

# COVID-19 Urgent Nonprofit Funding Needs UPDATED 3/25/20

Nonprofit organizations serving our communities are facing mounting obstacles and disruptions to their missions, just as the people who rely on those services need them most. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation recognizes that in this time of crisis, we can help communicate the needs of nonprofits to the philanthropic community. The funding opportunities included in this list are requests received directly from the nonprofits in our four-county region. The Foundation will continue to share information received from nonprofits in our community on a weekly basis.

## **MKE RESPONDS FUND\*** | [GREATERMILWAUKEEFUNDATION.ORG](http://GREATERMILWAUKEEFUNDATION.ORG)

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, in partnership with local philanthropists and funders, has created a fund to respond to the COVID-19 situation. The Milwaukee Responds Fund will provide resources to organizations working in the Greater Milwaukee area with communities disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of this pandemic. The fund is designed to be flexible and will provide grants for immediate needs including but not limited to organizations addressing basic needs, medical access, those serving aging populations and students as well as those who continue to be affected over a longer period of time.

## **ALS ASSOCIATION WISCONSIN CHAPTER** | [ALSAWI.ORG](http://ALSAWI.ORG)

With the current crisis, ALS is in overtime trying to make sure patients are taken care of and the services they continue to offer are still funded. Throughout the ALS community, COVID-19 is directly affecting the quality of life of ALS patients and their caregivers as they are encouraged to self-isolate/social distance due to respiratory status and lack of mobility, which places them at an increased risk and more susceptible to virus/infection. Caregivers are told to follow the same restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus to the patient. Many caregivers have either had to quit their jobs or take leave without pay, which is placing even more of a financial burden on our families. In addition, ALS is seeing Home Care and respite agencies decrease or suspend services, which jeopardizes patients and creates stress and burden on the caregivers and families. ALS is seeking general support to assist patients and caregivers during this time of uncertainty.

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN\*** | [REDCROSS.ORG](http://REDCROSS.ORG)

The Red Cross has two major areas of focus right now:

1. Keeping the blood supply going: The Red Cross supports around 40% of the nation's blood supply. They are experiencing many cancelations from donors who may either be sick or just concerned over potential exposure during the donation process.
2. Maintaining our ability to respond to disasters: The Red Cross must not waver from this nationwide need. Conversely, they are having to take extra precautions to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers. 90% of the Red Cross workforce are volunteers, many are retired and elderly who are part of the more vulnerable population.

The Red Cross is in need of additional funds to hire, train and educate our workforce and public on the needs of the American Red Cross during this Coronavirus situation. They estimate a need of an additional \$15-\$20 million dollars is required to insure the delivery of their mission.

## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER MILWAUKEE | [BGC MILWAUKEE.ORG](http://BGC MILWAUKEE.ORG)**

BGCGM is critical donations so that the support and services felt by Milwaukee youth does not go away under these unprecedented circumstances. BGCGM is continuously adjusting their meal plan services, which includes strategies of distributing 5 days' worth of groceries and utilizing meal sites. They are also moving program online and creating a "Club at Home" experience for families. Ongoing support ensures that the BGCGM can pivot operations quickly and continue to serve kids in new and different ways as we all enter this new reality and adjust to new norms.

## **CONSERVANCY FOR HEALING AND HERITAGE | [THECONSERVANCY.ORG](http://THECONSERVANCY.ORG)**

One of the few options during the COVID19 crisis is the freedom to get outside and walk on nature trails. The Conservancy's Nature Trails through the forest are a wonderful solution once completed. In addition, they are preparing to support the community with programs focused on stress management, trauma and recovery. The Conservancy is a resource to all as communities deal with the impact of this pandemic. Contractors are ready to construct the Trails and can finish within a month. The Conservancy is seeking \$75,000 to help complete the Trails as a respite during the pandemic.

## **CORE EL CENTRO\* | [CORE-ELCENTRO.ORG](http://CORE-ELCENTRO.ORG)**

CORE El Centro: "creating access, building community, inspiring wholeness" . . . During this unprecedented time of turbulence brought on by COVID-19, CORE's clients and their families are under stress and trying to keep their families safe and healthy. Even though they need CORE's services now more than ever, CORE needed to make the decision to close its doors to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Staff members have been working tirelessly to find ways to reach clients and help them during this difficult time and they are exploring ways to use technology to offer stress reduction techniques and classes that address physical, emotional and mental health and well-being. Now more than ever CORE needs your help! CORE is seeking emergency funding to serve their clients during this disruption of services - and to fill the funding gap that will result from potentially postponed or canceled fundraising events.

## **CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL MILWAUKEE | [CRISTOREYMILWAUKEE.ORG](http://CRISTOREYMILWAUKEE.ORG)**

While no one can predict the economic impact of COVID-19, those with limited financial means will experience disproportionate difficulty to raise their families, pay a bill, buy needed supplies or groceries and more. Today, for those who are inclined and able to help, Cristo Rey established the CRJ Emergency Assistance Fund. This fund will allow them to respond in a way that helps members of the CRJ community through difficulties when a pressing need arises.

## **FEEDING AMERICA EASTERN WISCONSIN\* | [FEEDINGAMERICAWI.ORG](http://FEEDINGAMERICAWI.ORG)**

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin (FAEW) is seeking funding to support a COVID-19 Rapid Response Plan and the unbudgeted expenses they will incur to put it into action. This plan includes pre-purchasing additional food, providing resource support to member food pantries, and an increase in staff overtime hours. FAEW has already spent a significant portion of our discretionary funds to pre-purchase shelf-stable food staples. FAEW is seeking \$240,000/month in emergency response funding.

## **GOOD FRIEND, INC. | [GOODFRIENDINC.COM](http://GOODFRIENDINC.COM)**

Good Friend, Inc. creates autism awareness, acceptance of differences and empathy for individuals on the autism spectrum. They are seeking support staff salaries and support to continuing their autism awareness-empathy services. Good Friend is seeking an investment of at least \$5,000.

## **HEBRON HOUSE WAUKESHA\* | [HEBRONHOUSE.ORG](http://HEBRONHOUSE.ORG)**

Hebron House's executive director is facing an impossible decision. Close its doors, when many other homeless shelters have chosen to do so, or work around the clock to meet the need of the community. Executive Director, Maureen Atwell, has elected to move into the homeless shelter in order to keep its doors open and ensure that staffing is available. Hebron House is looking for funding to expand their bed space during the crisis. In addition to cash donations, Hebron House is in need of cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, soap, and latex gloves.

## **HUNGER TASK FORCE | [HUNGERTASKFORCE.ORG](http://HUNGERTASKFORCE.ORG)**

Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's Free & Local food bank and Wisconsin's anti-hunger leader. In the wake of the recently declared State of Emergency, Hunger Task Force will remain open in service to seniors, low-income households and children throughout Milwaukee County. Primary focus will be to deliver targeted emergency food supplies within the community to well-equipped nonprofit organizations, schools and government institutions. Hunger Task Force will continue its regular food banking operations, providing access to free food for the hungry, by utilizing available USDA commodity foods, purchased foods and donated foods, in addition to generous cash gifts from the community. The most immediate needs are volunteers to help build inventory of Stockboxes, and cash donations to help with food shortfalls and operations.

## **IMAGINE MKE | [IMAGINEMKE.ORG/MKE-ARTIST-RELIEF-FUND](http://IMAGINEMKE.ORG/MKE-ARTIST-RELIEF-FUND)**

Imagine MKE created the MKE Artist Relief Fund. While businesses, governments, and public health officials are working together to stem the tide of COVID-19, many working artists are deeply feeling the effects of multiple and ongoing and cancellations of bookings due to the current pandemic. The MKE Artist Relief Fund that will benefit Milwaukee-based artists who have experienced a financial loss due to a cancelled live event, performance, or engagement. They are seeking to raise \$50,000.

## **MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE | [MATC.EDU](http://MATC.EDU)**

MATC created the Dreamkeepers Emergency Assistance Fund through which students who are juggling scarce funds to meet basic needs including food, medicine and shelter and maintain work and family commitments while continuing their coursework will be supported. In addition to providing grants for basic needs, MATC will supply technology resources to financially eligible students in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Supporting MATC students' basic needs and education is an investment in the future of the region, because 87% of MATC graduates work in the greater Milwaukee area and generate \$1.5 billion in annual economic impact.

## **MILWAUKEE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE (MCFI)\* | [MCFI.NET](http://MCFI.NET)**

The impact of the virus is felt by clients, who may not understand how and why their routine has changed or why their programming has been affected, to employees who are dealing with the stress and impact of lost wages or reduced income. MCFI is seeing a current loss of \$67,000 in revenue per day, and is seeing unbudgeted expenses, including:

- Availability of medical necessities for families whose loved ones have compromised and complex health conditions;
- Increased demand for daily cleaning and disinfecting of supplies for critical programs and operations;
- Unemployment claims from staff whom we have had to ask to stay home due to several program closures or the need to stay home because of school or family issues.

## **MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE | [MILWAUKEECHAMBERTHEATRE.COM](http://MILWAUKEECHAMBERTHEATRE.COM)**

The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre has an urgent need to maintain cashflow - they are at risk closing their doors by the end of the year, if not before.

## **MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN | [DONORBOX.ORG/MIADEMERGENCYFUND](http://DONORBOX.ORG/MIADEMERGENCYFUND)**

MIAD, like many other colleges nationwide, extended its spring break one week while shifting all classes online for the remainder of the semester. All operations, from enrollment, to student support services, the Innovation Center, finances and so on, continue virtually and on a limited basis onsite in compliance with public health guidelines. The safety of the MIAD community and the general community are paramount. MIAD created a Student Emergency Fund that provides support to students facing unexpected needs. Nearly 44% of MIAD students are Pell-grant eligible (lowest-income). While we all may experience some economic impact at this time, those students and their families are likely to experience significant and immediate impact.

## **MILWAUKEE JEWISH FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION | [MJFLA.ORG](http://MJFLA.ORG)**

Many people will face financial challenges as the coronavirus impacts the economy and workplaces. MJFLA offers confidential, interest free loans to people who find themselves in a time of financial need and can be for any purpose.

## **NOTRE DAME SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE\* | [NOTREDAMEMKE.ORG](http://NOTREDAMEMKE.ORG)**

Families have expressed the need for the following ways donors can help Notre Dame School of Milwaukee:

1. Monetary support through the COVID-19 E-Learning and Family Support Fund, which will be used for internet bill assistance for students and families, supplies for at home-learning, and books.
2. Books: NDSM welcomes donations of new or gently used books for our families to read at home. High-quality children's books and novels can be dropped off at the food table set up on the sidewalk on Orchard Street at the Mother Caroline Campus every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7 am to 9 am.
3. E-learning supplies for teachers, including white boards, expo/dry erase markers, phone/tablet stands, and document cameras.
4. Internet bill assistance: Over 92% of NDSM students come from economically disadvantaged families the NDSM team is working to identify which families are in need, the amount of each outstanding balance, and how to most efficiently apply funds to their accounts.

## **PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS | [PROGRESSIVECHC.ORG](http://PROGRESSIVECHC.ORG)**

When the schools closed, Progressive Community Health Centers faced a childcare issue and are facing ongoing challenges for staffing as they continue to meet the need of the community while also facing changing protocols related to testing for COVID-19 and medical coverage for the populations they serve.

## **SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS | [SETONCATHOLICSCHOOLS.COM](http://SETONCATHOLICSCHOOLS.COM)**

Seton Catholic Schools, a partnership of 10 Catholic Schools in Milwaukee County, is experiencing significant unplanned needs and expenses as they support the Seton community during this shutdown including over a million extra copies, limited access to the internet for some families, uncertainty from traditional funding sources and more. Seton has already generated and printed academic packets for all 2,500 Seton students, provided more than 10,000 meals for students and neighborhood children, provisioned for 100% compensation coverage for at least the first three of closure for hourly employees, established practices for protecting students, families and staff and deep cleaned schools and network office buildings. Every dollar will make a difference.

## **SHERMAN PHOENIX\* | [SHERMANPHOENIX.COM](http://SHERMANPHOENIX.COM)**

At the Sherman Phoenix, a vibrant entrepreneurial hub in the Sherman Park neighborhood, 27 small business tenants are reeling to cope with the sudden and dramatic loss of virtually all customers. The majority of these businesses are restaurants and retail stores that depend on high-volume of daily foot traffic. Urgent support is needed for helping Sherman Phoenix's small businesses continue to operate and/or reopen after restrictions are lifted. Funding will provide immediate rent relief for two to three months for all tenants while they recover from the unexpected loss of sales, contracts and perishable products. The goal is to ensure these businesses can reopen, rebuild, and rehire, so that the Sherman Phoenix remains a tremendous asset in our community. The Sherman Phoenix needs approximately \$50,000 per month to support tenants and their employees.

## **UNITED WAY OF GREATER MILWAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTY | [UNITEDWAYGMWC.ORG](http://UNITEDWAYGMWC.ORG)**

The United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County created the COVID-19 Urgent Needs Fund. United Way's nonprofit partners are experiencing increased demand for emergency food service, increased costs for needed medical equipment and for cleaning supplies. Partners organizations who must remain open to serve the community's most vulnerable members have some increased staffing costs either because they are extending hours as needs increase or using staff for things volunteers might have previously done. This fund will support these urgent needs of nonprofits as they arise.

## **UNITED WAY OF NORTHERN OZAUKEE\* | [UNITEDWAYNO.ORG](http://UNITEDWAYNO.ORG)**

As the Coronavirus crisis continues to evolve, United Way of Northern Ozaukee's local nonprofit partners are experiencing increased demand for emergency food, rent assistance/utility assistance and staff time. They have created a COVID-19 Community Relief Fund to help quickly move resources to community-based organizations most affected by emerging health, economic and social impacts of the crisis.

## **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE | [UWM.EDU](http://UWM.EDU)**

Consider making a gift to the UWM Student Emergency Fund, which makes funds available for food, emergency travel and living expenses for students, including those who endure financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER | [URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG](http://URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG)**

The closure of the Urban Ecology Center buildings has caused a loss in essential revenue vital for sustaining their organization. However, amidst the closures, the trails and green spaces around the UEC branches remain open. These parks and green spaces are needed for respite, fresh air, and exercise while practicing social distancing. There has never been a more critical time to support the UEC mission of connecting people to nature. Throughout this closure, generous support is needed to help them weather the storm.

\*One-pager available as provided by the nonprofit.