

**United Way of Racine County
COVID Relief Fund
November 2020-June 2021**



Community Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic reached Racine County, United Way of Racine County and the Racine Community Foundation partnered to provide aid to Racine County nonprofits via the [Community Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund](#). Community Cares awarded a total of 37 grants totaling \$148,395 to 27 local organizations. Community Cares accepted donations [through August 31, 2020](#) and disbursed grants through September 2020.

United Way of Racine County COVID Relief Fund

United Way of Racine County recognized that Racine County residents and the nonprofit sector would need continued support to navigate the pandemic. With this in mind, United Way committed to creating a new COVID Relief Fund. An ad-hoc committee of United Way board members, investment committee members and United Way staff met August-October 2020 to create the framework and application process for this new fund, which [launched in November 2020](#). United Way of Racine County thanks committee members Dave Durment, Jim Holland, Kimberly Kane and Steve McLaughlin for their thoughtful contributions to the formation of the fund.

The United Way of Racine County (UWRC) COVID Relief Fund was established to meet the unexpected and immediate needs of the community related to the pandemic. Funding is still available, and grants range from \$2,500 to \$12,000 and are available to any Racine County nonprofit that serves community members and is a registered 501(c)(3). The UWRC COVID Relief Fund is organized to be flexible in addressing the community’s changing needs as they evolve throughout this crisis. In particular, the UWRC COVID Relief Fund focuses on the community’s areas of greatest need and inequities, such as minority communities that are adversely impacted by COVID-19, areas lacking adequate health care resources and programs that can effectively address immediate areas of community concern – changing quickly as community needs change.

Between December 2020-June 2021, 14 organizations received United Way of Racine County COVID Relief Fund grants totaling \$104,024. An estimated 7,000 community members were impacted by these grants.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, United Way of Racine County has disbursed over 50 grants totaling \$252,419. When combined with two generous donations from the [Morgridge Family Foundation](#), United Way of Racine County’s COVID relief grants from the first sixteen months of the pandemic total \$380,619.

Organization	Summary of COVID Relief Fund Grant Activities
Alliance on Mental Illness of Racine County	Funding supported the implementation of updated phone technology to address best practices for peer support phone lines with caller ID and the ability to pass the call along to 911. Funding purchased much-needed COVID cleaning supplies for NAMI office.
Catholic Charities	Funding empowered case managers to provide direct aid to help Latino families meet basic needs, pay utilities and remain in their homes.

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F.I.N.A.O. Inc.	Funding provided four industrial grade heaters for the pantry warehouse, allowing approximately 50 volunteers to safely prepare for giveaways during the colder months in the warehouse.
Fight to End Exploitation	Funding directly supported victims of human trafficking who needed significant crisis response and restocked personal care items, gift cards, over-the-counter medicine and other necessities for future clients.
Giving to the Nations	Funding supported the purchase of personal hygiene products for distribution via the mobile pantry. These particular items are frequently requested and often not available at local pantries.
Health Care Network	Funding supported the medication assistance program and allowed HCN to continue providing essential medication assistance to the clients in need.
Racine County	Funding provided Racine residents with rent assistance to prevent eviction.
Racine Friendship Clubhouse	Funding purchased equipment and supplies to enhance and expand outreach efforts to new members living with severe mental illness in Racine. Supports included weekly food giveaways and a wellness support group via Zoom.
Racine Vocational Ministry, Inc.	Funding enabled RVM staff to deliver critical supplies to families in financial crisis, including food, hygiene and household cleaning products and pre-paid cell service.
Racine Zoological Society, Inc.	Funding purchased laptops which allowed the education program to pivot to virtual learning and technology that facilitated contactless interactions between staff and visitors.
SAFE Haven of Racine	Funding supported two distinct projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families served by SAFE Haven received PPE and basic supplies needed to survive the pandemic. The GEMS (Girls Empowered by Math and Science) conference was offered virtually to hundreds of local young girls.
The Arc of Racine County	Funding provided adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to virtual connections via iPads in an effort to reduce the isolation during the pandemic.
Three Harbors Council, BSA	Funding ensured a safe environment for youth at summer camp by purchasing extra cleaning supplies and compensating staff for the extra hours needed to thoroughly sanitize the camping facilities throughout the summer.
Women's Resource Center	Funding supported motel vouchers, food and transportation gift cards to victims of domestic abuse.