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NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

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COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND: AREA FUNDERS AND UNITED WAY OF BROOME COUNTY PARTNER TO CREATE COMMON GRANT APPLICATION FOR NONPROFITS TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSE

VESTAL, NEW YORK (April 6, 2020) – The Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation, and Roger Kresge Foundation have joined the COVID-19 Community Response Fund Alliance, each donating \$10,000 to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund. These dollars will go directly toward meeting the most pressing needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Broome County foundations, and United Way of Broome County have quickly come together to create the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, a funder collaborative that will provide support for organizations that work with individuals and families most negatively affected by COVID-19.

Nonprofit organizations that provide critical services to mitigate the short-term and long-term impact of the pandemic on the community may apply [here](#). This includes programs that address a specific, demonstrated community need related to local COVID-19 response, proposals that build organizational capacity to respond to COVID-19, and general operating assistance to continue meeting COVID-19 related needs in the community.

Participating foundations and United Way are working collaboratively to accept emergency funding requests, using a shared online application in order to simplify and streamline the process for nonprofits seeking emergency funds. This is an efficient model for area funders to respond quickly to nonprofits in need; it is a model being used by other communities across the country.

“Our goal is to help ease the burden on nonprofits in need in the most efficient way possible. The COVID-19 Community Response Fund Alliance is an extraordinary example of collective impact that builds on our community’s history of coming together to support one another,” said Deborah Manley, Administrator, George and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation.

The collaborative funders as of April 6 include: United Way of Broome County, Community Foundation for South Central New York, The Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation, The Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation, and Roger Kresge Foundation.

Applications from nonprofits are now being accepted. Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of the crisis, making it possible to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases.

“Our nonprofit partners are on the frontlines during the COVID-19 public health crisis, delivering critical services, while simultaneously caring for the health and safety of their employees and managing their business operations,” shared Catherine Schwoeffermann, Executive Director, The Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation.



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“Collaborating with other funders across the region to ensure efficient and timely access to philanthropic dollars will guarantee those resources reach the individuals and families most in need without placing an undue burden on the nonprofit organizations providing them,” said Carol Kresge, Executive Director, Roger Kresge Foundation.

In order to be eligible for funding, organizations must be a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, or other charitable organizations which are qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools, faith-based organizations, and other public entities. Grants will help fund front line health and human service organizations that have deep roots in the community and are intended to provide a coordinated response to our region’s most immediate needs. Requests for funding from nonprofits need to focus either on programming, capacity building, or operating assistance.

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund is open to receiving donations. The fund will rapidly deploy flexible resources into the community to support programs and organizations addressing the effects of the coronavirus outbreak across Broome County. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to donate via uwbroome.org/COVID19-ACTION

To donate or get more information:
please visit: uwbroome.org/COVID19-ACTION or text **ACTION** to **85511**

If you are looking for information and resources, United Way of Broome County is working to have the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic at the federal, state, and local Broome County level available to our community. Visit uwbroome.org/latest-information-coronavirus/ to learn more.

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About United Way of Broome County

United Way of Broome County unites donors, volunteers and community organizations in a common mission to drive change that will have a positive impact on the critical needs of our community by strategically leveraging the collective resources of community partners. Our focus is on Basic Needs, Health, Education, and Financial Stability. These are the building blocks for a good life and the cornerstones of a strong community. By combining contributions from individuals and organizations, United Way generates a larger pool of dollars and expertise to tackle the issues that matter most, to help those who need it the most, in ways that achieve the greatest impact. Our work is personal enough to change lives and powerful enough to improve conditions across the community we serve. United Way invites people to come together, LIVE UNITED and create the change we want to see.

About Community Foundation for South Central New York

The Community Foundation for South Central New York is a focal point for philanthropy in the five-county region we serve; Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties. Since our inception in 1997, we have awarded over \$16 million in grants to non-profits, schools, and municipalities in our communities. Our grants have strengthened families through parent education programs, supported young students with preschool and after-school programs, purchased needed equipment for rural-based health facilities, assisted arts organizations with special projects, helped farmers markets expand, built or renovated libraries, theaters and other community-use buildings, provided transportation for seniors, assisted with flood relief efforts in 2006 and again in 2011, and more. The Community Foundation offers caring individuals an effective way to endow their community in a manner that is responsible, responsive, and lasting.

About Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation

The Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation is committed to promoting, nurturing and educating a healthy, economically viable community. Through our grantmaking, we support like-minded organizations and projects that impact current priority needs, with a focus on larger, long-range problems, complex community issues, and collaborative approaches to solutions.



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About The Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation

The mission of the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, created to perpetuate the Hoyts' charitable interest, is to use its resources to enhance the quality of life of the people of Broome County primarily through judicious grantmaking. We are particularly interested in assisting 501(c)3 organizations and related programs that meet an urgent community need and that do not unnecessarily duplicate the work of other organizations.

About George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation

The Mee Foundation invests in projects and programs of qualified nonprofit organizations that support the communities of Broome County, NY, Delaware County, NY, and Cameron County, PA. It is the Foundation's intent through such investments to support the nonprofit organizations in addressing the current issues and challenges within these communities working towards meaningful change and impact in the lives of those they serve.

About Roger Kresge Foundation

The Roger Kresge Foundation believes children deserve a healthy, happy and safe life, with the possibility of a bright future. Mentoring, guidance and education cultivate and enrich individual ability. Investing in our children and youth will not only enhance their lives, it will strengthen our community. With our grant funding, we strive to create possibilities that impact the lives and future successes of children and young adults, by concentrating on programs and organizations addressing the needs and expanding the horizons of Broome County children.