



**April 3, 2020**

Dear BCF donors, fund advisors, grantees, partners, vendors and friends

Thank you for all your support since we last contacted you.

We are especially grateful for the response to the Bermuda Emergency Fund, set up last week as part of the national effort to coordinate assistance for the most vulnerable in the community.

Within one hour of the announcement of the fund, we had our first individual contributors! Such speedy generosity deserves a shout-out; thank you to Lisa and Glenn Robinson, Rachel Biggs in memory of Margaret Parsons, Liz Breeze, Natalie Cossar, Keith & Suzette Fisher and Angelo and Joy Pimental!

Since then, many, many more [individuals and businesses](#) have contributed to the fund. We would like to publicly acknowledge this incredible support and will do so over the coming days and weeks, in the media and online. There are two reasons for this public acknowledgement:

1. We'd like to thank you for your valuable contribution, because it makes a real difference.
2. When people see people they know and respect make a donation, it encourages them to give.

However, right now, we and our [Third Sector Crisis response partners](#), are super-busy directing the funds to meet the immediate needs. So, if you feel inclined, don't hesitate to do what [PwC](#) did: write your own press release! We will do our acknowledgement of your gifts as soon as we can, but don't let us hold you back. We're happy to provide a customized quote on behalf of [Emergency Fund](#). Please note that we will not be listing actual amounts donated when we do make our public announcements.

The [funds are all being directed](#) to registered nonprofits, community groups and churches who are already organised and qualified to act right now. No fees are charged and 100% of donations goes to meet community needs. One donor asked whether we were only donating to certain entities or groups. The short answer is yes, those that are covering "essential needs of the most vulnerable" as identified by Bermuda's national strategy. These are:

- **Food Security** – provision of food/meals island-wide
- **Safety** – domestic violence, counselling and mental health
- **Homelessness** – unsheltered populations
- **Elderly** – health and wellbeing of senior citizens, living independently and in seniors homes.

A total of over \$200,000 has already been pledged or contributed in donations; if you would like to, please click here to [give](#) to the [Emergency Fund](#). More than half of that amount was committed to those four essential services areas last week.

All requests for assistance are carefully and thoroughly reviewed by members of the [Third Sector Coordinated Crisis Response Team](#) (CCRT). If you want to know more about how the Emergency Funds are being deployed, we'll have this [link](#) updated about once a week.

In the meantime, requests for help are currently well in excess of the funds available. Whatever

contribution you can make to help ensure that all in our community are kept healthy and safe during these unprecedented times would be gratefully received.

Please pass this message on to friends, family and neighbours so they, too, have a chance to [donate](#). Thank you again for showing how generous this community can be. We are all in this together and working as a team will make our community much stronger. If you want to know more about the national plan and how it is working, click [here](#).

As always, thank you for your outstanding support - we'll stay in touch.

Kind regards,

Myra Virgil

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**As a reminder... we need you to do three things:**

- 1) **Give online.** If you wish to make a donation to a charitable fund or as a fiscal sponsor through the Friends of BCF 501c3, please use an electronic transfer of any type – local or international wire or [credit card](#), over a cheque. Cheques need to be deposited, are expensive to cash and take a longer time to process. [GiveBermuda.org](#) remains the best resource to process online charitable giving if the nonprofit you wish to support **does not** have their own online facility or if you are an [American Taxpayer](#). To contribute to the [Emergency Fund](#) click [here](#). American Taxpayers click [here](#). Send transaction queries to [admin@bcf.bm](mailto:admin@bcf.bm).
- 2) **Keep giving.** Yes, we need to attend to the immediate crisis, but we also need to continue to support the larger nonprofit infrastructure and programmes. Your contributions ensure that people stay in position, steadily, to help now and in the future.
- 3) **Keep reading.** We will be communicating important information about how you can contribute in meaningful ways – to all types of organisations, meeting all types of needs, and over time. We'll try to target specific messages to specific groups so as not to bombard you, but we will keep sending updates.