

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of LaPorte County Urges Those who Can to Support the COVID-19 Relief Fund
Uniting Our Community to Help Those Affected by COVID-19

(LaPorte, Indiana)—LaPorte County’s local United Way has launched the United Way of LaPorte County COVID-19 Relief Fund to raise financial resources to support the immediate and emerging needs of individuals who are losing their income and are unable to pay their bills as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Many LaPorte County families are falling into the gap- making too much money to qualify for services but not making enough to make ends meet,” said Kris Pate, Executive Director of United Way of LaPorte County. “In the coming days, not knowing how business closures will impact take-home pay of employees, we expect to see a significant increase in LaPorte County families requiring access to supports such as rent or mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and for those who are still working, financial assistance for childcare services.”

In addition to the over \$200,000 granted by United Way of LaPorte County to local funded agency partners this year to provide services, the COVID-19 Relief Fund will help support those and other local nonprofit partners serving the increasing number of families with emerging needs caused by this current crisis. As of yesterday, we have an anonymous donor who has pledge to match, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000 for financial gifts to the relief fund. Now is the time to give!

Working with our established Financial Stability and Basic Needs Collective Impact Collaboration, 211, and their broad network of community partners, United Way of LaPorte County is identifying immediate needs and will make funding and resources available to providers serving families in LaPorte County. The web-based, volunteer matching system, Northwest Indiana Regional Volunteer Center at www.covid19.nwivolunteer.org/, will allow agencies to register their volunteer needs and seamlessly recruit volunteers, minimizing person-to-person contact. Please do not forget the need for blood donations at this time. The American Red Cross blood supply has dwindled to seriously depleted levels. To find a blood donation site or to schedule a blood drive at your business, contact Kristine Kaplan at 260-385-3889 or email her at kristine.kaplan@redcross.org.

“Right now, we are calling on our community and our corporate partners to come together and support struggling individuals and families. This pandemic is a health crisis, but it is an economic crisis as well, and we intend to be here to support those being affected,” says Pate, “100% of your donation goes to support the United Way of LaPorte County COVID-19 relief efforts.” “These funds will not be used to support the United Way of LaPorte County regular annual campaign or be used to pay for any administrative costs. Please consider making this gift in addition to your United Way annual campaign gift that is still so greatly needed to support our work and the work of our many partner agencies throughout the county,” added United Way of LaPorte County board chair, Angie Nelson Deutch.

To contribute to the United Way of LaPorte County COVID-19 Relief Fund, please visit www.unitedwaylpc/relief or contact United Way at info@unitedwaylpc.org.

For people experiencing hardship and employers who want to offer an immediate resource to their employees, you can dial 211 or visit the 211 website that covers LaPorte County residents at <https://in211.communityos.org/> to learn what services are available.

For questions about this relief effort, please contact our Executive Director Kris Pate at info@unitedwaylpc.org.

Please note, in accordance with current CDC recommendations, the United Way of LaPorte County offices are closed, and our staff are practicing social distancing by working from their homes. You may call the office at (219) 210-3534 or email us at info@unitedwaylpc.org and your call will be returned as quickly as possible.

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