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United Way of Greater Toledo
Serving Lucas, Wood,
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Emergency Response Fund Allocates \$1,147,290 to Community

[Dec. 09, 2020, TOLEDO, OHIO] – With the year coming to an end, United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) recently shared that it has allocated \$1,147,290 to community-based programs, via its Emergency Response Fund, as local needs continue to grow.

“Despite all the uncertainties that 2020 brought to our organization, I am proud that United Way pushed forward and found solutions for those in Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County – the people we are committed to serve,” said Wendy Pestrue, president & CEO of UWGT.

In late March, UWGT created its Emergency Response Fund to address mounting human service needs, which were anticipated to exponentially grow as the pandemic closed businesses and generated massive layoffs.

Since the Emergency Response Fund was created, UWGT staff have leveraged \$1,709,702 in public and private grants, individual donations and corporate gifts. Dollars were mobilized as early as May, with additional dollars allocated as late as this month.

The majority of UWGT’s total fundraising amount derived from Lucas County Job & Family Services (JFS). United Way 2-1-1 helped JFS issue \$709,250 in PRC (prevention, retention, contingency) dollars, which gives cash assistance to working families who are facing a financial crisis. An additional \$38,000 was designated from JFS to snack pack builds for local children.

Additionally, \$400,040 has been issued to human service organizations, increasing access to food, providing families with holiday assistance and to purchase computers for Toledo Public School students...to name a few.

Lastly, UWGT was awarded a \$250,000 community development block grant from the City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods, via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These dollars are to be used over an entire calendar year to meet rising food and hygiene supply needs.

This leaves the organization with \$312,412 for future needs, as many federal protection programs will come to an end on December 31, such as housing and mortgage moratoriums, student loan repayments and extended unemployment coverage.

“Community nonprofits, like United Way, with already limited funds, must be thoughtful in how emergency dollars are spent. We need to ensure that investments are not redundant nor duplicative, as it relates to the spending of other nonprofits, foundations and government entities,” said Pestrue.

A complete financial sheet of UWGT’s Emergency Response Fund can be found [here](#), where all programmatic expenditures are outlined in full.

“As much as we all are looking forward to 2020 ending and beginning a new year – the community will unfortunately be left with lingering health and human service hardships for years to come. Nonetheless, United Way is committed to continuing the fight in serving our fellow neighbors, no matter the adversities that lie ahead.”

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