

For Immediate Release Media Contact:

Brent Porter
VP, Marketing, Communications
and External Affairs
United Way of Delaware
302.943.3505 (Mobile)

***DELAWARE DOES MORE RAPID RESPONSE FUND
RELEASES FIFTH-ROUND FUNDING OF \$453,000
TO HELP DELAWAREANS IMPACTED BY COVID-19
- Funding for Seven Community Based Organizations Across Delaware –
- \$1,084,750 Cumulative Total Released To Date -***

Wilmington, DE (May 21, 2020) --- The *Delaware Does More COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund* (the Fund), managed by United Way of Delaware (UWDE), today released \$453,000 in community investments to help seven community-based organizations across the state serve Delawareans needing food, shelter, utilities and other critical products and services in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Much of the funding has been directed to assist low-income and/or homeless individuals and families. To date, the Fund has released \$1,084,750, inclusive of today's announcement. A sixth round of funding is expected on or around June 4th.

To date, the *Delaware Does More Rapid Response Fund* has assisted 73,200 Delawareans in 30,600 households and has funded 1,163,000 meals. The category breakdown of community investments for all five rounds of funding is as follows:

- Food 44%
- Housing 34%
- Utilities 12%
- Other* 10%

**Other includes transportation, medical and PPE supplies, food preparation supplies, technology and technology access.*

Fifth-round 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 Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware. 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.

MORE

DELAWARE DOES MORE RAPID RESPONSE FUND – 2

United Way of Delaware President & Chief Executive Officer Michelle A. Taylor said, “Now in our third month of addressing urgent human needs across Delaware in the wake of COVID-19, United Way’s Rapid Response Fund today made its single largest community investment yet, thanks in large part to an exceptionally generous gift from Barclays, who is now the single largest contributor to the Fund. We are grateful to Barclays, and to all our donors, including each of our corporate partners and the hundreds of Delawareans who have stepped up in ways big and small.”

Seven Community-Based Organizations Receive Fifth-Round From Rapid Response Fund

Fifth-round recipients of the *Delaware Does More Rapid Response Fund* are:

- **Catholic Charities** (\$25,000): Utilities, housing assistance, mental and behavioral health services for families.
- **Family Promise of Northern New Castle County** (\$5,000): Technology, access and basic need essentials for homeless families.
- **First State Community Action Agency** (\$25,000): Utilities and housing assistance for seniors and homeless.
- **Food Bank of Delaware** (\$225,000): Food preparation and distribution service to individuals in need.
- **Home of the Brave** (\$6,000): Food, utilities, and housing assistance for veterans and homeless.
- **Neighborhood House** (\$17,000): Food, utilities, housing, and transportation for individuals and families in New Castle County.
- **West End Neighborhood House** (\$150,000): Emergency rent and mortgage payments, hotel vouchers, rental assistance, emergency utilities and food for individuals and families.

\$250,00 Longwood Foundation Challenge Grant

Taylor added that, earlier this week, the Rapid Response Fund received a \$250,000 challenge grant from the Longwood Foundation, which the Foundation will pay in full at the end of August if the Fund is able to raise the same amount from other sources by that time.

Taylor said, “The challenge grant from the Longwood Foundation comes at a critical time. With summer approaching and with a dip in the number of COVID-positive cases, some Delawareans may lose sight of the fact that tens of thousands of our neighbors, including many who are newly unemployed, will be dealing with the effects of the pandemic for months, if not years to come. We are inspired by the Foundation’s generous challenge grant and we hope others who may not yet have donated to the Fund, and even those who have, will be similarly inspired to help United Way of Delaware meet the challenge.”

MORE

DELAWARE DOES MORE RAPID RESPONSE FUND - 3

Those wishing to support the challenge grant have three options:

- Online, go to: uwde.org/give4covid
- Text: **derapid** to 41444
- Send a check payable to: United Way of Delaware Rapid Response Fund, 625 N. Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Corporations, Individuals Support Rapid Response Fund

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

- Bank of America
- Barclays
- Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- Delmarva Power, an Exelon Company
- DuPont
- Exelon
- Fund for Women
- Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware
- Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- JPMorgan Chase
- Longwood Foundation
- M&T Bank
- New Castle County Government
- Procter & Gamble Company
- Santander Bank
- Target Corporation
- United Way of Delaware
- Wells Fargo
- Wilmington University
- WSFS Bank
- ...and hundreds of caring individuals

Rapid Response Fund Background

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*. 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 the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF), will address some of the operational and capacity needs of nonprofits whose resources are being strained in the current crisis.

##