![Greater Sullivan STRONG logo]

Greater Sullivan County Community Relief Fund

Impact Report
April 1, 2020- October 31, 2020

Funded irrigation equipment to create water source for new garden system

Funded mobile program for people to gain access to interview clothing

Funded a dishwasher for proper sanitization of toys in the center

Acknowledgements

Greater Sullivan Strong would like to thank the many funding partners who have donated to the Community Relief Fund. Without your generosity, many of the Greater Sullivan County community partners, whose work supports some of our most vulnerable populations, would be unable overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and thus unable to provide their services. We thank Dartmouth-Hitchcock Population Health, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Philanthropy, the Endowment for Health, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the many local donors of Greater Sullivan County.

In addition, Greater Sullivan Strong would like to acknowledge the work of our fiscal agent, Sullivan County and our fundraising entity, Sullivan County United Way for their dedication to the region. These organizations both came forward in a time of need to help support the local community in preparing for and recovering from the challenges caused by COVID-19. We are grateful for their continued partnership.

As we continue in the mission of Greater Sullivan Strong, to activate in times of crisis to increase community capacity, health equity, and resiliency, these partners allow our region to continue to be...

By The Numbers

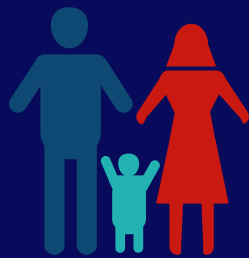|		
	44 **Number of non-profit requests granted**	Over $120,000 have been granted to non-profits in Greater Sullivan County to support families and individuals experiencing difficulties during the pandemic through the Relief Fund
	1,600 **Snacks**	The local community college was able to purchase $600 worth of snacks for students to grab and go during the school day. This was in addition to their food shelf on campus
	350 **Participants**	Court Diversion serving Greater Sullivan County was able to take a small grant and upgrade their internet and wifi to better support 350 program participants in better connectivity
	20 **Clients**	The Community Relief Fund helped to establish a mobile model for professional clothing delivery to help those enter back into the workforce after losing employment. More than 20 clients have been served

Organizations That Have Been Provided Funding Support

Family Supports

TLC Family Resource Center
Baby Steps Family Assistance
Valley Court Diversion Program
Sullivan County Humane
Society
Southwestern Community
Services
Shining Success
Millie's Place

Food Access

Got Lunch! Newport
Claremont Soup Kitchen
Kearsarge Kares
Kearsarge Food Hub
Charlestown Community
Garden
Kearsarge Lake Sunapee
Community Food Pantry
Colby-Sawyer College
Sullivan County Nutrition

Maintaining Older Adult Health

Maple Manor Apartments
Claremont Senior Center
Kearsarge Council on
Aging- Chapin Center
ServiceLink
Lake Sunapee VNA and
Hospice

Health and Other Organizations

Sullivan County Oral Health
Collaborative
Headrest, Inc.
West Central Behavioral
Health
The Center for Recovery
Resources
The Greater Claremont
Chamber of Commerce

Millie's Place

Millie's Place is a sober club that hosts 12-step meetings such as AA meetings on a daily basis and has been serving the Recovery Community for decades. Because of COVID-19 we were forced to close our doors between mid-March and the end of June. Millie's relies heavily on its monthly member's dues and the AA 7th Tradition donations in order to pay its bills. During this closed period, Millie's saw very little income from these sources. The Millie's Board met in June to discuss the reopening plans and we were met with the real possibility that we would run out of money and might have to close our doors after decades of serving the community.

We are eternally grateful for the grant money which is being used to pay 3 months of rent and utilities so that we can continue to hold AA meetings and provide referral service and sponsorship to those in need. It is hard to say exactly how many people that were helped directly by the funds as the AA meetings are anonymous but attendance normally falls between 10 and 20 people per meeting and we are currently holding 4 meetings per week. Since the money is also being used for rent and utilities for future months there are people that will be helped going forward.

TLC Family Resource Center

TLC Family Resource Center is currently serving 73 families and approximately 35 recovery clients in addition to 20-30 walk-in clients per month. The Community Relief dollars were used immediately to purchase protective equipment that allowed us to start meeting with clients in our offices.

These funds were received just in time for TLC to be able to create safe spaces for our staff to meet with families.   TLC converted our playroom into a safe meeting space by installing a large air filtering system and a plexi-glass sneeze guard.   TLC had been meeting with families outdoors, but on one rainy day, it was clear that this would not always be an option. The indoor space was used for a 1 ½ hour meeting with a parent and her 18 month old who are working on their reunification goals. This had to be a supervised meeting, so being able to provide a safe space for everyone involved was critical.

Kearsarge Food Hub

Kearsarge Food Hub is able to serve nearly 500 people through partnerships with food pantries in the area, plus an additional 75+ people through partnerships with the Kearsarge Regional School District school backpack programs. With the new cold storage space, we are confident that we can sustain and even grow these numbers with greater capacity for storing foods all year long.

The relief dollars took a little longer to remedy challenges inherent in food distribution related to cold storage due to financing and manufacturing delays. The original plan when we applied for funds was to use what we received to build a makeshift cooler using an insulated room and coolbot technology. However, because a generous major donor was able to contribute funds to this project, we were able to get a brand new 10x14 walk-in cooler installed at our headquarters. This piece of equipment is high quality, reliable, commercial grade, and complies with all food safety requirements, now enabling us to take our food security efforts to the next level.

In our grant application we aimed to see a 25% increase in food security efforts with this storage capacity. That being said, our food security programs have grown by nearly 300% so far this year and we are committed to expanding them further, and this new cold storage will be key in allowing us to do so.

Valley Court Diversion

VCDP has significantly upgraded its internet service. Your support made it possible for us to hire a licensed electrician to rewire the access conduit, have new Comcast hardware connected, and have a Datamann technician on site to switch our internet service from the old provider to the new one. We are no longer bogged down by outages or dropped connections when video-conferencing. The higher monthly cost to us is worth every penny; thank you for bridging that gap until we identified a revenue stream to cover the additional expense.

The COVID-19 Community Relief Fund money enabled us to better serve all Court Diversion participants. Eight full-time employees, with a total of about 350 open and active cases, gained fast and reliable internet service.

Your funding is having a tremendous impact on the work we do. As I mentioned, all staff and all participants are benefitting. Our office has been closed to the public since mid-March, so we have been operating remotely for seven months. We've been pleased that we've been able to adapt relatively painlessly to pandemic conditions. People continue to violate the law, and we continue to address these matters via evidence-based, restorative justice programs instead of punitive, regressive measures often dictated by the formal criminal justice system.