

## For Immediate Release

### ***DELAWARE DOES MORE RAPID RESPONSE FUND RELEASES FIRST \$150,000 IN COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS TO HELP DELAWAREANS IMPACTED BY COVID-19***

- *Funding for Critical Needs Like Food, Shelter, Rent, Utilities* -
- *Additional Funds Will Be Released Regularly* -

**Wilmington, DE (March 27, 2020)** --- The *Delaware Does More COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund* (the Fund), managed by United Way of Delaware (UWDE) as part of a coordinated statewide relief effort that includes the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF), the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) and Philanthropy Delaware (PD), today released \$150,000 in community investments aimed at helping Delawareans struggling to find food, shelter, utilities and rent assistance, and other critical services in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

To date, the Fund has raised nearly \$600,000 in pledges, inclusive of today's dispersal. This first round of funding will be followed by regular dispersals in the weeks and months ahead as the Fund grows through additional corporate and individual donations, and as pledges convert to cash. Recipient organizations (*see list below*) were selected by a committee of funders including United Way of Delaware, the Santora Group CPAs, Delmarva Power, DuPont, Chesapeake Utilities Corp. and Highmark Health.

Recipients were chosen for the strength of their on-the-ground operations in key population areas across the state, and because each has the scope, scale and experience to manage emergency relief efforts.

United Way of Delaware President & Chief Executive Officer Michelle A. Taylor said, "Corporate and individual donor response to the *Delaware Does More Rapid Response Fund* has been immediate and heartwarming. Across the state, companies and individuals continue to step up during this unprecedented crisis. Working with these donors, and in cooperation with our colleagues across the

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nonprofit community, United Way of Delaware is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with agencies that are on the ground right now helping Delawareans steer through this troubling time. We are here now and we will be here for the long haul as Delaware recovers.”

Shortly after the initial reports of the COVID-19 outbreak, United Way of Delaware convened a virtual meeting of more than 100 leaders from state government, nonprofits, foundations and community-based organizations to develop a comprehensive, coordinated response to the crisis. One outcome of the meeting was formation of the *Delaware COVID-19 Emergency Response Initiative*, a four-part strategy aimed at addressing immediate and long-term demand for financial help, information and referral services, and coordination of volunteer activities.

The *Delaware Does More COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund*, managed by UWDE, will address near-term demand for financial and other resources; the Strategic Response Fund, managed by DCF, will address some of the operational and capacity needs of nonprofits whose resources are being strained in the current crisis.

Also as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Initiative, UWDE is coordinating with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, the state Division of Social Services, and the Department of Public Health to provide seven-days-per-week service and expanded hours of its **211 Helpline** to provide COVID-19 related referral services for callers. UWDE is also providing volunteer matching services through its **UVolunteer** web portal ([www.uwde.galaxydigital.com](http://www.uwde.galaxydigital.com)).

### **First Tranche Community Investments**

As part of its long-standing relationships with nonprofit agencies across the state, United Way of Delaware will integrate management of these COVID-19 community investments into its ongoing activities with the following organizations, without fees of any kind.

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- The Food Bank of Delaware (Statewide)
- Catholic Charities (Wilmington)
- First State Community Action Agency (Georgetown)
- West End Neighborhood House (Wilmington)
- Jewish Family Services (Wilmington)
- Latin American Community Center (Wilmington)
- Cheer Activity Center (Georgetown)
- Modern Maturity Center (Dover)
- Wilmington Senior Center (Wilmington)

**Partial List of Donors to the Delaware Does More Rapid Response Fund**

A partial list of supporters of *the Delaware Does More COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund* (to date) includes:

- Bank of America
- Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- Delmarva Power
- DuPont
- Exelon Corporation
- Jesse Ball DuPont Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase & Company
- Longwood Foundation
- United Way of Delaware
- Wells Fargo Bank
- WSFS Bank
- ...and many caring individuals from across our community.

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