

BACRF Fund Unites the Community

BARRINGTON COMES TOGETHER TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR NONPROFITS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

WHEN THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC shuttered much of daily life as we know it in Barrington this spring, a number of our nonprofit organizations that provide vital services to our community sprang into action, providing meals for children who were suddenly prevented from going to school, supporting our food pantries, and providing mental health resources.

Other nonprofits saw their daily operations grind nearly to a halt, experiencing much the same pain as many of Barrington's restaurants and retail businesses.

To help respond to this crisis in our nonprofit community, the Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF) and the Barrington Area United Way (BAUW), in partnership with organizations from the Healthier Barrington Coalition (including the Barrington Area Development Council, the Barrington Area Ministerial Association, and others), and the Barrington Noon Rotary have jointly created the Barrington Area COVID-19 Response Fund (BACRF).

The goal of the fund is to provide critical financial assistance to qualifying Barrington-area nonprofits during this unprecedented time in our nation's history. Many of our local health and human service organizations are experiencing a surge in demand for services in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The BACRF funds are potentially available to current 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and agencies serving residents within Barrington 220 boundaries.

The fund was launched with an incredibly generous \$100,000 Challenge Match Grant from the Barrington Area Community Foundation. The organizers have pledged to use this challenge grant to match dollar-for-dollar, up to the first \$100,000, all donations that are received from the community to support this effort.

This collaboration is being coordinated by a steering committee led by BACF President Young Chung and BAUW President Patty Jacobsen. The fund's Grant Allocation committee is co-chaired by Tom Burns (BACF) and Leslie Luther (BAUW).

Barrington Area United Way will host the funding and application sites and will manage the financial operations of the fund. Grants will be prioritized for nonprofit organizations that are:

- Providing vital basic needs, services, and resources to disproportionately impacted individuals and families, especially within vulnerable populations.
- Providing increased support services or creating needed tele-health, tele-therapy, and tele-wellness services to reach residents during the lockdown.
- Experiencing financial hardship due to cancelled fundraising events.

HOW TO APPLY

Qualified agencies are asked to complete an online application located on the Barrington Area United Way website at www.bauw.org, as their needs arise. The BACRF Allocations Committee will review the applications, make grant recommendations, and with the approval of the Response Fund Steering Committee, will deploy funds on an on-going basis.

BACRF allocation co-chair Tom Burns, who also serves as a director on a number of the boards in the partnership, says, "The Barrington area is blessed to be a hub of philanthropy. We have many successful nonprofit charitable organizations serving people in need. While we are all financially impacted by the current pandemic, these nonprofits are especially hard hit. Spring fundraising galas and golf events are being cancelled at the very time that the needs these nonprofits serve are surging."

He continues: "BACF and BAUW came together to respond to this 'double hit' that our nonprofits are taking by creating this response fund. BACF and BAUW each have been long-term funding partners of our area's nonprofits, and the fund will help our nonprofits assist those individuals and families disproportionately impacted, especially within vulnerable populations. BACF and BAUW, along with the member organizations of the Healthier Barrington Coalition, have a long-standing relationship with our local nonprofits and will be able to work quickly to resource their work in responding to this crisis."


ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Since its founding in 1999, Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF) has granted over \$2.5 million in the form of over 350 grants to 100 different Barrington area nonprofits through its own annual grant cycle. Current BACF President Young Chung said, "We are tremendously pleased to be able to offer this \$100,000 challenge grant to our community so that we can support the vital missions of the numerous nonprofits that we all depend upon in Barrington."

Barrington Area United Way has been serving the community for 65 years and has allocated over \$15 million to agency programs providing the most critical health and human services to our residents. BAUW Director Leslie Luther says, "I am so gratified to be a part of this important effort in Barrington. BAUW's mission has always been to unite community leadership and resources to improve the lives of our residents. By working collaboratively together we multiply the health and human services impact that we can have in our communities."

The Healthier Barrington Coalition is a membership of 25 nonprofit and governmental organizations that meet regularly to promote and improve the mental and physical health of those in the Barrington area. HBC surveys the community approximately every three years.

DONATIONS ARE MATCHED TO \$100,000 BY BACF

All the members of the sponsoring and partnership organizations wish to thank the community in advance for their contributions to this critical effort. To donate to the Barrington Area COVID Response Fund and have your contributions matched dollar-for-dollar, please visit the Barrington Area United Way website at www.bauw.org, which is taking donations at this time. 

Holly Madden is the current secretary of Barrington Area United Way and has raised 5th-generation children to go through Barrington High School. She is an avid reader and golfer, and a member of the Friends of the Stadium and a Sesquicentennial committee member.