2021 GRANTS ADDRESS HUNGER, DOMESTIC ABUSE, SENIOR NEEDS, AND MORE

ALSO, FREE BOOKS TO ENHANCE SCHOOL READINESS AMONG YOUNG KIDS

NEARLY $70K GIVEN TO BASIC SERVICES VIA EPCF'S COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

CONNECTING EP NONPROFITS WITH THE 'HUB'

COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION ARE THE GOALS

OUR YEAR-END CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY. CAN YOU HELP?

EDEN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER NOV. 2021
DONATE TODAY; IT’S MATCHED!

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation’s volunteer leaders have pledged a match of up to $20,000 if the community meets or exceeds that amount during the organization’s 2021 year-end fundraising campaign.

It’s the leadership’s way of challenging donors to consider a November or December gift that will allow the Foundation to continue its work to help people facing hardship and to strengthen community services.

Their generosity means that your donation is effectively doubled, so that the Foundation can do more to make Eden Prairie better over the coming year.

Make a donation using the envelope inside this newsletter, or donate on the EPCF website, epcommunityfoundation.org.

Donations of appreciated stock are also welcome and can be easily made by contacting Executive Director Mark Weber at (952) 949-8499.

“There’s more work to be done, so please make a gift today so the Foundation’s work, including its granting program, can continue,” said Weber. “You’ll be making a big difference in Eden Prairie!”

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GRANTS FROM EPCF’S COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND
(as of November 2021)

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation created the COVID-19 Response Fund in March 2020, just as the COVID lockdown was being implemented. Its purpose is to provide quick-response grants to nonprofits meeting Eden Prairie needs related to the pandemic.

**FOOD: $23,000**

- $8,000 to PROP in April 2020 to purchase food at a time when food drives and grocery-store food sourcing was unavailable.
- $5,000 to The Sheridan Story in spring 2020 for food to schoolchildren without access to school lunches.
- $10,000 for PROP’s Summer Food for Kids program in June 2021 at a time when needs were high and food donations were down.

**HOUSING/RENTAL HELP: $31,000**

- $15,000 to PROP for rent and mortgage help.
- $10,000 (including $5,000 from an EPCF donor-advised fund holder) to HOME Line for free legal help to renters.
- $6,000 (including $3,000 from the Edina Realty Foundation) for Onward Eden Prairie’s work to support young adults needing transitional housing during COVID-19 and its employment interruptions.

**SENIOR NEEDS: $2,000**

Funding to Senior Community Services for general operating expenses, including help to senior citizens navigating COVID-19 and trying to connect with appropriate resources, including health care. Also, support to family caregivers experiencing emotional difficulties with COVID-19.

**COUNSELING: $3,000**

Funding supported the “Embrace-a-Family” program offered by the Brighter Days Grief Center in Eden Prairie. It provides basic needs to families that have lost a loved one or who are caring for a terminal family member, and as a result of COVID-19 are also facing isolation, financial strain, and a lack of mental-health resources. The grant benefits EP families.

**PPE & MORE: $1,500**

Grant to Fraser’s Eden Prairie clinic for masks, face shields, thermometers, and personal protective equipment needed to safely re-open the clinic, which helps children with the highest behavioral needs. Also, funding for the “Hope Line,” a free phone line that provides mental-health services for individuals.

**ESSENTIALS: $9,000**

Funding for beds purchased by The PROP Shop in Eden Prairie for approximately 50 families on a waiting list, at a time when COVID-19 had affected employment and stretched family budgets. This grant helped get an estimated 90 individuals off the floor and into brand-new beds.

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THANK YOU! HERE IS WHAT’S AHEAD

The Foundation will continue to provide funding from its COVID-19 Response Fund as residents endure the final stages of the pandemic and its recovery period. Thanks to all of the donors to this emergency fund for making these grants possible.
HELPING MORE PEOPLE BY CONNECTING EP NONPROFITS

More Eden Prairie residents can be helped if the more than 80 nonprofits and civic organizations serving EP are working together.

That’s the premise of the Foundation’s new “hub,” which has volunteer ambassadors reaching out to all these groups, organized into a dozen clusters depending on their missions.

Already, more than half of these volunteer ambassadors are connecting with nonprofits and establishing the kind of relationships that will create more communication and collaboration.

When that happens, the Foundation has a better understanding of Eden Prairie’s biggest needs, and can distribute the resources -- your financial support -- to these needs.

It’s just one leg of the Foundation’s new Strategic Plan, which also has EPCF addressing housing and unemployment issues in a more systemic way.

GRANTS FROM EPCF SUPPORT YOUNG, OLD, AND IN BETWEEN

Donations from people just like you fuel the Eden Prairie Community Foundation’s granting, which in turn gets money to where it’s needed most: helping our Eden Prairie neighbors.

So far in 2021, more than $122,000 has been granted by the Foundation and its fund holders.

This funding has resulted in more food for families that need it. Counseling to people with mental-health needs. Support to older adults who need social services. Help to victims of domestic violence and abuse. And, much more.

Why create a nonprofit hub?

It creates connections ensuring that EP’s greatest needs are comprehensively met without duplication. EPCF strives to be that connector, working collaboratively with our nonprofit partners.

The hub groups organizations with similar purposes and creates a volunteer EPCF ambassador to connect with each.

You can read more about the hub and EP’s new Strategic Plan on the Community Foundation’s website, epcommunityfoundation.org.

When an Eden Prairie preschooler received a free book to take home so she could improve her reading skills -- thanks to a Foundation grant given to the local childhood-screening program -- her mother was elated.

“She had a specific need to continue to work on rhyming in order to ensure reading readiness - so it was wonderful to receive a rhyming specific book!” said the mom.

This is one small example of how the Foundation -- with your financial help -- makes a difference.
WE NEED YOUR BRAIN POWER

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation’s new focus on connecting EP’s nonprofits and tackling issues such as unemployment and housing means more “brain power” is needed.

In other words, the Foundation needs volunteers on the teams and committees working on these issues -- people whose expertise and skills results in the Foundation helping more people in Eden Prairie.

Here are just a few of the current needs:

AMBASSADORS -- We’re seeking the last volunteers in our contingent of ambassadors who connect with other nonprofits.

HARDSHIP TEAM -- This team has already developed an Unemployment Networking Group and is forming a housing alliance.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE -- If you have experience in fundraising, your skills are valuable to the Foundation.

MARKETING COMMITTEE -- The ability to tell a story of progress, to inform and engage residents is like gold to the Foundation.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Executive Director Mark Weber at (952) 949-8499.

IF YOU WANT TO GIVE BACK TO EP, I CAN HELP

I can say with all honesty that, after living in Eden Prairie for 37 years, I have come to know this as a caring, generous community. Eden Prairie has been good to me. Has it been good to you? If so, let me help you give back to Eden Prairie now and leave a legacy later. Here’s how: make a donation, start a fund, leave a bequest, or join a committee. Contact me at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org or (952) 949-8499.

MEET THE EPCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The strength of a nonprofit is a great board of directors. Here’s ours:

OFFICERS
Carlos Berger, Chair
Jay Lotthammer, Vice Chair
Tom Wargolet, Treasurer
Mary Jayne Crocker, Secretary
Tina Palmer, Past Chair

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