what began in mid-March as cooperative crisis action planning between St. Croix Valley Foundation, United Way St. Croix Valley and United Way Washington County-East has concluded with over $1 million raised and granted to 112 nonprofits on the front lines of pandemic related need and support.

The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley was established on March 23 and by March 30 the first round of grants, totaling nearly $200,000, was distributed to nonprofits responding to basic needs for food, shelter, financial assistance and mental health support. Over the next 6 months, in collaboration with funding partners throughout the region – including the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation and the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation – $1,098,312 was raised and granted to nonprofits serving vulnerable populations.

The advisory committee responsible for distributing funds assessed the nonprofit organizations need statements against funding priorities of food, shelter, financial assistance and mental health support (during the first 3 months of grantmaking) and housing instability, utility support and transportation needs (during the latter months of the program). The advisory committee also took geography into consideration to ensure that the service areas covered by the Fund (Chisago and Washington counties (MN) and Pierce, St. Croix, Polk and Burnett counties (WI)) would all be impacted by COVID-19 Response Fund grants.

In the first wave of grantmaking nearly 60% of funds were granted to organizations involved with food shelves or other programs to mitigate food insecurity. Additionally, funds supported innovative ways to deliver mental health services during social distance mandates, programs to ensure ongoing food delivery when school lunches ceased, and other support to create stability during economic upheaval. 98 nonprofits received $525,000 during WAVE I grantmaking.

In the second wave of grantmaking, funds aided nonprofits working to keep families together, sheltered and able to better weather unforeseen economic hardships. Salvation Army’s Grace Place, Community Thread, Assistance & Resource Center (ARC), Interfaith Caregivers, Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Workforce Resources, Inc. were among the 45 grantees that received $573,312 in funding during WAVE II grantmaking.
The final donation tally of $1,098,312 was significantly impacted by foundations and local businesses, which contributed over 77% of that total. But donations from individuals, up and down the Valley, contributed significantly – 70% of all contributors to the Response Fund were individual donors.

In a consolidated effort to help those most affected by COVID-19, the St. Croix Valley Foundations waived all administrative fees for the Response Fund. This means that (with the exception of fees charged by banks/credit card companies) 100% of donations received went to help those most affected by COVID-19 in the St. Croix Valley.

The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley is now closed. Those wanting to continue to support area nonprofits are encouraged to fund organizations directly, or consider a gift to programs administered by the United Way St. Croix County, United Way Washington County-East or the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Information on the COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley can be found at www.scvfoundation.org/covid-19

---

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@scvfoundation.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. We strengthen Wisconsin communities in St. Croix, Polk and Pierce Counties. We also serve communities in Burnett and Washburn Counties in Northern Wisconsin. 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.

---

##