The FM Area Foundation activated its Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties in March to address the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Foundation funded the Community Response Fund with $250,000 to be used as a challenge grant to the community to encourage donations.

“We’ve put in $250,000, and we’re asking people in our community to collectively give another $250,000, so we can mobilize half a million dollars in grants to local nonprofits providing direct services to people in the area,” said Executive Director, Tim Beaton.

Grants from the Community Response Fund go to qualified nonprofit organizations affected by the coronavirus pandemic and those providing services to vulnerable populations throughout Cass County, N.D., and Clay County, Minn.

“Many organizations do not have the luxury to work from home right now. They are helping our communities’ most vulnerable populations. They are concerned about what services they can continue to provide, how to protect their staff and volunteers, and many are having to cancel fundraising events and other programs that support their operations,” said Beaton.

The Community Response Fund was created by the FM Area Foundation in 2017 to help meet the needs of community organizations during and following a community crisis or disaster.

“The flexibility of the fund allows us to respond to the needs of our nonprofit community not being met through other available programs,” Beaton said. “We hope the $250,000 challenge grant inspires community members, businesses and others to give to the fund to help support local charities.”

Thanks to the help of many generous donors, more than $430K has been contributed to the Community Response Fund!

“We are sincerely grateful for your support of YWCA Cass Clay during this unprecedented health crisis. With your support, YWCA will continue to be here when women and children need us most, including during the coronavirus pandemic. Thank you so much for your continued support of providing safety, support and hope to families in our community.”

– Julie Haugen, YWCA Cass Clay
COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND
GRANT RECIPIENTS

The first three rounds of grants have been awarded to the following organizations:

- A Place for Hope - $7,500
- Access of the RRV., Inc. - $7,500
- Afro American Development Association - $10,000
- Arc of Cass County - $5,000
- Barnesville Area HELPERS - $7,500
- BIO Girls $5,000
- BridgePointe Community Church - $5,000
- Cass County Rural Community Emergency Food Pantry, Inc. - $5,000
- CCRI - Creative Care for Reaching Independence - $10,000
- CHI Friendship - $896.76
- Chira Global Development Organization - $5,000
- Churches United for the Homeless - $15,000
- Community of Care - $5,000
- Cultural Diversity Resources - $7,500
- Down Home - $5,000
- Emergency Food Pantry - $15,000
- Family HealthCare - $10,000
- Fraser, Ltd. - $10,000
- Friends of the Children-FM - $10,000
- Heart-N-Soul Community Cafe - $12,200
- HERO - $7,500
- Immigrant Development Center - $10,000
- Jail Chaplains - $5,000
- Jasmin Childcare - $15,000
- Jeremiah Program - $7,500
- Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota - $7,800
- New American Consortium for Wellness & Empowerment - $10,000
- New Life Center - $15,000
- North Dakota Association for the Disabled - $5,000
- PATH ND, Inc. - $12,000
- P’s & Q’s Etiquette - $7,500
- REACH Rural Enrichment & Counseling Headquarters, Inc - $7,500
- ShareHouse of Fargo, Inc. - $7,500
- South Sudan Lutheran Church - $5,000
- South Sudanese Foundation - $5,000
- Tu’deako Group - $3,000
- United Liberian Association of ND - $3,500
- Valley Senior Services - $15,000
- WIN-Libera - $5,000
- YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties - $15,000
- YWCA Cass Clay - $15,000

What the Grant Recipients are Saying:

“I am so pleased and grateful to receive this news. The FM Area Foundation is doing amazing work for nonprofits in our community to help during this time of crisis. Valley Senior Services is honored to receive your support.”
– Chrissy Nelson, Valley Senior Services

“Thank you for the continued and generous support over the years. We are extremely grateful for the support that will allow us to continue our mission! Telehealth has been a lifesaver and the support from the FM Area Foundation is what got the program off the ground last year!”
– Julie Sorby, Family HealthCare

$341,896 AWARDED TO NONPROFITS IN CASS-CLAY FOR COVID-19 Relief Efforts

HOW TO GIVE

Donations to the Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. There are no administrative fees, so more dollars go directly to assist nonprofits impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Help us reach our goal of raising $500K, so we can continue to provide relief for nonprofits affected by COVID-19.

Give online at areafoundation.org/disaster.

Send checks to the address below with “Community Response Fund” noted in the memo line.

FM Area Foundation
409 7th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103
Food insecurity is a reality for many people in our community, and during the past few months, the problem has grown due to the coronavirus pandemic. Heart-n-Soul Community Café, a pop-up café that provides nutritional, locally grown food in the Fargo-Moorhead area, is adapting to meet the needs of those they serve.

Gathering restrictions put in place because of COVID-19 put a hold on their traditional community cafés. Making the decision to adapt to the new normal, Heart-n-Soul Community Café began making sack lunches for individuals in supportive housing, as well as people that may not be served by an agency and need food assistance over the weekends—those with limited resources, transportation issues, and who are in the COVID-19 high-risk categories.

The sack lunches are made by the organization’s Executive Director and volunteers on Fridays at Square One kitchen and then delivered. They partner with Beyond Shelter Inc. and obtain food from local farmers and Great Plains Food Bank when available.

“We have received positive feedback from the residents we’ve connected with and would love to continue this service to ensure no one feels left behind during these times,” said Leola Daul, Executive Director of Heart-n-Soul Community Café.

Each lunch costs approximately $2.60 and includes sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, chips and a cookie. A special uplifting message is also included with the meals to continue their mission of building community. Through initial funding, Heart-n-Soul Community Café was able to provide 275 sack meals to sites across Fargo-Moorhead; however, by mid-May funds ran out. A $12,200 grant from the FM Area Foundation’s Community Response Fund is helping continue the sack lunch program.

“We are grateful to have the opportunity to continue serving and bringing community together throughout the summer with our weekend sack lunch program. Without our additional funds from FM Area Foundation, this would not be possible,” said Daul.

The Community Response Fund has made grants totaling $341,896 to organizations throughout Cass-Clay.

“The goal of the Community Response Fund is to find programs that are truly making an impact on daily life for individuals. Heart-n-Soul’s lunch program is serving hundreds of individuals every week and is a true community effort. It’s a great example of how we are all in this together,” said Lexi Oestreich, Program Officer of the FM Area Foundation.

**History of Heart-n-Soul Community Café**

Heart-n-Soul Community Café began in 2016 to help neighbors share a meal and foster a tight-knit community. Everyone is welcome at the pop-up café to enjoy a nutritious meal, no matter their economic status. The cafés are held in neighborhoods where health equity is at its lowest, such as low-income housing areas.

“Neighbors who cannot always afford to visit a restaurant can come in and enjoy a meal, no questions asked. Those who pay it forward or pay the suggested amount keep our café going so that those who are hungry can feel comfortable and welcomed,” Daul said.

The FM Area Foundation served as the fiscal sponsor for Heart-n-Soul Community Café from 2016 until 2019, when they received their nonprofit status.
LOCAL BUSINESSES CREATE CHARITABLE FUNDS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Many local businesses and organizations are stepping up to help people in our community affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We're honored to work with these businesses to support their philanthropic efforts.

Thomsen Homes Covid-19 Emergency Fund, a fund created by Thomsen Homes LLC to provide disaster relief to individuals, nonprofits, and small businesses to meet unanticipated and unmet needs cause by the pandemic. To date, this fund has collected and granted out $174,575 to 36 individuals and organizations in the Fargo, West Fargo and Grand Forks areas.

All Together FM Fund, a fund created by Drekker Brewing Company and Fargo Underground to provide disaster relief to those individuals in the local hospitality and service industry affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the greater Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead communities. This nation-wide effort, championed locally by Drekker Brewing, is raising dollars through the brewing and distribution of a special beer called All Together. The beer was released to the public on Friday, April 24. More than $24,000 was raised, and grants to 82 hospitality and service industry workers in our community have been awarded.

Hospitality for Healthcare Fund, a fund created by the FM Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, FMWF Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Community Partnership to offer discounted meals to healthcare workers and first responders and to support participating restaurants to help them retain/rehire staff. This program supported nearly 30 local restaurants in our community and provided those working on the frontlines with discounted meals the first part of May.

For information on setting up a charitable fund to support the causes you care about, contact Development Officer Greg Diehl at greg@areafoundation.org or call 701.234.0756.

Message from the Executive Director

To say 2020 has been interesting would be a tremendous understatement. The FM Area Foundation began the year with the exciting news we were approaching $100 million in assets. However, with the plunge in the stock market, we took a substantial step back. The good news is that it now appears that a portion of that “loss” has been recovered.

As the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we closed our office to the public and directed staff to begin working remotely. The absence from a bricks and mortar location has not hindered our work, as we have opened a number of new funds dedicated to providing support to groups in the community and have increased our grantmaking. Our own Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties was activated in March, which to date has distributed $341,896 to nonprofit organizations working in the area of basic human needs.

We have also moved forward with a new loan under our Local Impact Investment Program and have another one in the wings. Our efforts to establish a community land trust is also beginning to bear fruit. We anticipate having at least four homes in the trust by the end of the year.

All of this has to some degree been overshadowed by recent events in Minneapolis. The purpose of the FM Area Foundation has always been to support positive social change in our community. What that may look like is currently unknown, but rest assured we will be part of designing that future.

Timothy J. Beaton, Executive Director
tim@areafoundation.org | 701.234.0756
In times of disaster, our community comes together. The people of Fargo-Moorhead have proven this time and time again, and Thomsen Homes is one company that has stepped up in a big way to help others.

On March 21, Thomsen Homes announced a donation of $50,000 to help organizations, small businesses and individuals in the Fargo-Moorhead and Grand Forks area significantly affected by COVID-19. They asked community members to nominate groups that could benefit from the funding. More than 156 nominations poured in on social media and through their website.

Due to the overwhelming response, Thomsen Homes challenged others in the community to join their effort in giving back. Thanks to a handful of businesses and individuals who answered the call, and an additional contribution from Thomsen Homes, a total of $174,575 was given away to help people in our communities.

“Over the past 13 years, Thomsen Homes has been proud to build quality homes for individuals and families to call home,” said Chris Thomsen, Founder/CEO of Thomsen Homes. “Part of the reason why we love building houses is that we have a passion to enrich the lives of all those we interact with. During these unprecedented times, we felt the need to help in any way we could. Giving back to the communities we serve has always been a core value of ours. With something like this, that impacts everyone, we, along with the other business that contributed, felt this was something we could do to help others when they truly need it.”

Thomsen Homes partnered with the FM Area Foundation to establish the Thomsen Homes Covid-19 Emergency Fund to distribute funds to people and businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Although the times are extraordinary, the response by Thomsen Homes is even more so. They epitomize how people in this area react to need. They dug into their pocket to kick-off the effort and came up with a unique way of both identifying those in need and challenging other individuals and institutions to join them. We cannot say enough how humbled we are by being asked to assist them in this effort;” said Tim Beaton, Executive Director of the FM Area Foundation.

A total of 36 individuals, businesses and organizations received grants from the fund.

“We would like to thank the Fargo-Moorhead/Grand Forks communities for the overwhelming response to the COVID-19 emergency relief fund and the nominations of those in need. Through the generous donation from ten other businesses, the total impact we were able to provide to those in need in our community was truly amazing,” Thomsen said.

We are in this together and we will get through this.

Thank you to the supporters of the Thomsen Homes COVID-19 Emergency Fund!

- Thomsen Homes
- Bank Forward
- Dawson Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency
- FM Title
- Weyer-For-Hire of Fargo
- Anderson Bottrell Sanden & Thompson Law Firm
- Northridge Construction
- DJ Colter Agency Inc., American Family Insurance
- All Seasons Mechanical
- Ferguson
- D & M Industries
- Ben Armbrust
- Daniel Armbrust
The first three rounds of grants have been awarded to the following organizations:

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- **Community Response Fund**
  - $15,000
  - YWCA Cass Clay
  - $15,000
  - YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties
  - $15,000
  - Valley Senior Services
- **YWCA Cass Clay**
  - $3,000
  - Tu’dako Group
  - $3,500
  - South Sudan Lutheran Church
  - $7,500
  - Headquarters, Inc.
  - $12,000
  - PATH ND, Inc.
  - $15,000
  - North Dakota Association for the Disabled
  - $7,500
  - New Life Center
  - $10,000
  - New American Consortium for Wellness & Empowerment
  - $7,800
  - Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
  - $12,200
  - Jeremiah Program
  - $10,000
  - Jasmin Childcare
  - $5,000
  - Heroes
  - $896.76
  - Fraser, Ltd
  - $10,000
  - Family HealthCare
  - $3,500
  - Emergency Food Pantry
  - $10,000
  - Cultural Diversity Resources
  - $5,000
  - Community of Care
  - $5,000
  - Churches United for the Homeless
  - $10,000
  - CCRI - Creative Care for Reaching Independence
  - $7,500
  - Food Pantry, Inc.
  - $5,000
  - Cass County Rural Community Emergency
  - $10,000
  - BridgePointe Community Church
  - $7,500
  - BIO Girls
  - $5,000
  - Barnesville Area HELPERS
  - $10,000
  - Afro American Development Association
  - $5,000
  - Access of the RRV., Inc
  - $7,500
  - A Place for Hope
  - $5,000
  - Fraser, Ltd
  - $10,000
  - Family HealthCare
  - $3,500
  - Emergency Food Pantry
  - $10,000
  - Cultural Diversity Resources
  - $5,000
  - Community of Care
  - $5,000
  - Churches United for the Homeless
  - $10,000
  - CCRI - Creative Care for Reaching Independence

**FM AREA FOUNDATION 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Your community foundation is ready to assist you, your family or your business in fulfilling your philanthropic dreams.

**YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.**

This print piece focuses on the steps taken by the FM Area Foundation—your community foundation—in response to the coronavirus pandemic and the challenges facing our communities. We invite you to learn about the actions we have taken to provide support to nonprofits and assist local businesses with their philanthropic efforts. If you are interested in learning more about these efforts or want to discover ways you can support the community, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. As always, thank you for your support.

**Donor Story**

**COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS**

Businesses have been creating charitable funds at the FM Area Foundation to help give back to the community during these challenging times.

**Grantee Story**

**HEART-N-SOUL COMMUNITY CAFE**

One local nonprofit, Heart-n-Soul Community Café, is providing sack lunches to people in need throughout Fargo-Moorhead thanks to funding from the FM Area Foundation’s Community Response Fund.

**Letter From Tim**

**COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND**

This year has presented new challenges, but the FM Area Foundation continues to provide needed resources to community organizations through the Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties and through the development of new pass-through funds.