

COVID-19 Response Fund for NWA

support our local community impacted
Unitedwayna.org/COVID19donate



United Way
of Northwest Arkansas

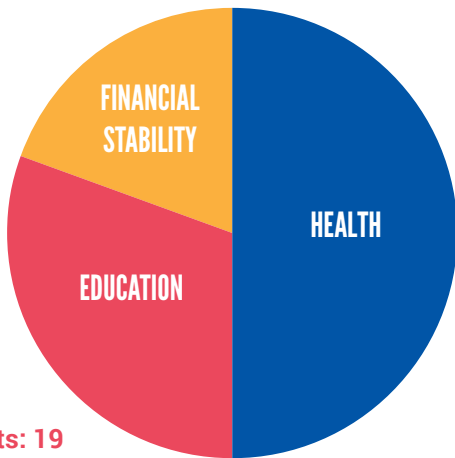
UNITED WAY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

IMPACT REPORT

UNITED WAY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND GRANTS

Grants: 11
Awarded: \$25,000

Grants: 31
Awarded: \$65,000



Grants: 19
Awarded: \$39,550

Primary Usage of UW Grant Funds

1. Direct Assistance to Clients (Food, Shelter, Financial Assistance, Etc.)
2. Program-Related Expenses (Technology, Supplies, Etc.)
3. Staffing Costs

COVID-19 Impact on Nonprofit Partners

- 68% reported reductions in revenue
- 52% reported support from the Paycheck Protection Program and other federal/state assistance
- Other reported impact include increased demand for services, reduced staff and volunteer capacity, and increased use of digital platforms and services.
- 93% of the organizations surveyed provide services to historically underserved populations (Latino, Marshallese, African-American, Rural, etc.)

TOTAL GRANTS: 61 • TOTAL AWARDED: \$129,550

TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED: 19,489 • % LOW INCOME SERVED: 72.9%

31
GRANTS

\$65,000
AWARDED

10,566
PEOPLE SERVED

72.9%
LOW INCOME SERVED

Bright Futures, Siloam Springs – Many students and parents were so grateful for the food distributions over the weeks of school closures. In a time when there was so much uncertainty, they seemed relieved to have something continue to be consistent. School counselors reported that in their communications with parents, many were in a place of financial struggle and anxiety because of all of the changes with COVID-19. We had one single parent in particular who was unable to work because her 3 elementary aged children were now at home. Providing food supplements were one way we could help. She was grateful for the support and her students enjoyed getting their "own bag" of food each week.

Community Clinic NWA - From a Community Clinic patient's parent: "Last week our son came home from daycare and had a bit of a cough. Not an uncommon occurrence but with the backdrop of coronavirus, we began to get a little nervous. We watched carefully all weekend and, frighteningly, a fever followed. By Monday morning, the cough and fever were still hanging on so we immediately went to the Community Clinic, hoping it was nothing more than a cold and our doctor would have a quick fix remedy ready to go. The drive thru aspect of the visit was a new experience for us and added another layer of anxiety to our

already racing minds. Unfortunately, our son tested negative for the other common illnesses of suspect and qualified for the coronavirus screening. It was tough to watch and difficult for a three year old to endure. Worse for my wife and I, were the next 4 days of waiting for answers. Was he positive? Were we positive? Would our 6 week old daughter be next? All these questions and more played on our nerves and emotions. But, luckily his test was negative and he is doing much better! As if we weren't diligent before with social distancing and good hygiene practices, we are even more so now!"

Hope Cancer Resources - In December 2019, Hope Cancer Resources staff met with a newly diagnosed breast cancer patient to help identify any factors that might hinder her treatment. She indicated concerns about the financial burden that comes with a cancer diagnosis. Through funding provided by United Way, Hope Cancer Resources helped her pay a mortgage payment to ease the financial burden of the family. A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming for patients. With the heightened concerns of COVID-19, patients are left feeling even more anxious. Hope Cancer Resources is dedicated to helping alleviate the burdens that cancer patients can face.

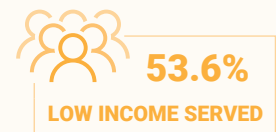


Art Feeds - We paired directly with Springdale Schools to get the emergency art kits into the hands of children. The teachers shared the living conditions many students were in that were less than desirable. To meet the needs of the most vulnerable children, teachers found students that had not been able to travel to school lunch pick up and found them wherever they were staying; in some cases, some students were even in motels. One teacher shared that a child looked into the contents of the fresh emergency art kit with brand new supplies, and her eyes welled up with tears. When families are in scarcity mode for basic resources like food and shelter, things like art supplies are too expensive to consider. Her tears of gratitude showed us that while others work to give basic needs, we are reaching children where they need it most and giving them space where they are free and safe to express themselves as long as the art supplies will last.

Canopy NWA – Jeanette is a single mom of a three-year old girl. When Covid-19 first hit Arkansas in March, she was laid off from her job and her childcare was reduced. The public transit system that she relied on to take her daughter to daycare and get to work was also significantly reduced to the point where it was no longer a viable means of transportation for her for employment. Thanks to this grant, Canopy was able to provide her with a tablet so that she could meet remotely with an employment specialist to obtain unemployment benefits and begin searching for work. She was also able to access English language resources through the internet to improve her English while searching for work.

Big Brothers Big Sisters NWA – Isaiah's mother is a healthcare worker and she recently fell ill. She has been tested for COVID-19, and is currently being quarantined for 2 weeks from her place of employment (the hospital) and Isaiah has been sent to live with grandparents during her quarantine. Over the past 3 months, Isaiah's world has been turned upside down. His school is closed, his baseball season cancelled, and now the virus has forced Isaiah's Mom to be away from their family. But one thing that has not changed is Isaiah's weekly FaceTime call with his Big Brother, Michael. Michael and Isaiah have used FaceTime and Zoom to connect with each other. They have also had played many virtual Uno games, and even worked together to make Origami.

Trike Theatre – This was an email from our Academy Manager: Today, I am incredibly grateful for teaching on a virtual platform. This younger generation interacts so commonly through social media and video games, the safety of the screen is allowing students, who otherwise have been more reserved, to open their hearts without fear of judgement. Today in our Defense Against the Dark Arts class we were working on processing and combating our fears and anxieties. Topics varied from sharks, internet trolls, divorce, all the way to Covid-19. One student led an empowering discussion about anti-racism and anti-bullying. It was inspiring to see our young people building each other up and learning from each other's stories and experiences.



Oasis NWA – From an Oasis Client: I lost my job when COVID first hit and I was worried I would relapse. I contacted Oasis and they were able to help me secure an apartment, stock my pantry and they paid for the prescriptions I needed. It was a blessing. I am still in my apartment and I am doing well. I am grateful to the United Way for providing the grant money to Oasis that in turn helped me and my kids out!

Prairie Grove School District – Our counselors/volunteers report several instances of families calling to ask for help with food as they had lost jobs and were unable to feed their families. Our backpack volunteers would put together food bags and deliver the food or it would get picked up at our regular Thursday night backpack dispersal. The families were so thankful to have the additional help and were very gracious. Our school volunteers have made connections that have proven to be valuable in other ways as well. Our counselors have said that they feel a stronger connection with some families that might not have had a lot of trust in our schools. As a result, we have been able to help them make connections to other forms of assistance, which we feel like has strengthened our relationships with our parents and families.

Souls Harbor NWA - The grant enabled Souls Harbor to purchase food for the residents and to cover a portion of the shared housing

costs. We purchased bread, milk, fruit, vegetables, and proteins in addition to pasta and other items for healthy and easy to prepare meals. The impact of this support is in some ways immeasurable, the pandemic created a significant amount of stress for the entire world, and even more so for members of vulnerable populations. The residents had to overcome a number of personal challenges before they arrived at Souls Harbor and already faced several hurdles on their path to regaining control of their lives. The support from this grant helped halt what could have been an out of control spiral for many of these men, knowing that even with the loss of their job, they had a safe place to sleep and food to eat meant the likelihood of relapse was greatly diminished. SH Client Story – My name is Stephen Durkin, a resident of Souls Harbor since January of 2020. Souls Harbor has enabled me to get back on my feet in a safe and nurturing environment. We have clean beds in a clean dormitory. We have a commercial kitchen in which to prepare food on a daily basis. These supplies enable me to focus on sobriety and finding work in a very difficult market these days. We have all the cleaning supplies we need to keep our environment sanitary and clean. We cook, we eat, we clean, we work and keep our grounds in immaculate condition. We attend counseling and AA/NA meetings, group therapy and individual sessions as well. I wish to thank your organization from the bottom of my heart for providing for men like me here at Souls Harbor so that we men can tend to the rigorous business of recovery and transitioning our lives back to a more stable condition.