

From: BCF Administration
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BERMUDA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

May 12, 2020

Dear Donors and Partners,

The pandemic crisis has accelerated processes, stretched resources and forced us to reconsider how we do things. This is true for us all – and at the Bermuda Community Foundation it has been dramatic given our role in the national response to the coronavirus crisis.

Yet, it has been a privilege to play an integral part in the relief efforts and to witness how our work, independently and as part of the larger coordinated crisis response team, has contributed to the emergency, safety net for those in need.

Let's recap what has happened in the past eight weeks

- In mid-March, within 48 hours of meeting to discuss how the BCF would respond, we had re-jigged our 2020 work plans and relocated to work remotely.
- BCF established a national Emergency Fund to facilitate donations for nonprofits to address the anticipated needs of the community; within four weeks, more than \$1 million was donated. To date we have received \$1.5 million.
- All fees were waived, so that 100% of contributions went directly to service providers. The fund has provided immediate support for the emergency and essential operations of agencies such as Bermuda Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Bermuda, Coalition for Protection of Children, and Eliza DoLittle Society.
- Rather than require organisations to submit detailed applications for COVID relief, in concert with the Third Sector Coordinated Crisis Response Effort (CCRE), we contacted key organisations and community groups via survey to determine their resource requirements to enable them to meet the anticipated essential needs arising from the pandemic crisis. We knew their expertise would

be vital. We also reached out to other community-based and faith-based organisations. In all, we connected with over 40 diverse entities from nonprofits to not-for-profits offering services at cost.

- Also under the banner of the CCRE, we formed partnerships to deliver a mental wellbeing hotline 543-1111, secured safe spaces for women and children and wrapped supports around organisations and people serving seniors.
- We have had inspiring discussions – over 40 conference calls over less than three weeks, with corporate donors, private foundations, families and other groups. These calls enabled us to learn how many of you are positioning your giving: some joining the emergency fund effort, some sustaining your philanthropy and giving to groups with which you have longstanding relationships and some doing a mix of both.
- By end of April, we had processed more than 400 Emergency Fund transactions while maintaining our commitments to BCF fund advisory committees and clients.
- New relationships are being forged to prepare us for the post-pandemic world and we are:
 - supporting the Lighthouse Connect Initiative Fund with its goal to tackle the digital and educational divide by ensuring all public school students have access to laptops to do schoolwork online
 - seeking support for the core essential service providers who will need to sustain their work for the foreseeable future
 - considering the part that we can play in stabilization and sustainability for the nonprofit sector

Sounds like a lot? Yes, but that's not even the half of it.

So much has happened, so fast, it cannot be accounted for in this email. If you would like to know more about how your support has been deployed in the community, please visit us at www.bcf.bm. For an overview, check out our [WeSpeak](#) podcast [here](#)

Our work is not done. We will continue to serve in this “urgent” space for a little while longer. But we will also aid in the relief and recovery efforts, which is where our expertise lies and where we believe we can add value – thinking through systems, approaches and social investments that can bring about sustained, systemic solutions.

Thank you for making these efforts possible.

Sincerely,



Myra Virgil
Managing Director