

March 25, 2020

C.D. Spangler Foundation and National Gypsum add \$1 million to COVID-19 Response Fund, raising overall total to more than \$10 million

Fund launched by Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas supports local nonprofits that are assisting impacted residents

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CHARLOTTE – The C.D. Spangler Foundation and National Gypsum announced a \$1 million commitment to the COVID-19 Response Fund, a community-wide effort to assist those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The donation raised the fund total to \$10 million in a little over a week.

Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas launched the fund on March 16 to support a range of nonprofit organizations assisting members of the community, particularly those most vulnerable. Donations have come from various sectors: corporations, local governments, individual philanthropists and foundations.

“Our family felt it was very important for the C.D. Spangler Foundation to commit to this humanitarian effort,” said Anna Spangler Nelson, “and we are grateful that so many in our community are coming together in support of one another.”

“Because National Gypsum is headquartered in Charlotte, this community campaign is important for our company and our employees,” said National Gypsum Chairman and CEO Tom Nelson. “It is encouraging that the COVID-19 Response Fund will be working quickly to help those that need it most.”

Community members are urged to donate at HelpCharMeck.org. Local agencies and nonprofits are already feeling the strain to deal with increased needs as the economy tightens, local unemployment rates increase, longer school cancellations cause disruptions and those without insurance face additional challenges getting the care they need.

“The Spangler and Nelson families, along with National Gypsum, have long shown their generosity toward important community causes; today is no different,” said Foundation For The Carolinas President and CEO Michael Marsicano. “We are seeing the best of the human spirit through such extraordinary gifts. I am so grateful to these philanthropists.”

Donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund have ranged from a two-dollar commitment from an anonymous online donor to \$1 million gifts from LendingTree, the City of Charlotte, the Howard R. Levine Foundation, Truist Financial Corporation, Bank of America and Lowe’s Home Improvement, with the largest gift from Mecklenburg County totaling \$1.3 million.

“That we’ve already raised \$10 million in a little over a week is a testament to the generosity of those who have given so far – governments, private businesses, foundations and philanthropists,” said United Way of Central Carolinas President and CEO Laura Yates Clark. “We are so grateful for their compassion and commitment to this cause. But much more is needed to assist our nonprofits in providing critical relief to thousands of residents already suffering from the impacts of this pandemic.”

NEWS RELEASE

The COVID-19 Response Fund is administered through a partnership between Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas, in close coordination with the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Grants are awarded by an advisory group of community members and will be open to any agency that meets the eligibility criteria. The advisory committee may elect to make grants directly to organizations based upon the urgency of the need or through a competitive grantmaking process.

Interested 501(c)3 nonprofits in Mecklenburg County can visit uwcentralcarolinas.org/grants/COVID for more information.

To contribute to the COVID-19 Response Fund, visit HelpCharMeck.org. Corporations and foundations that wish to make a donation may contact either Catherine Warfield, Senior Vice President of Philanthropic Advancement at FFTC, at 704.973.4515 or cwarfield@fftc.org; or Clint Hill, Chief Development Officer at United Way of Central Carolinas, at 704.371.6359 or chill@uwcentralcarolinas.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is the sixth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$2.7 billion, FFTC's mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit www.fftc.org.

About United Way of Central Carolinas

United Way fights for the education, health and financial stability of every person in our region, improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of local communities in Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Mooresville/Lake Norman, and Anson, Cabarrus and Union counties. For more information, please visit uwcentralcarolinas.org.

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