

**DuPage Foundation Deploys \$1.7 Million in COVID-19 Response Fund Grants
to 97 DuPage area Not-for-Profits**

Media Fact Sheet
March 1, 2021

- [DuPage Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) public charity, focused on serving the residents of DuPage County, IL, launched the [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- Created on March 19, 2020, the Fund was quickly funded initially with \$500,000 thanks to the support of generous lead partners including:
 - the Birck Family, the Hyett Family, the [Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund](#), two area private foundations wishing to remain anonymous, Doris K. Christopher and Family, the Shebik Family, and grants from the Gustafson Family Foundation and Snodgrass Family Funds (both of DuPage Foundation), along with scores of contributions from other individuals, businesses and foundations.
- DuPage Foundation's *COVID-19 Response Fund* focused initially on supporting DuPage County not-for-profits that were and still are on the front line in providing critical aid to local residents who have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Initial grant priorities for the Fund included:**
 - Emergency food and basic needs
 - Interim shelter and housing
 - Primary health and mental health services
 - Utility and financial assistance
 - Not-for-profit organizations' safety and technology needs to serve clients while sheltering in place**Subsequently**, funding was secured to support arts-related businesses and programs such as:
 - Museums, theaters and performance organizations such as dance troupes, orchestras, choral groups, etc.
- On April 15, 2020, the Foundation awarded its first round of 21 grants from the Fund totaling **\$300,000**
- On April 24, 2020, 15 grants were awarded totaling **\$200,000**
- On May 29, 2020, 43 grants were awarded totaling **\$500,000**
- On November 20, 2020, 44 grants were awarded totaling **\$400,000**
- On December 22, 2020, 24 grants were awarded totaling **\$300,000**

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For a complete list of the grantees, please [visit this page at dupagefoundation.org](https://dupagefoundation.org).

- To apply for funding, DuPage not-for-profits should visit dupagefoundation.org and complete the [short application](#)
- Grants from the Fund will continue to be awarded on a rolling basis, based on availability of resources, to DuPage County 501(c)(3) organizations, as needs are identified. The Fund will remain flexible to ensure that it supports current priorities as well as those that emerge as more hardships become evident
- DuPage Foundation is sharing the applications it receives with its donor-advised fund representatives as well as other area funders, upon request, to facilitate additional support for DuPage not-for-profits
- The Foundation has also created a [resource page](#) with information and links for donors, not-for-profits, professional advisors, businesses and others about opportunities for aid and charitable incentives available under the new **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**. Visit dupagefoundation.org for more detail.

HOW TO HELP:

- Donors are encouraged to continue giving directly to their favorite charities as they need support now more than ever
- Give to DuPage Foundation's *COVID-19 Response Fund* today at dupagefoundation.org to help in **doing a world of good in our own back yard®** and to be part of a powerful, collaborative response to this crisis for our community

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QUOTES:

- "Our family is pleased to support DuPage Foundation and other local charities in addressing the needs of our community during this pandemic," said **Chris Birck of Naperville**. "My mom, Kay, was a nurse, so healthcare is a very big part of our lives. This is truly a crisis of historic proportions."
- "The support from our community and leaders like the **Birck Family** and so many others during this emergency has been incredible," said **Dave McGowan, DuPage Foundation President & CEO**. "We are grateful for their partnership and encourage others with similar capacity to partner with us in delivering a powerful, collaborative response to this crisis. As our county's philanthropic leader, DuPage Foundation is committed to engaging those with the resources and ability to help to do so. Whether people choose to give directly to their favorite charities or through us, the goal is the same—fuel our local not-for-profits as quickly and efficiently as possible to help them serve our residents who are reeling from the effects of this pandemic."
- "This is a time for all of us in DuPage County to come together to help and support each other," said **Megan Shebik, DuPage Foundation Trustee and Grant Committee Chair**. "I've been deeply

impressed by the collaborative efforts I've seen to date, and am extremely proud of the speed and deliberateness with which the Foundation has acted to create a program to aid our not-for-profits in addressing this crisis for our community. We anticipate that needs within the health and human services sector will be the most critical, but recognize that we must keep flexible in our responsiveness as the repercussions of this pandemic unfold."

- "This emergency funding comes at a critical time," said **Kara Murphy, DuPage Health Coalition Executive Director**. "DuPage Foundation's ability to respond so quickly in this crisis is precisely what makes community foundations so special, a vital link in our local safety net. We will use these funds to help people get the healthcare they need right away."