

Community Cares

March-August 2020



In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic reached Racine County, [United Way and the Racine Community Foundation partnered to provide aid to local nonprofits](#). Community Cares offered support in two ways: financial support in the form of emergency grants and coordinated supply drives directly related to agency needs.

Community Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund

United Way of Racine County and the Racine Community Foundation launched the fund by contributing a combined \$35,000. United Way covered the administrative costs associated with processing donations and allocating grants. Between March and August 2020, a total of \$149,189.87 was contributed to the fund by 245 individuals and organizations. A full list of donors can be found at the end of this report.

Racine County COVID-19 Relief Fund grants ranged from \$1,000-5,000 and were available to 501(c)(3) organizations that were currently funded by either United Way of Racine County or the Racine Community Foundation. Applicants submitted a brief online application, and proposals were reviewed by a committee comprised of United Way and Racine Community Foundation staff and board members. [The fund accepted donations through August 31, 2020](#), and the final grants were awarded in September 2020.

Twenty-seven organizations received 37 grants totaling \$148,395. These are the organizations that received funding and how that funding was invested. Missing summaries will continue to be updated as grantees complete use of the funds.

Organization	Activities/supplies funded by COVID-19 Relief Fund grant
Alliance on Mental Illness of Racine County, Inc.	Funding supported the purchase of software needed to promote virtual educational and support programming and increase virtual support group capacity, allowing NAMI to continue mental health support services during the pandemic.
Burlington Transitional Living Center	Funding supported the purchase of hotel vouchers to ensure safe shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. Reduced shelter capacity due to social distancing protocols, combined with the end of the eviction moratorium and a number of individuals displaced due to an apartment complex fire, led to an increased demand for hotel vouchers.
Catholic Charities	Funding provided basic needs assistance to Racine County individuals and families experiencing financial hardship due to pandemic-related unemployment who could not access other forms of assistance.
Cerebral Palsy Agency of Racine County, Inc./RADD	Funding provided food, cleaning supplies, PPE, toilet paper and other supplies based on individual client needs. Supplies were delivered by program staff to client homes.
Faith, Hope & Love	Funding provided the resources needed to create and deliver 40 Duffels for Kids bags to Kinship Care and Children's Hospital Child Advocacy Care Center to support children experiencing crisis-related trauma.
Family Services of Racine	Funding allowed for the creation of the Here to Help program. Family Service of Racine staff called individuals to check in and see what resources/services were needed. The most prevalent

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	needs in May/June were utility assistance, unemployment assistance, food, cleaning supplies and PPE. In late June/July, the most prevalent needs were rental assistance and child care.
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin	Funding provided 15,000 meals to Racine County residents in need.
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps	Funding supported travel expenses incurred by Great Lakes CCC members who served at food pantries in response to displaced volunteers for over 12 weeks.
HALO, Inc.	Funding provided protective items at HALO, including PPE, thermometers and plexiglass barriers, and food and cleaning supplies for clients in hotels and the housing program.
Health Care Network, Inc.	Funding supported a collaboration with Ascension All Saints' Specialty Care Clinic to provide a safe space for delivering healthcare to high-risk allergy, asthma and immunology patients.
Hospitality Center, Inc.	Funding provided to-go meal supplies, including containers, disposable cups with lids and carry out bags, allowing the Hospitality Center to safely provide meals to clients in a grab-and-go format.
Housing Resources, Inc. - Racine	Funding provided phone, computer, IT services and other supplies needed in order to continue serving clients during the pandemic.
IMPACT, Inc.	Funding supported the additional staffing needed to respond to a pandemic-related influx of 2-1-1 callers and ensure that the resources and services provided to callers were accurate.
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin	Funding supported the creation of a 24/7 support hotline, transition from in-person to virtual support groups and SafeZone Training.
Racine County	Funding aided in the creation of supply boxes distributed to 1,000 low-income families impacted by COVID-19. The boxes contained toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, face masks, hand sanitizer and food.
Racine County Food Bank	Funding supported the creation of emergency family food boxes.
Racine Family YMCA	Funding supported the development, management and administration of the Healthy Living Kitchen and free meal programs, which provided nutritious meals to seniors and students during the spring stay-at-home order.
Racine Friendship Clubhouse	Funding supported the delivery of daily virtual wellness groups, client outreach via phone and email and a pilot of a socially distanced work-ordered day program.
Racine Vocational Ministry, Inc.	Funding supported the purchase of technology needed to facilitate virtual appointments with clients and emergency supplies for participants who had significant losses in household income due to pandemic-related reduced hours and job loss.
Racine Zoological Society	Funding provided PPE for staff and guests, sanitizing stations for guests and animal-safe disinfectant, allowing the Zoo to function while closed to the public and safely reopen for guests.
SAFE Haven of Racine, Inc.	Funding allowed staff to support client assistance to the extent that it was necessary and appropriate to ensure that youth/families had what they needed to succeed as they

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	transitioned to self-sufficiency and independence. Assistance provided was client-specific and included food, cleaning supplies, gas cards, bus passes, PPE and utility assistance.
St. Patrick's Parish - John XXIII Educational Center	Funding supported staffing to ensure that program virtual program delivery and client support continued throughout the pandemic stay-at-home order.
The ARC of Racine County	Funding aided client support through virtual meetings and phone calls and the creation of two support groups - one for disabled adults and one for parents of disabled children, to ensure client access to emotional support and resources to meet basic needs.
Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin	Funding supported the installation of protective barriers at reception desks and the purchase of PPE and sanitation supplies for the safety of clients and staff.
Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc.	Funding provided PPE needed to protect volunteers and clients participating in essential service delivery.
Women's Resource Center of Racine	Funding provided access to emergency shelter alternatives, PPE, emergency food and transportation services, and the creation of a text line available to those in dangerous situations who could not make phone calls.
YWCA of Southeast Wisconsin	Funding supported the adjustment of service delivery to ensure that access to technology and basic technology knowledge do not perpetuate inequities and limit opportunity access for clients.

COVID-19 Supply Drive

In addition to collecting and disbursing funds, United Way of Racine County facilitated connecting donated supplies to organizations that needed them. Racine County nonprofits were invited to submit supply needs and delivery instructions, and United Way shared those needs via multiple communication channels. The lists were updated weekly, ensuring that community members were able to respond to organizations' most emergent needs. Between March and August, 9 organizations listed supply needs on the Community Cares page.

COVID-19 Relief Fund Donors

Thanks to the generous support of the following individuals and organizations, United Way of Racine County and the Racine Community Foundation were able to issue 37 grants.

Advocate Aurora Health	Olatoye Baiyewu	Barbara Blickle
Osmar Aguilar	Daniel Baran	Patrick Bohon
Bryan Albrecht	Clina Barrette	M.T. Boyle
Daniel R. & Juile A. Algrim	Jen Bastron	Ashley Brach
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Jennifer Ashley	Family	Wendy Brudnicki
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Karen & James Zickus, Jr.

United Way of Racine County COVID Relief

United Way of Racine County is committed to continuing to support nonprofits in Racine County in the coming months. A new COVID Relief Fund opened in November 2020. More information is available at UnitedWayRacine.org/COVID-Relief.