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## **United Way Bay Area COVID-19 Community Relief Fund Distributes \$4.3 Million, More Support Needed**

**SAN FRANCISCO (May 7, 2020)**— Dollars flowing in phases from [United Way Bay Area's](#) (UWBA) [COVID-19 Community Relief Fund](#) to help residents hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis now total \$4,314,250. These funds have been awarded to 97 nonprofits across eight Bay Area counties that are working tirelessly to support their communities. While \$4.9 million has been raised to date, it represents only a fraction of the \$28.9 million that nonprofits have requested from the UWBA fund. This sobering gap demonstrates the need within our region.

The COVID-19 Community Relief Fund was kicked off by a generous gift from an anonymous donor and has since received donations from Texas Instruments, City National Bank, Truist Foundation, Herbst Foundation, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund, Richard W. Goldman Family Foundation, Actelion, A Janssen Pharmaceutical Company of Johnson & Johnson, Sandia Labs, Dodge & Cox, and MUFG Union Bank Foundation as well as contributions from other corporations and hundreds of individuals. Donations are still needed and can be made at <https://uwba.org/covid19fund>.

“Workers at community nonprofits like food banks and family resource centers are on the front lines of mitigating the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. These heroes need our support to adapt and be effective in this challenging environment,” said Kelly Batson, senior vice president of community impact at UWBA. “Our local nonprofits are working overtime to find ways to help large numbers of newly vulnerable households receive critical services.”

As an example, Community Services Agency (CSA) of Mountain View is a UWBA COVID-19 Community Relief Fund grantee that helps individuals and families on low or fixed incomes, seniors and those who are homeless. The UWBA funds are being used to hire additional pantry staff and case managers, ramp up advertising for volunteer recruitment, provide rental and utility payment assistance to new and existing clients and purchase additional food to meet the increased need.

“Normally we have about 20 to 25 rental assistance cases at CSA. We currently have a queue of 1,500 people, and it's all because of the collapse of the service sector and the gig economy,” said Tom Myers, CSA executive director. “The number of people needing rental assistance is huge, and so is the number of people coming to us on a regular basis for food. The need has really multiplied.”

COVID-19 Community Relief Funds also are helping to support dramatically increased demand for [211](#), an information and referral service provided in the eight Bay Area counties by UWBA, Eden I&R and Contra Costa Crisis Center. Live specialists at 211 provide users with essential information about COVID-19 and referrals to local services that will help them withstand the outbreak's severe economic effects, such as food pantries, rental assistance and utility assistance. The Bay Area 211 system has received more than 31,000 calls and texts since the crisis began in March.

UWBA continues to adapt in executing its ongoing programs, which deliver vital resources and services to vulnerable residents across the Bay Area every day. For example, [Earn It! Keep It! Save It!](#) has moved its free income tax preparation services online and [SparkPoint](#) centers are delivering free financial and career coaching sessions by video conference. UWBA's Labor Community Services program, in partnership with Labor Councils in San Francisco, San Mateo, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, has designed a hardship program to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on union members who do not qualify for unemployment benefits. The program has received 330 applications and has already helped 120 union worker families, including immigrant workers, with a combination of bill payments and grocery and gas cards.

*Donations to the United Way Bay Area Community Relief Fund can be made at <https://uwba.org/covid19fund>.*

COVID-19 Relief Fund grantees include (by county):

### **ALAMEDA COUNTY**

Abode Services  
Alameda Food Bank  
Alternative Family Services, Inc  
Berkeley Food Pantry  
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)  
Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants  
Cornerstone BFWC  
Covenant House  
Davis Street Community Center Incorporated  
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant  
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation  
Family Violence Law Center  
Fremont Family Resource Center  
The Friends of Chabot College  
Mandela Partners  
Operation Dignity, Inc.  
Ruby's Place  
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments, Inc  
St. Mary's Center  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Alameda County  
Tri-City Health Center  
The Spanish Speaking Unity Council of Alameda County

### **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County  
Meals on Wheels Diablo  
Monument Crisis Center  
Monument Impact  
Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Shelter Inc.  
St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County  
The Latina Center

**MARIN COUNTY**

Canal Alliance  
Community Action Marin  
Homeward Bound of Marin  
Parent Services Project  
St. Vincent de Paul of Marin County  
YWCA of San Francisco & Marin

**NAPA COUNTY**

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa  
Napa Emergency Women's Services  
On the Move  
Puertas Abiertas  
UpValley Family Centers

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Asian Pacific American Community Center  
Asian Week Foundation  
Catholic Charities San Francisco  
Central City Hospitality House  
Community Forward CATS  
Compass Family Services  
Dolores Street Community  
Gum Moon Women's Residence  
La Raza Community Resource  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
Mission Asset Fund  
Open Door Legal  
Raphael House of San Francisco  
SF Women's Center (The Women's Building)  
Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization

**SAN MATEO COUNTY**

Coastside Hope  
CORA  
Daly City Community Services  
Home and Hope  
Mental Health Association of San Mateo County  
One Step Beyond, Inc.  
Pacifica Resource Center  
Puente de la Costa Sur  
Samaritan House  
St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County

WeHOPE  
YMCA South San Francisco

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

AACI  
Center for Employment Opportunities  
Community Services Agency of Mountain View  
Community Solutions for Children Families and Individuals  
Grace Solutions  
Jewish Family Services  
Loaves and Fishes  
Life Moves Martha's Kitchen  
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence  
San Jose Evergreen Community College District – SparkPoint San Jose  
Sacred Heart Community Service  
Salvation Army  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
St. Joseph's Family Center  
Sunnyvale Community Services  
West Valley Community Services

**SOLANO COUNTY**

Faith Food Fridays  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano (listed in Contra Costa as well)  
Meals on Wheels of Solano County, Inc.  
Orphan Relief Network, Inc. (dba) Solano Dream Center  
Children's Network of Solano County  
Catholic Charities Yolo Solano

**About United Way Bay Area**

United Way Bay Area (UWBA) fights for financial stability and equal opportunity for residents in eight Bay Area counties. UWBA takes an innovative, holistic approach to ending the cycle of poverty through advocacy and programs that support all ages—providing free access to family support, financial and career coaching, job opportunities and basic needs. More at [www.uwba.org](http://www.uwba.org).

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