



Humana Foundation and Facebook contribute combined \$600,000 to Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund

Grants awarded exceed \$2.5 million; Focus expands to include longer term recovery

RICHMOND, Va. (May 19, 2020) – The Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund continues to grow with an outpouring of support from individuals and businesses from across the region, including contributions of stimulus checks and from individuals who have fought COVID-19 themselves. Notably, the fund received a significant boost through recent gifts from two national companies with a local presence – The Humana Foundation and Facebook.

Providing a generous gift of \$500,000, The Humana Foundation has designated Richmond as one of its 11 Bold Goal communities across the country. Through this program, they have adopted a population health strategy to improve the health of local residents by investing in programs that address food insecurity and social isolation among seniors – two areas of focus for the Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund.

"The Humana Foundation understands the far-reaching strain the pandemic has placed on many organizations working on the frontlines to provide healthcare, food and employment for those disproportionality affected by the COVID-19 health crisis, and our aim is to remove barriers and help them respond, recover and rebuild," said Walter D. Woods, Chief Executive Officer of The Humana Foundation. "We are supporting the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond because of the role they play in helping Central Virginia community organizations and public agencies assist people most affected by COVID-19."

Facebook awarded \$100,000 to the COVID-19 Response Fund as part of its overall response to the pandemic. This is in addition to their \$250,000 investment in the RVA Small Business Relief Fund, established in partnership with Chamber RVA, and a grant of \$280,000 to Henrico County Public Schools through the Henrico Education Foundation. Facebook has been part of the greater Richmond community since breaking ground on their data center in 2017.

"Henrico is our home, and we are invested in the long-term vitality of the community," said Amber Tillman, Community Development Regional Manager, Facebook. "We are happy to be a part of the Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund and to help provide resources to those who need it most during this difficult time."

As a demonstration of what a community can do when it comes together, the Fund has now raised in excess of \$5.5 million dollars. Since its launch in mid-March, it has also distributed \$2.5 million in grants to approximately 80 local nonprofit organizations and government

agencies. An advisory committee from the philanthropic, business and public sectors are reviewing and distributing grants on a rolling basis.

Established in partnership between the Community Foundation, the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia and Plan RVA, the fund was created with the dynamic nature of disaster situations in mind and, therefore, was designed to remain flexible to changing needs. Early phase grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund focused on emergency response strategies to ensure the health and safety of our community. However, as the region begins to reopen, the fund is expanding its scope to include longer term recovery, primarily through grants to organizations providing eviction prevention remedies, rental assistance and employment support services.

"While the fund will continue to accept emergency requests related to food and health care, we are beginning to look at the longer term, economic impact on individuals and families," said Scott Blackwell, Chief Community Engagement Officer for the Community Foundation.

"Philanthropy often plays a significant role in lifting up people who face barriers to financial stability, but the pandemic has only amplified and exacerbated the need. Through partnerships with contributors like The Humana Foundation and Facebook's Henrico Data Center, we are in a stronger position to help residents in need remain in their homes and return to work."

While challenges continue and new needs emerge, the Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund continues to demonstrate a deep commitment from all sectors to remain attentive, collaborative and solution oriented. The fund is anticipated to continue providing support to local organizations for several more months, or until funds are depleted.

Individual online donations to the fund are processed through United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. United Way also provided \$100,000 in funds to encourage online donations, a milestone that was reached last month.

"Our region's needs are increasing, but so is the community's response," said James Taylor, President & CEO of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. "I am glad to see the Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund expand to meet a broader range of needs and am grateful for the additional support from The Humana Foundation and Facebook's Henrico Data Center."

To view a full list of grants awarded to date, [click here](#). To learn more about the fund or to donate, go to www.togetheroneregion.org.