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## **Community Foundation for a greater Richmond launches Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund**

### **Financial assistance available for Greater Richmond nonprofits serving vulnerable populations**

Richmond, VA (March 20, 2020) — The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond has partnered with the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia and PlanRVA to activate a regional emergency response fund that will support the immediate and ongoing needs of local nonprofit organizations as they respond to the implications of COVID-19 in our community.

The Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund will be administered as a public/private partnership between philanthropy, local government, and the nonprofit sector. Seeded with a \$500,000 contribution from the Community Foundation, the fund has quickly grown to \$2.6 million with additional contributions from Altria, Atlantic Union Bank, Bank of America, The Cabell Foundation, Capital One, CarMax Foundation, Dominion Energy, Genworth, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, Robins Foundation, VCU Health System, Wells Fargo and several individual donors.

“We are fortunate to see the extraordinary generosity of our community at work every day,” said Sherrie Armstrong, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, “but we are especially proud of the quick and coordinated response of our cross-sector partners at a time of unprecedented need and uncertainty. By working together, we are in a great position to move resources quickly to organizations who need them most.”

Initially, funding will focus on proven community-based organizations who support the physical and emotional health of our most vulnerable residents—including children and seniors, immigrants, people with limited English proficiency and the homeless. The fund will address the operating needs of safety net clinics, food access providers, child and adult care organizations, housing providers for the homeless and nonprofits who minimize disruptions for those who live in public housing communities. Secondly, the fund will consider the hardships of local nonprofit organizations due to lost income or revenue.

The Community Foundation is working closely with the Emergency Management Alliance, as well as peer funders, to proactively assess the impact to organizations and public programs that are experiencing an increased demand for existing or emergency services. A representative advisory committee will manage shared communication and grant decisions to avoid duplicate efforts.

“There is optimism in knowing we are better together, especially in times like this,” said Martha Heeter, Executive Director of PlanRVA. “We are pleased to have established a relationship with

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the Community Foundation ahead of this crisis, which enabled us to activate the response fund quickly and provide a way for our community to give back.”

In addition to financial support, the Community Foundation also manages the region’s volunteer hub – HandsOn Greater Richmond. The team is working closely with organizations to share their most immediate volunteer needs while dealing with coronavirus—from virtual volunteering to projects that ensure essential services can continue. Key partners include schools, food banks/pantries, and homeless shelters.

Learn more about the Central Virginia COVID-19 Response Fund and how you can contribute [here](#).

### ***About the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond***

The Community Foundation is a leading partner and advocate for philanthropy and community betterment in Richmond, Virginia and the surrounding region. In 2019 alone, the Foundation managed over 1,200 charitable funds established by local donors and distributed \$105 million in grants to a variety of causes. Through steady growth, innovative programs and focused services, the Foundation has become the largest community foundation in Virginia, the third largest in the Southeast and one of the preeminent such foundations in the country.

### ***About the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia***

The Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia establishes a forum for local emergency managers, public safety officials, and private non-profit partners to collaborate and enhance emergency management in Central Virginia. The goal is to improve situational awareness in Central Virginia and to provide a place to share ideas and lessons learned while creating partnerships to leverage grant funding for regional projects.

### ***About PlanRVA***

PlanRVA is a regional convener, planning agency and provider of essential services to the localities of the Richmond Region. The mission of PlanRVA is to promote regional cooperation and collaboration between government, private sector and community organizations to improve the quality of life for citizens in the planning district.