

Catawba Connect: COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

www.CatawbaConnect.org

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Contact: **Macy Whitener**
mwhitener@arrasfoundation.org

Catawba Connect: COVID-19 Relief Fund grants \$50,000 to 10 local organizations

Latest round of grants awarded to nonprofit organizations serving critical COVID 19 related needs for residents of Chester and Lancaster Counties

Lancaster – Catawba Connect has awarded \$50,000 from the Catawba Connect COVID-19 Relief Fund to 10 local organizations who are providing public health education and direct assistance to members of the community impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

“Even as COVID-19 remains a challenge, we continue to be inspired by the generosity and commitment of this region to assist with ongoing needs of organizations and individuals so they may survive and get through this moment,” said Kristin Fairfax, Executive Director of United Way of Chester County.

Catawba Connect: COVID-19 Relief Fund is designed to complement the ongoing work of public entities and to expand the capacity in Chester & Lancaster counties to address emerging needs due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Since launching in late March, the Fund has raised over \$152,000 for relief funding in Chester & Lancaster Counties. Donations and pledges have come from 110 individuals, corporations, churches, and other organizations.

“Working together with over 40 active community volunteers, we’ve heard the tremendous needs surrounding things like mental health services, family support, and basic needs assistance. These are just a few examples of the immediate impact this effort has been able to make so far with grants awarded,” said Steve Sherrill, co-chair of Catawba Connect. “The collaboration of all parties involved from the Arras Foundation, United Way of Chester County, United Way of Lancaster County and the 40+ community volunteers has been incredible. Partnership is the most powerful tool in helping our community in a time of need. Working together is essential to overcoming the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and I am confident that the work we’ve been able to do as a group will continue to help our community recover.”

The latest round of grants includes:

- \$5,000 to **Battered But Not Broken** for family and personal safety, social service resources, unemployment resources, and mental health support
- \$2,500 to **Communities in Schools (CIS) – YouthBuild** for distribution and use of personal protective supplies and food assistance

- \$4,000 to **Giving In a Needy Time (GIANT)** for distribution of personal protective supplies and education on healthy behaviors
- \$8,000 to **Golden Care** to assist in providing safe environment with personal protective supplies
- \$2,500 to **Horse N Around** to assist in providing a safe environment with personal protective supplies
- \$2,500 to **Lancaster County Community Center** to provide a safe environment to access resources
- \$9,750 to **MUSC – Chester** for distribution and use of personal protective supplies, and COVID-19 testing resources
- \$9,750 to **MUSC – Lancaster Medical Center** for distribution and use of personal protective supplies, and COVID-19 testing resources
- \$5,000 to **NAMI Piedmont Tri-County** for mental health support
- \$1,000 to **Revitalizing UR Neighborhood** for distribution of personal protective supplies and education on healthy behaviors

Established by the United Way of Chester County, United Way of Lancaster County, and the Arras Foundation (formerly J. Marion Sims Foundation), the Catawba Connect: COVID-19 Relief Fund launched on March 20 and will continue raising funds through the summer. Grants are awarded by an advisory group of over 40 local leaders. For details regarding grantmaking and how to apply, please visit www.CatawbaConnect.org.

“This second round of grantmaking proves that even during the toughest time we’ve seen in decades, we still rise to meet the needs expressed by our fellow residents and organizations trying to do good for others,” said Susan DeVenny, President & CEO of the Arras Foundation. “This effort sets the stage for what we are capable of doing, even in the toughest moments, and while we do not yet know when this pandemic will end, we are confident in the generosity and spirit of our community to care for all people.”

To give to the fund and learn more about the Catawba Connect: COVID-19 Relief Fund, please visit www.CatawbaConnect.org. Corporations and foundations that would like to make a donation may contact Susan DeVenny, President & CEO, Arras Foundation, at sdevenny@arrasfoundation.org or Amber Jackson, Executive Director at United Way of Lancaster County, at exec.director@uwaylcsc.org.

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United Way of Chester County

The mission of United Way of Chester County is to help people by uniting contributors, citizens and agencies in a common effort to determine, develop, support, deliver and monitor effective human programs and services that are responsive to current community needs and wants in Chester County.

United Way of Lancaster County

The mission of United Way of Lancaster County is to improve lives by bringing citizens and resources together to identify and respond to human service needs in Lancaster County.

Arras Foundation (formerly J Marion Sims Foundation)

Dedicated to the health and wellness of all residents of Lancaster County, Fort Lawn, and Great Falls, SC for 25 years, the Foundation joins with partners to work together so that all people can thrive.