



Town of Palm Beach United Way
44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

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Town of Palm Beach United Way begins distributing COVID-19 Emergency grants; new matching gifts announced as fund total surpasses \$700,000

For Immediate Release – April 8, 2020

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 785-840-4973 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way continues to receive matching gift opportunities for its COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the latest from generous donors **Sally and Bill Soter** and **Susan and Bob Wright**. The Palm Beach couples have each offered \$25,000 dollar-for-dollar matches to help support Palm Beach County residents struggling to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.

“We’re facing a public health emergency that has not been experienced in more than a century, and we all must come together to support each other and offer what help we can,” said Sally and Bill Soter. “We hope another matching gift will continue to inspire others to give as our community works to overcome this devastating disease.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund totals more than \$700,000. The Palm Beach community has helped the Town of Palm Beach United Way match previous gifts from **Christina Dennis, Danielle Moore, the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Foundation, the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation, John and Jana Scarpa and Bill and Norma Tiefel**.

“The Palm Beach community has stepped forward in a remarkable way, offering financial support, resources, expertise and hope during this time of crisis,” said Susan and Bob Wright. “We know that every dollar donated to the Town of Palm Beach United Way goes to individuals and families in our community who need help making ends meet during this difficult time.”

Donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund are being dispersed to local non-profit agencies providing vital social services throughout Palm Beach County. The Town of Palm Beach United Way recently awarded a grant to the Caridad Center to pay for laptops and software to support healthcare staff working from home during the crisis. Grants were also awarded to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County to support its fresh food program for club members and their families, and to YMCA of the Palm Beaches to help essential workers find affordable childcare.

Previously, the COVID-19 Emergency Fund was used to purchase non-perishable food for CROS Ministries, Feeding South Florida, Palm Beach County Food Bank and The Glades Initiative. The fund was also used to purchase medical gloves and masks for the Caridad Clinic and diapers for The Cotton Bottom Diaper Bank.

Other organizations have requested a combined \$419,000 for help providing services such as telehealth counseling for victims of trauma, financial assistance for employees and remote learning software for children with disabilities. A committee of Town of Palm Beach United Way volunteers is in the process of reviewing the requests.

To donate to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org/coronavirus-emergency-fund or call 561-655-1919. Checks should be made payable to Town of Palm Beach

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

United Way with "COVID-19 Fund" in the memo and mailed to 44 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% will go directly to local organizations delivering services to disadvantaged and under-resourced communities most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

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