

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

We are dealing with an unprecedented public health crisis, the ripple effects of which are wide-reaching but as is often the case, already impacting low-income families, nonprofit organisations, and local and small businesses especially hard from a financial perspective.

Considering the shifting situation around Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bermuda, BCF is focused on collaborative efforts to determine how we can jointly meet urgent needs. The weeks and months ahead are likely to present massive challenges to more vulnerable members of our community and the steps we are taking are designed to better position us to help those in need.

1. BCF has set up an [Emergency Fund](#). Its purpose is to enable members of the community to contribute towards immediate critical needs through this fund. Donations from this Emergency Fund will be made to nonprofit organisations that have the appropriate expertise and experience; donations will not be made directly to individuals. This fund has been created to make it easier for those who want to help but are unsure where to direct that help for greatest effect. Urgent philanthropy is not easy, but with years of experience, a strong network and database, the BCF is well equipped. If you already know where you want to direct your charitable giving, then you should give directly to the organisation that you wish to support.
2. BCF is collaborating with **Third Sector partners** to create an online tool that will determine greatest areas of need in the community with a view to matching resources to those needs. Its purpose will be to log pressing requirements of the vulnerable and needy and enable users to locate required resources. More on this to follow.
3. The BCF team is **working remotely** and we would like to assure each of you that your service needs will continue to be met.
 - a. We will continue with our twice-monthly banking to ensure vendors are paid and funds to nonprofits are distributed swiftly.
 - b. We will ensure that corporate charitable committees receive their grant dockets by the committed deadlines to enable them to make timely decisions on their grantmaking.
 - c. We will maintain our tight turn-around deadlines between month-end reconciliations and grant disbursements.
4. **One more thing.** We urge you to continue giving to all the areas you traditionally support. This includes the charities delivering on critical needs right now as well as the others that deliver on a full landscape of needs. Some of these groups may not be able to deliver on their programmes right now but when we come out of this, **we want them to still be around**. The nonprofit community is going to need all the help it can get in the wake of this global crisis. We need our community up and firing on all cylinders as soon as possible as we work towards full recovery.

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](#).
- 2) **Keep giving.** Yes, we need to attend to the immediate crisis, but we also need to continue to support the larger nonprofit infrastructure. 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.

Send any queries via email to admin@bcf.bm so that we can coordinate a response to you in a good way.

Thank you as always for your outstanding support. Stay well.