COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives and our sense of safety and well-being. It is a challenging time that has caused all to change our daily routines, connections and communications with colleagues, friends and family. As with any change, we all experience a sense of loss, grief and stress.

Your United Way immediately responded to this crisis and the impact on our communities most vulnerable children, youth, families and older adults. I have had the great fortune of working at United Way of Weld County (UWWC) for over 30 years. In this time we have responded and weathered several community challenges including the closure or move of major generous companies, recessions, tornados and floods. COVID-19 is no exception. While we cannot predict the length nor total impact of this challenge, I have the faith and belief that we will once again weather this challenge.

I have never been as proud of the UWWC staff, volunteers, community partners and donors. Our staff and volunteers have not skipped a beat in our daily operations despite the challenges of COVID-19. Thanks to technology, the majority of our staff have been working remotely either a portion or all of their time, being as productive, accountable and committed as ever. All are working together to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

Meetings, trainings, program delivery and communications remain consistent and robust through phone and video conferencing platforms amongst staff, our Board of Directors, volunteers and community organization partners. We have learned new skills to adapt to this environment. Our office at 814 9th St., Greeley, is open from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday to accept in-kind and financial donations at the south entrance.

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, living united.

I hope you take time to read the details on all that has been accomplished by your United Way in the past few months. This is thanks to you, our partners and generous donors.

STOP THE SPREAD

MASK UP 4 WELD

Wearing a homemade mask can help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Weld County. Together, we can save lives and restore our economy more quickly.

Thanks to a sponsorship from JBS USA, United Way of Weld County 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. We are also collecting and distributing much needed masks for organizations in Weld County who work with our more vulnerable populations. For more information visit: www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/MaskUp4Weld
Weld Recovers Fund Distributes $254,378 to Nonprofits in Need

Introduced by the United Way of Weld County (UWWC) and the Weld Community Foundation (WCF) in March, a total of $254,378 has been distributed so far to Weld nonprofits in need in the first three rounds to help support populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds went to the following nonprofits in need:

- 60+ Ride - food and prescription assistance for those 60-plus years of age
- A Woman's Place - cleaning supplies, shelter utilities and food
- Almost Home, Inc. - rent/mortgage assistance
- Almost Home, Inc. - rent/mortgage assistance
- Boys & Girls Club of Weld County - supplies for "Be Great Boxes"
- Carbon Valley Help Center - rent/utilility assistance
- Catholic Charities of Weld County - rental assistance
- Envision - basic supplies such as personal protective equipment, food, diapers, wipes and paper products
- Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank - food assistance
- 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 for veterans impacted by COVID-19
- Salud Family Health Centers - telehealth services
- Sunrise Community Health - COVID-19 screening and testing for uninsured and underinsured, purchase of critical personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, etc., to ensure effective infection control; 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 without one
- 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 over $40,435.

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 May 18, the following have found permanent housing:

- 397 veterans
- 225 single adults
- 228 families
- 9 youth

AmeriCorps VISTA began full-time teleservice

AmeriCorps VISTA began full-time teleservice

AmeriCorps 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, 11,000 diapers, 150 cans of formula and 375 packs of wipes have been delivered to 388 families 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.
- In this ever-changing environment, resources and pertinent information are sent out weekly to key stakeholders, agencies and child care providers.

Since April 1, over 700 calls were taken via 2-1-1 just from Weld County residents in need during this pandemic.

- 388 home deliveries have taken place. 11,000 diapers, 150 cans of formula and 375 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.
- 276 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 700 calls from Weld County residents who are in need of help and resources. The top reasons for calls have been for rental assistance, food/meals and utility assistance, 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.

Helping children and families

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Visit www.UnitedWay-Weld.org for more information