Donations provide relief to people impacted by COVID-19

None of us ever predicted that by mid-March our lives would change in such a fundamental way. For everyone’s safety, KV CAP made the decision to close our offices to the public on March 18th. We immediately began researching and implementing new ways of doing business, so we could continue to support individuals and families during the Governor’s stay-at-home order. From the beginning, we knew we would need unrestricted funds to address the unique issues caused by the coronavirus.

We asked, and sure enough, people gave. And gave generously! We were in awe of the number of individuals, businesses, and foundations that reached out with financial donations to help people that were suddenly facing a financial crisis. The majority of funds have been earmarked to provide direct financial assistance to people in need. We rapidly developed an application and guidelines so we could deploy these funds quickly and effectively, while reducing as many barriers to access as possible. A portion of the funds are also being used to support operations, including new technologies that allow us to continue to deliver services while practicing physical distancing.

“We simply could not do this level of intense, vital work without these contributions,” states Suzanne Walsh, KV CAP’s CEO. “We genuinely appreciate the on-going support during this unprecedented time. Our donors consistently demonstrate their generosity and dedication to those facing financial challenges, which is a clear testament to the kindness and compassion of Maine people.”

In addition to our current clients, a record number of people are reaching out who never needed this type of help before. Many laid-off workers have waited several weeks for their unemployment to begin, with self-employed people waiting even longer. It is important to note that not everyone even qualifies for this benefit despite a prior work history. We hear the stories of depleted savings accounts, mounting bills, lack of adequate income, and fears about their financial futures.

However, because of our amazing donors, we are here and TOGETHER we are helping people and changing lives!

A sampling of services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic

- More than 5,000 meals have been delivered or distributed.
- Nearly 20,000 diapers were provided to families in need – for a while they were almost as hard to purchase as toilet paper!
- Over 2,000 people have accessed information, referrals, educational activities, social supports, direct financial assistance, transportation, and/or other provisions since mid-March.
- KV CAP received and processed 1,390 Maine Housing Rental Relief program applications. Approximately $270,000 in rent relief has been distributed to date.
- To learn more about KV CAP services, visit www.kvcap.org or call 207-859-1500.
Rental Relief Program

Maine Housing partnered with KVCAP throughout April and May to implement the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Relief program, which provides a one-time payment up to $500 to assist with rent. Due to high demand, this program is now extended through June 2020.

If someone is in need of rental assistance and has lost significant income due to COVID-19, and they did not receive rent assistance in April or May, they can apply directly on the Maine Housing website at mainehousing.org. If they do not have access to the internet, they can receive help completing the application by calling KVCAP at 859-1500.

Golf Tournament: New Date!

Due to the COVID-19 regulations for large group gatherings, the 6th Annual Tee-off for Transportation – Mark K. Johnston Memorial Golf Tournament that was originally scheduled for June 26, has been postponed until October 2, at Lakewood Golf Course in Madison. Contact Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or andreap@kvcap.org FMI.

Celebrating NeighborWorks America Week!

On June 6-13, NeighborWorks America and its network of more than 240 local organizations are celebrating the 37th annual NeighborWorks Week. What NeighborWorks organizations have in common is a deep and abiding commitment to creating opportunity for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their communities.

As a Charter Member, NeighborWorks helps KVCAP by supporting our affordable housing projects. For example, there are three homes currently under construction at Cony Village in Augusta. They also provide support for our homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention and home repair programs, and they offer free, extensive training opportunities for our staff to secure various certifications. We value their support and it is making a tangible difference in Central Maine!