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May 12, 2020

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Eagan Foundation Grants \$15,200 to Eagan Nonprofits Serving Critical Needs Along COVID-19 Front Lines

EAGAN, Minn. — The Eagan Foundation recently launched its COVID-19 Response Fund to provide rapid-response grants to local nonprofits serving people facing challenges due to the pandemic. The fund has raised nearly \$25,000, including a grant from the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund. Eagan businesses, including Dakota Electric, Dunn Brothers Coffee, Minnwest Bank, and Old National Bank, have also contributed to the fund. Support has also been strong from individual donors across Eagan.

Applications for a second round of the COVID-19 Response Fund grants are due on Friday, May 22nd. This round of funding will focus on essential services, but will include some support for arts and community building organizations.

The grants totaled \$15,200 and were awarded to 14 organizations. Applications exposed the variety of ways that nonprofits in Eagan have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Community Grants Chair David Lutz notes, "while we know Eagan nonprofits are struggling, it is great to see how they rapidly and skillfully respond to the challenges. Resources such as staff, volunteers, and funding have decreased while the number of people in need has increased." Lutz continues, "Eagan nonprofits have been really creative to keep serving our most vulnerable residents by converting services to online formats or finding new ways to deliver services such as food and meals, while in many cases, expanding programs to meet increased need."

Some funds are supporting increased food purchases for food shelves, and the increased need for emergency shelter. Lunches for students who otherwise would have received school lunches, as well as and grocery and gas gift cards, will help stretch families' budgets strained by the current economic crisis.

In addition to the financial impact, the pandemic has created new public health and safety challenges for the nonprofit community. Several organizations received grants to help with the increased need for cleaning supplies, labor, as well as personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers.



Added programming to increasingly isolated seniors and individuals with disabilities, converting programming to an online format, and additional support for mental health services are all examples of the work initiated by Eagan nonprofits.

Executive Director Jamie Hopkins comments, "a recently released Minnesota Council of Nonprofits report analyzing the nonprofit sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic estimates that Minnesota nonprofits have lost about \$1 billion in April alone, due to cancelled events and fundraisers, service disruptions, etc. While we realize these grants are only a tiny drop in the bucket, we are glad to be able to support our community."

The following organizations received funding in Round One.

360 Communities	Loaves and Fishes
Art Works	Meals on Wheels of NW Dakota County
Bowls for BrainPower	Midwest Special Services
Dakota Woodlands	Reaching Up Homework Help
DARTS	The Link
Growing Through Grief	The Open Door
Lincoln Place/Wilder Foundation	TreeHouse

About the Eagan Foundation: The Eagan Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-building organization, with a vision to make Eagan the best place to live, learn, work, and play. Its mission is to invest in Eagan's future by providing community connections, grants and scholarships. The Eagan Foundation, founded in 1990, encourages, supports and enhances ideas, funding and collaborative action to meet community needs. To date, the Foundation has raised and reinvested over \$2 million in the community through scholarships, community initiatives and community grants programs. For additional information, visit www.eaganfoundation.org or email admin@eaganfoundation.org