As Quad Citizens, we have overcome many difficult situations over the years – natural and man-made disasters, economic emergencies – but nothing quite like the health emergency we face today.

For nearly 50 years, our United Way has rallied and unified resources to put opportunity in the hands of Quad Citizens who need it most. Our mission and belief in the power of unity are more important today than ever before.

During this unparalleled moment in time, we are strengthening our commitment to collaboration and addressing the urgent needs of all Quad Citizens as well as longer-term challenges that will affect education, income and health outcomes across our community.

Even as we confront uncertainty and volatility, together with you, we will support our community. As Quad Citizens, we have a history of coming together to take care of one another. And we always emerge stronger than before.

RESPONDING SWIFTLY WITH COLLABORATIVE EMERGENCY FUNDING

Already, United Way of the Quad Cities has taken significant steps to address community needs during this time of unprecedented crisis.

We have joined the Quad Cities Community Foundation in a collaborative effort to respond swiftly to immediate needs and plan for long-term recovery.

The populations we serve are those most vulnerable to economic downturns and health crises. To support their rapidly escalating needs, United Way of the Quad Cities and the Quad Cities Community Foundation have come together with other community leaders and funders in the region to launch a Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

United Way’s Board of Directors approved on March 18, 2020 a $175,000 gift, the largest donation yet, to be added to the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund. This includes a $50,000, dollar for dollar challenge pledge from philanthropist and long-time United Way volunteer, Linda Bowers. This brings the Recovery Fund total to $435,000.

These resources will address current community impact concerns including:

• Shortage of supplies to meet basic health and safety needs (paper goods, hand sanitizer, cleaning products and potentially food).

• Extended closures of school, childcare and after school programs, impacting children’s access to breakfast and lunch programs and parents’ ability to work.

• Nonprofit organizations experiencing challenges due to public health recommendations, with a focus on those that need support to implement remote work or are at high risk of staff reductions.

To contribute to this fund, visit Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund.

www.qccommunityfoundation.org/qcdisasterrecovery
IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR UNITED WAY OF THE QUAD CITIES FUNDED PARTNERS

On March 16, we notified our 36 United Way impact-funded nonprofit partners that we would advance one month’s financial allocation so they are better positioned to respond to immediate needs related to the coronavirus.

2-1-1 AT YOUR SERVICE

Along with our dedicated supporters, United Way of the Quad Cities provides 2-1-1 phone service, the go-to information resource in times of crisis. Every year, 2-1-1 specialists answer thousands of requests by phone, text, chat and email to connect people with disaster, food, housing, utility, health care resources and more. 2-1-1 is working closely with our state health officials to provide accurate updates to the public.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

As advocates for our community, United Way of the Quad Cities has been working closely with our congressional offices, encouraging swift passage of legislation regarding COVID-19. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act includes many provisions that will support families and communities served by United Way, including people who rely on Medicaid and federal food programs. The legislation has passed the U.S. House and Senate and we look forward to sharing details on how the act will benefit individuals and families in the Quad Cities.

OUR EMPLOYEES, WORKPLACE AND VOLUNTEERS

We’re taking all possible precautions to ensure the safety of our employees, partners, volunteers, and the individuals and families we serve.

Our office in the TBK Bank Building in Bettendorf is closed through March 31. Our team is working remotely.

While volunteerism remains core to our mission, in an abundance of caution, United Way and our partners have decided to cancel or postpone all upcoming volunteer events.

We will be working to provide our volunteers with virtual opportunities soon.

We will thrive as a community by confronting this challenge together and taking care of one another. We hope you will consider a personal or corporate donation to the Quad Cities Disaster Relief Fund. Our community is proud and resilient, and we will get through this together.

Stay safe,
RENE GELLERMAN
President & CEO
United Way of the Quad Cities