TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND RAISES $400,000; NEW MATCHING GIFTS ANNOUNCED

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With the help of several matching gifts, the Town of Palm Beach United Way’s COVID-19 Emergency Fund has raised more than $400,000 in two weeks. The money raised comes from four $50,000 gifts that were matched dollar-for-dollar by the Palm Beach community. Now the Town of Palm Beach United Way announces two additional $50,000 matching gift opportunities from John and Jana Scarpa and Norma and Bill Tiefel.

“As the coronavirus situation worsens across the world, the country and in our community, more and more people are going to need help,” said Mr. Scarpa. “We hope this matching gift will encourage others to continue supporting our neighbors in need throughout this crisis.”

The four initial matching gifts were from Christina Dennis, Danielle Moore, the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Foundation and the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

“It is times like this that we all need to come together to support our less fortunate neighbors and our community as a whole,” said Mr. Tiefel. “We all must do our part to lessen the effects of this devastating virus.”

Donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund will be dispersed to local non-profit agencies providing vital social services during this public health emergency. The Town of Palm Beach United Way has already used $25,000 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 $350,000 for help providing services such as childcare for children of first responders, telehealth counseling for victims of trauma, financial assistance for employees and food bags for families experiencing hunger. A committee of Town of Palm Beach United Way volunteers is in the process of reviewing the requests.

“Our agencies are strained,” said Mary Freitas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “They’re losing income but the needs of the clients they’re serving are only increasing. It is vital that we help support these agencies that provide essential services to thousands of men, women and children in Palm Beach County.”

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 United Way with “COVID-19 Fund” in the memo and mailed to 44 Cocoanut 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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