

FALL 2020

GIFT *of* GIVING

Special Edition

NEWS FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION



+ A RAPID RESPONSE

GREATER CLEVELAND RALLIES TO HELP THOSE HARDEST HIT BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



\$8.6 million awarded to nearly *160* nonprofits


CLEVELAND
Foundation



Welcome to our fall Special Edition of Gift of Giving, the magazine for donors and friends of the Cleveland Foundation.

This year, our country, our community and our foundation have been faced with the greatest public health challenge in recent memory. The COVID-19 pandemic has rocked the nonprofit community, strained our health care infrastructure, created record unemployment and thrown financial markets into turmoil. In addition, the crisis has disproportionately impacted those who were already most vulnerable and laid bare the racial and socioeconomic divisions that have existed in our society for decades. It is impossible to discuss one crisis without addressing the other – COVID has disproportionately impacted Black communities, and the fallout from the pandemic has forced the country to reckon with the structural racism that has been embedded into our institutions and culture from the very beginning. But as we know, it's circumstances such as these that can also bring out the very best in our neighborhoods and our community.

On March 18, with the support of numerous generous donors and other funders, the Cleveland Foundation mobilized the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to combat the effects of the virus and support those hit the hardest. By the end of July, more than \$8.6 million in grants had been awarded to nearly 160 front-line nonprofit organizations thanks to the contributions of nearly 2,300 donors. It is with this context that we present this – our very first Special Edition of Gift of Giving focused on our community's response and the generosity of donors who are stepping up with resources to enable vital work at a critical time. Our cover story focuses on the Rapid Response Fund, and we are proud to feature other donors and organizations that are rallying to serve their community with a focus on both immediate basic needs and long-term resiliency.

We are also pleased to announce that Cleveland Book Week is moving to an entirely online environment. A week of exciting, virtual literary events will take place from Sept. 29-Oct. 4, including a special streaming film series in partnership with the Cleveland International Film Festival and a Friday Forum at The City Club of Cleveland featuring 2020 Anisfield-Wolf Lifetime Achievement Winner Eric Foner. In addition, the ceremony for the 85th Annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards is being transformed into a television special in partnership with WVIZ/PBS ideastream that will air at 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1. Visit www.Anisfield-Wolf.org for more information on how you can catch these special events.



Now more than ever, we thank you for your partnership, generosity and steadfast commitment to Greater Clevelanders. We stand ready to help you make your greatest charitable impact.

Warm regards,

Kaye Ridolfi, Senior Vice President, Advancement



Announcing the Cleveland Black Futures Fund

In Northeast Ohio and across the country, COVID-19 has disproportionately ravaged Black communities. The impact of the pandemic has made clear that our country has a deadly pre-existing condition: the virus of racism embedded into the DNA of our institutions and culture. Partners came together quickly and collaboratively to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, and the same sense of urgency is essential in the effort to eradicate systemic racism.

The Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors has approved an initial \$2.5 million grant for the creation of the Cleveland Black Futures Fund, designed to invest in and strengthen

Black-led and Black-serving social change organizations. According to 2018 research from The Center for Community Solutions, Black residents in Cleveland are more likely to experience negative life outcomes across socioeconomic boundaries. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights inequities that have been in place for generations, both in Northeast Ohio and across the country.

However, Cleveland is also home to a rich network of Black leaders working on solutions to these problems, and the Cleveland Black Futures Fund will seek to strengthen the ecosystem of Black leaders and Black-serving organizations in Greater Cleveland by providing intentional resources to help grow organizational infrastructure and capacity.

Learn more at www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Futures.

Why We Give: *The M.F. Cachat Charitable Foundation*



▲ John Mastrantoni, Former President

There are many ways to make a charitable impact by partnering with the Cleveland Foundation. Mike Cachat, Bill Head, Ed Sherwood, Bruce Jarosz, John Mastrantoni and Alison Azar Beckmeyer spent years working together at the Lakewood, Ohio-based M.F. Cachat Company, a chemical distributor, and were inspired to establish a Donor Advised Fund to help break the cycle of poverty in Greater Cleveland, with a focus on young people.

When COVID-19 hit, the team knew the community needed its help more than ever. We talked with several members to learn more about the inspiration behind the M.F. Cachat Charitable Foundation Fund and how it's helping the region recover from the current crisis.

What inspired you to create the M.F. Cachat Charitable Foundation Fund?

Bruce Jarosz, Former CFO & VP of Operations: As we concluded our business careers, we recognized that Northeast Ohio was very kind to us, and we now had an opportunity to do something good for the greater community.

John Mastrantoni, Former President: We wanted to continue the spirit, the core values and the culture we'd created at M.F. Cachat. The Cleveland Foundation encouraged us to think about what kind of services we wanted to provide the community.

Mike Cachat, Founder: I'd retired by the time we established the fund, but I was so happy that John took the initiative to get it started. It's a legacy we want to leave.

What is your definition of philanthropy?

Bill Head, Former VP: When you look at its Greek roots, 'philanthropy' literally means a love of humanity. That spirit



▲ Mike Cachat, Founder

of generosity and concern for others was very much a part of our corporate culture.

John: We want to give people an opportunity because that was what was given to us. Personally, for me, philanthropy is a moral responsibility I have to the community for the success that's been bestowed upon me.

Why is the philanthropic community so critical in times of crisis, like the current COVID-19 pandemic?

Mike: There are so many disenfranchised people who were struggling on the margins before, and COVID has magnified that scenario. The pandemic is stressing businesses, putting people out of work and straining safety nets, so funding and philanthropic support are more necessary than ever.

What challenges are you seeing in the community related to COVID-19 and how has this informed your charitable giving?

Bruce: We have our country and our world under this tremendous stress of COVID, and we're seeing the imperfections in our societies become more evident. If you're in a position to help, you've got to do so.

John: We have to keep our focus on youth in the Cleveland area and their families. When you're talking about stopping the cycle of poverty, you have to start with young people. Organizations we fund give critical support to kids and families who need these structures in place now more than ever.

What would you say to others in the business community to encourage them to give back?

John: I like to remind people that if they didn't have the support and right environment, they might not have had the opportunity to achieve what they did professionally.

Alison Azar Beckmeyer, Former VP of Sales: It's all about paying it forward and setting an example. It's great to give money, but you have to be willing to get involved with the organizations if you want to make a real impact.

Visit www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Cachat for a more in-depth look at the M.F. Cachat Charitable Foundation and hear from the team themselves.



▲ Mikki Smith, Vice President of Little Africa Food Collaborative, distributes meals.

A RAPID RESPONSE

In the wake of the unprecedented need created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cleveland Foundation convened a coalition of partners to launch the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to deploy vital resources to nonprofit organizations delivering essential safety-net services across Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties.

On March 15, just days after the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Cuyahoga County, two patients arrived at the nonprofit **Salaam Clinic** with symptoms of the novel virus. Dr. Syed Shoaib Shah, CEO of the MidTown-based free clinic, said they had no choice but to shut down.

The closure forced Shah and his staff to pivot — fast. They set up telehealth services immediately, but the stop-gap solution still left many patients behind.

The Cleveland Foundation and its partners established the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to serve as a buoy to nonprofits, providing a lifeline in the face of unanticipated challenges and expenses as they are forced to dramatically transform their operations. “It was heartening to see how quickly companies, foundations, families, local governments and thousands of individual donors rallied behind Northeast Ohio’s nonprofit organizations during this time of crisis,” said Cleveland Foundation President & CEO Ronn Richard.

Since its launch on March 18, the fund has awarded more than \$8.6 million to nonprofit organizations working on the frontlines of the pandemic in Greater Cleveland thanks to the generous contributions of more than 80 philanthropic, corporate and civic partners and more than 2,300 individual donors.

For Salaam Clinic, which opened in 2019 to provide high-quality, free health care to the uninsured and underinsured, resuming in-person appointments was critical. “A lot of our patients may not have the means to do a telehealth appointment,” Shah said.

With a \$25,000 grant from the Rapid Response Fund, it was able to purchase the equipment and hire the staff it needed to re-open and see patients in person.

MEETING INCREASED NEED

The crisis has rocked nonprofit organizations across the country — all at a time when the need for strong community safety nets has never been greater.

“Requests for food items have increased significantly, almost 300%,” said Max Rodas, Executive Director of **Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center**. Nueva Luz received a \$29,700 grant from the Rapid Response Fund that allowed it to boost its capacity to match those requests. The organization, which provides support services to people infected with HIV and AIDS, has hired additional staff and launched a mobile food pantry.

“Our residents are calling us saying they don’t have what they need,” said Roshawn Sample, Executive Director of **Union Miles Development Corporation**. Union Miles partnered with **Little Africa Food Collaborative** to deliver essential food and supplies to communities on Cleveland’s near east side.

The partnership, funded by a \$97,000 Rapid Response Fund grant, is also creating temporary jobs by hiring workers to make deliveries, addressing another fallout of the COVID-19 crisis—record unemployment.

▲ On the cover: The Abdullah family visits Dr. Simee Malik and nurse Khadijah Ellis for a well-visit at Salaam Clinic.

SUPPORTING SAFETY NETS

Ohio’s unemployment rate hit a 44-year high in April at 17.6%. The number has declined as the state’s economy reopened, but at 8.9% in July, is still twice as high as it was a year ago. The impact has been felt particularly hard by some of Ohio’s newest residents. **The Refugee Services Collaborative**, a 14-agency coalition that helps newly arriving people get settled in the region, is using a \$50,000 Rapid Response Fund grant to provide economic relief.

“We’ve seen 80-85% of the families we serve impacted by layoffs,” said Patrick Kearns, Executive Director of member agency Refugee Response.

The collaborative is providing emergency cash assistance to help families make ends meet, and it’s creating short-term jobs within its member agencies.

A prevalence of chronic health issues like hypertension, COPD and diabetes put Greater Cleveland’s homeless population at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19, according to Judy Burr, Executive Director of **Project Hope for the Homeless**.

Project Hope, Lake County’s only homeless shelter, expanded its hours with a \$22,000 grant from the Rapid Response Fund. “We wanted to get people in off the street for 24 hours a day, seven days a week so they can also stay at home,” Burr said.

But for some, staying at home does not always mean staying safe. For those experiencing domestic violence, isolation with their abusers comes with risks beyond COVID-19. **WomenSafe, Inc.**, is Geauga County’s only emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence. According to Megan Fisher, Development Director, countries around the world experienced upticks in domestic violence reports as people locked down during the pandemic.

The shelter prepared for an influx while continuing to serve its current client base both in the shelter and out in the community. With a \$50,000 grant from the Rapid Response Fund, WomenSafe shifted many of its support



▲ David’s Challenge Young Achievers Ohio teacher Ana Kyvoruchenko assists students with a project.



▲ Staff members Robert, Janeen and Jean Luc help stock the food pantry at Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center.

services to virtual platforms and made changes at the shelter to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Youth organizations are also getting innovative to fill in gaps for Greater Cleveland kids left when schools shifted to remote learning in the spring.

“Most of the kids in our community don’t have access to computers,” said Faith Dickens, Executive Director of **David’s Challenge Young Achievers Ohio**, a youth development organization in East Cleveland. Seeing young people struggling to keep up at home without access to usual classroom resources, David’s Challenge used a \$50,000 Rapid Response Fund grant to purchase IT equipment to download and print assignments, as well as to deliver its tutoring and other enrichment programming remotely.

“Our marginalized communities are being hit so hard,” said Dale Anglin, Program Director for Youth, Health & Human Services at the Cleveland Foundation. “So we are taking great care to focus the Rapid Response Fund on serving the populations that are not getting enough focus.”

The work to support nonprofit organizations dealing directly with the ongoing effects of the pandemic in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties continues. With \$2.5 million in initial support, philanthropic partners across Northeast Ohio have announced the creation of Phase II of the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund, which will focus on three primary areas: Response, Adaptation and Recovery; Racial Justice; and Economic Well-Being and Mobility. Learn more and contribute via: www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Response.

Visit our YouTube channel to hear more from Rapid Response Fund grantees and follow #CLEresponds on social media for updates!

Thank you to all Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund Donors

Support for Phase I of the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund has been made possible by contributions from more than 2,300 individuals and major gifts from:

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First All-Virtual African American Philanthropy Summit Generates Funds for COVID Relief

“Our community needs us now more than ever,” said Cleveland Foundation African American Philanthropy Committee (AAPC) Co-Chair Ronald V. Johnson, Jr. as he addressed nearly 200 participants in the first all-virtual version of the committee’s Philanthropy Summit on May 30.

Established in 1993, the AAPC celebrates the rich tradition of charitable giving in the Black community. The committee has hosted the biennial Summit for the past decade, convening powerful voices in the philanthropic and business communities to discuss the power of strategic giving and raise the visibility of those with the passion and drive to create meaningful change.

This year, the committee welcomed featured speaker Valeisha Butterfield Jones, business leader and Co-Founder and CEO of the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network, who discussed her thoughts on how strategic giving can be a compass for transformational change in uncertain times.

“At this moment in time in our history, we’re in a crisis,” Butterfield Jones said. “But we have the ability and resources within our grasp to actually drive change.”

While the pandemic shifted the format of the 2020 Summit, titled “2020 Vision: Disrupting the Cultural Landscape Through Philanthropy,” the crisis has only underscored the significance of the event and the Legacy Fund. “COVID-19 has created unprecedented disruption,” said Moderator Jeff Johnson, AAPC Committee Member and Chief Curator for Men Thrive, as he encouraged attendees to think of new ways to invest charitable dollars to create the impact needed to help communities rebound.

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black communities, and the pandemic has highlighted social inequities that are contributing to these disparities in Ohio and across the country. Nonprofit organizations serving these hardest-hit communities need more support than ever, said Cleveland business leader Dr. Ellen Burts-Cooper, African American Philanthropy Committee Co-Chair and Senior Managing Partner of Improve Consulting and Training Group. Moments of crisis create urgency for change, she said. “We can accomplish so much when we come together like this, and together we can disrupt the landscape of philanthropy to create the change we need in these challenging times.”



▲ Valeisha Butterfield Jones speaking virtually at the 2020 Philanthropy Summit.

For more information or to give to the AAPC Legacy Fund, visit www.ClevelandFoundation.org/AAPC.

In his opening remarks, Cleveland Foundation African American Philanthropy Committee Co-Chair Ronald V. Johnson, Jr., announced that the net proceeds from the 2020 Summit would be donated to the AAPC Legacy Fund, from which the African American Philanthropy Committee granted \$25,050 to Cleveland VOTES, the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition and Peel Dem Layers Back, three nonprofit organizations helping those most impacted recover from effects of the pandemic.

Cleveland VOTES

To support its efforts to help people exercise their right to vote and stay engaged in civic debate even through the pandemic.

The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

To help address disparities in health, employment, housing and education in Northeast Ohio.

Peel Dem Layers Back

To promote mental health and wellbeing in Black and Brown communities using the culture of hip-hop.

Visit our blog at www.ClevelandFoundation.org/blogs for more information.

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