For Immediate Release
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Community Foundation, United Way team up to aid Ashland nonprofits

ASHLAND – Ashland County Community Foundation and United Way of Ashland County are joining forces to assist nonprofit organizations amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Some local nonprofits have found themselves quickly expanding services to meet growing needs. Many have seen, or expect to see, significant disruptions in revenue because of social distancing. Several organizations face both challenges simultaneously.

That’s why the local Community Foundation and United Way have each chipped in to create a new COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Grant pool, from which grants of up to $10,000 will be made to local agencies that provide vital services to Ashland County residents.

These grants are designed to help agencies that meet basic human needs (food, shelter, safety, medication, etc.), support increased mental health needs due to COVID-19 or provide economic relief for individuals impacted by reduced or lost employment due to COVID-19.

To be eligible for a COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Grant, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other qualifying charitable organization that serves Ashland County residents must provide evidence of how the pandemic has affected, or will affect, the organization’s operational budget and ability to fulfill its mission.

An online grant application can be found at www.accommunityfoundation.org. Applications will be reviewed regularly, and grant decisions will be made on a rolling basis to expedite relief for grant recipients.

United Way’s contribution to the grant pool comes from discretionary funds that previously had been set aside for disaster relief.

Executive Director Stacy Schiemann said she believes this effort is a perfect use for those dollars.

“This is a way to leverage our funds by partnering with our local Community Foundation, and ultimately to make an immediate impact on our community,” Schiemann said. “This is the right kind of partnership to really get the community what it needs.”

For its part, ACCF is redirecting unrestricted dollars from its Silver Anniversary initiatives to the Nonprofit Relief Fund.
Foundation leaders made the difficult decision to suspend plans for Silver Anniversary Grants that had not yet been awarded, including a previously-announced Community Choice Grant offering. The foundation is also indefinitely postponing its celebratory anniversary dinner, which was scheduled for August.

“It was a tough call to cancel all our anniversary plans, but this is the right thing to do,” Cutright said. “It’s our job to sustain the future of our agencies, but sometimes that means helping them build a bridge to get there.”

Any individual or business that wishes to contribute to the cause can donate online at www.accommunityfoundation.org or send a check with “COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Grant Fund” in the memo line to Ashland County Community Foundation, 300 College Ave., Ashland.

Questions may be directed to James Cutright, Ashland County Community Foundation Director, at 419-281-4733 or cutty@accommunityfoundation.org; or Stacy Schiemann, United Way of Ashland County Executive Director, at 419-281-5551 or stacy@uwashlandoh.org.

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