



April 5, 2020 (via email)

***From Hope Woodhouse, President***

I would like to give everyone an update on work the United Way's COVID-19 Community Response Fund has done to date, especially since I sit on the Committee allocating the Funds. For perspective, due to our employment base which is high in hospitality (16% vs. 10% in Florida) and an older population (65+ represents 32% of the population vs. 17% in Florida), the impact in our county will be significant.

\$126,500 went out last week for rent assistance (Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council), utilities assistance (Economic Opportunity Council), food (Treasure Coast Food Bank, Food Pantry, United Against Poverty, Source), and formula (Buggy Bunch and Care Net).

This week the Community Response Fund allocated \$71,000 with a focus on Seniors. Some positive and inventive actions are going on at Senior Resources. First, Meals on Wheels added capacity thereby eliminating their wait list and have started serving requests for the under 60 population. Second, with Senior Resources vehicles (Community Coach and Go Line) being underutilized, they are working out the details to deliver essentials (prescriptions and groceries) to seniors without access to transportation.

Also on the positive side, Treasure Coast Food Bank is doing food trucks (Friday at the High School). United Against Poverty has access to funds for out of work hospitality workers. The VNA mobile unit has moved full time to the Walmart parking lot and waived any Copay. Additionally, the School District has offered tablets to all students who need them to facilitate on-line classes, and Xfinity is providing free WiFi for 2 months.

While there are positive things happening, I do not want this to lessen how concerned I am about our community, and the issues facing it. I anticipate that the John's Island Community Service League will be providing additional monetary support over the weeks to come.

Stay home and be safe.

Hope