In mid-March, the staff and volunteers at United Way of Weld County (UWWC) were preparing to put the finishing touches on the Live United Puttin’ on the Ritz celebration scheduled for the end of the month. But that all quickly changed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We were forced to change our event to still pay tribute to our supporters in a virtual way, and our auction was still held online. We sincerely thank all the bidders who made the auction a success, still raising $28,000.

Angel Flores, a pastor at Mosaic Church in Evans and a fellow board member at UWWC, said at our March board meeting that we’re living in unprecedented times. He was spot on.

In these uncertain times when Weld County residents are in need now more than ever, I am so proud of how your United Way has responded to this crisis and the impact on our communities most vulnerable children, youth, families and older adults.

The UWWC staff, volunteers, community partners and donors have answered the bell and stepped up to the challenge of helping our neighbors in need. We’ve been open for business and our staff and volunteers have been working harder than ever despite the challenges of COVID-19. The majority of our staff have limited their access to our office, but thanks to technology, they have been safely working remotely either a portion or all of their time. On August 3, staff will begin working regular hours at the UWWC office practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Our communication with staff, board of directors, volunteers and community organization partners continue as “usual” through Zoom meetings, trainings and program delivery, and the office at 814 9th St., downtown Greeley, was open from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday to accept in-kind and financial donations at the south entrance during this time.

COVID-19 hasn’t stopped your United Way from meeting the needs of our county.

Throughout this document you will see some examples of the things UWWC has, and continues to do, since the middle of March when the crisis began.

We continue to serve our donors and Weld County residents in need of our help and assistance. We continue to meet our goals and objectives and to coordinate and collaborate for greater effectiveness and efficiency.

I am proud of your United Way of Weld County, and feel blessed to be part of this team of incredible individuals.

In order to continue to do the work we do, we cannot do it alone. Please consider volunteering or donating to UWWC. Call us at (970) 353-4300 or go to www.UnitedWay-Weld.org for more information.

STOP THE SPREAD

Thanks to a sponsorship from JBS USA, UWWC is running a campaign called Mask Up 4 Weld to advocate for everyone in Weld County to wear a homemade mask to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

For many nonprofit organizations, child care centers, health care agencies and schools wearing a face mask is essential in keeping professional staff, volunteers and clients safe from COVID 19. Learn about the need and how you can help by going to:

www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/MaskUp4Weld
Thanks to the generosity of donors, Weld Recovers Fund Distributes $317,922 to Nonprofits in Weld County

Twenty-six nonprofits received $317,922 from the Weld Recovers Fund: COVID-19 Relief in the first four rounds of funding. Introduced by United Way of Weld County and the Weld Community Foundation in March, the money has been distributed so far to nonprofits in need to help support populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help nonprofits that are serving residents with their operations that would have been paid for by fundraising that was lost due to COVID-19 and maintaining staffing levels to continue operations.

- 60+ Ride - food and prescription assistance
- A Woman's Place - cleaning supplies, shelter utilities, food, PPE, client essential needs, refrigerator and salaries/overtime
- Almost Home, Inc. - rent/mortgage assistance
- Boys & Girls Club of Weld County - supplies for “Be Great Boxes”
- Carbon Valley Help Center - rent/mortgage/utility assistance
- Catholic Charities of Weld County - rental assistance
- Envision - basic supplies such as PPE, food, diapers, wipes and paper products
- Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank - food assistance
- Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity - mortgage assistance
- Hope House Northern Colorado - rent, food, diapers, wipes and formula for teen moms between the ages of 15-21 years old
- Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado - rent and utility assistance, medical cost relief, internet access, and transportation costs
- Jobs of Hope, Inc. - rental assistance and job support
- Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy - masks, technology and cleaning of agency
- Neighbor to Neighbor - rental assistance
- North Colorado Health Alliance - motel room rental, food and supplies, cleaning fees to house COVID-19 positive clients experiencing homelessness
- Northern Colorado Veterans Resource Center - shelter, employment assistance, work supplies, food, transportation and crisis intervention
- Salud Family Health Centers - telehealth services
- Stepping Stones of Windsor - (rental/mortgage/utility assistance)
- Sunrise Community Health - COVID-19 screening and testing for uninsured and underinsured, PPE, cleaning supplies and telehealth
- The Greeley Kitchen - meals
- The Salvation Army of Greeley, Colorado - food supplies and delivery, sanitation and hygiene supplies
- United Way of Weld County - diapers, wipes and formula, 24/7 homeless shelter
- University of Northern Colorado Foundation - supply Bear Pantry at UNC with food and essential household supplies
- Weld Food Bank - Kids Backpack program
- Weld Re-8 School District - 28 chrome books for students
- Women to Women - one-time grants to women in need

One-hundred percent of donations are being distributed based on the decisions made from a committee composed of board members from UWWC, the Foundation and volunteers from the community. The funds are being distributed to nonprofit organizations helping people directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic such as: vulnerable populations, particularly homeless communities; those at imminent risk of homelessness; low-income households; older adults; those experiencing food insecurity.

To donate to the Weld Recovers Fund online, go to:
www.unitedway-weld.org/covid-19
or
weldcommunityfoundation.org

Send a check to:
United Way of Weld County,
Attn: Weld Recovers Fund, PO Box 1944, Greeley, Colorado 80632
Weld Community Foundation,
Attn: Weld Recovers Fund, 2425 35th Ave, Ste 201, Greeley, Colorado 80634

“We have helped a lot of agencies who in turn have done a tremendous job of responding to this crisis,”
- Jeannine Truswell, President & CEO, UWWC
Collecting much needed items for Weld County

UWWC has been a collection site for much needed items for health care workers and those working with vulnerable populations in Weld County. Handmade cloth masks, diapers, wipes, snacks, cleaning supplies and more have been collected and distributed to date, a value of $80,971.

The need for these items increases every day. Donations are being accepted 1 - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the UWWC office - 814 9th St., downtown Greeley. Please call the UWWC front office staff ahead of time at (970) 353-4300 before you drop off items.

For the most up-to-date needs please visit: www.unitedway-weld.org/current-inkind-needs.

Housing Navigation Center helping many in different ways

UWWC Housing Navigation Center (HNC), Catholic Charities and the North Colorado Health Alliance teamed up to provide a 24-hour emergency shelter in response to the Governor’s Stay-at-Home Order. Over the 35 days we were open at Island Grove, the HNC day operations served over 200 unique individuals, provided three meals per day and maintained a safe place for people who are experiencing homelessness to shelter in place, and reduce the community spread of COVID-19.

During this time the HNC housed five people and diverted nine people from homelessness and is now working with a local nonprofit, I Heart Humanity, to provide laundry vouchers for the Evans Express Laundry.

The Housing Navigation Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) extended its operations to May 1 due to the COVID-19 shelter at Island Grove. The overnight shelter provided a total of 13,554 nights of stay for 596 unduplicated guests and served 21,000 meals.

The Northern Colorado Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System (CAHPS) provides streamlined and equitable access for northern Coloradoans who are experiencing homelessness. CAHPS is a collaborative effort relying on numerous agencies to achieve success. As of June 1, the following have found permanent housing:

• 401 homeless veterans
• 227 single adults
• 237 families
• 10 youth

AmeriCorps VISTA began full-time teleservice

AmeriCorps VISTAs are participating in online webinars that focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects different nonprofit sectors and offering suggestions to overcome those challenges.

Five VISTA members supported answering 2-1-1 calls and text messages until April 10. Other VISTA members began delivering meals and groceries to older adults in Weld County.
Since March, 16,100 diapers, 161 cans of formula, 583 packs of wipes and 1,477 cloth masks have been delivered to families and providers in need in Weld County.

United Way of Weld County’s Promises for Children (PFC) is coordinating and distributing essential baby supplies to area agencies and families in Weld County, thanks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). To date 392 cases of formula, 2,147 packs of baby wipes and 88,598 diapers were distributed between 18 Weld County agencies/programs. An additional 29,308 training diapers (pull-ups) were just received and will be distributed.

In this ever-changing environment, resources and pertinent information are sent out weekly to key stakeholders, agencies and child care providers.

- 16,100 diapers, 161 cans of formula and 583 packages of wipe have been distributed to families in need. Families and agencies needing supplies should contact Promises for Children, via text (970) 515-3531 or email Amelia@UnitedWay-Weld.org.
- 99 care packages have gone out to child care providers expressing needs.
- 552 disposable masks, donated through the governor’s mask project have been given out so far to child care centers, preschools and school-age.
- 1,477 cloth masks have been given out to home providers.
- 35 Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers have been referred to resources to assist them with difficulties COVID-19 has brought.
- Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care (EQIT) initiative has gone to a virtual classroom for 34 individuals.
- English and Spanish PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes) classes resumed in April via Zoom. English PASO has 10 participants and Spanish has 19 participants utilizing our virtual classroom platform. Participants are able to be connected for their “home” visits virtually. During this time, the UWWC Promises for Children team checks with them on any needs they have physically, mentally or emotionally.


2-1-1 Colorado at United Way of Weld County helping those in need

2-1-1 Colorado at United Way of Weld County (UWWC) has been essential in assisting people during the COVID-19 crisis. Resource navigators have answered over 1,000 calls from Weld County residents who are in need of help and resources. The top reasons for calls have been for rental assistance, utility assistance, food/meals, income support and housing, all signs that our residents are needing more help than ever before with basic need services.

2-1-1 Navigators are reporting that calls are from residents who have never had to ask for help before.