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**For immediate release**

## **Wayne County Community Endowment Establishes Emergency Relief Fund to Help Nonprofits Assisting Residents Affected by Pandemic**

The Wayne County Community Endowment has established the **Wayne Emergency Relief Fund** to accept donations from the community to support nonprofit organizations that are providing critical help to local residents adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The ripple effects of this crisis have taken a toll on nonprofit organizations that have been valiantly serving Wayne County and our many neighbors in need,” says C. J. Britt, chair of the Endowment’s Advisory Committee. “It’s up to all of us to ensure that these essential services continue to be available.”

Since its founding in 1984 with a portion of the estate of Nettie Bullis, the Endowment has awarded more than 550 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million to provide consistent and critical support to nonprofits serving Wayne County.

Whenever there is a crisis, the focus tends to be on what can be done right away. The Wayne County Community Endowment wants to help communities, organizations, businesses, and nonprofit agencies get back up and running as soon as possible and make sure resources are available for future needs that arise once the pandemic has abated. For that reason, the Endowment plans to support three phases of funding:

- **Emergency relief**, which focuses on immediate and urgent needs of human service organizations that provide help to the county’s most vulnerable residents;
- **Recovery relief**, which supports nonprofits serving Wayne County as they return to normal operations and typical staffing; and
- **Resiliency relief**, which helps nonprofits that are crucial to our communities’ ability to thrive.

The first major gift to the Emergency Relief Fund is \$4,041 from the C.H. Stuart Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting charitable causes throughout Wayne County. Hank Stuart, a member of the Wayne County Community Endowment’s Advisory Committee, also serves on the board of the Stuart Foundation.

Every dollar of every gift will benefit Wayne County and its residents. Any individual, family, business or organization can make a contribution to the Emergency Relief Fund. Donations can be made online using a credit card at [www.racf.org/WayneRelief](http://www.racf.org/WayneRelief) or mail a check payable to Wayne Emergency Relief Fund, c/o Wayne County Community Endowment, 500 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

Anyone with questions about the Relief Fund or contributions of stock or non-cash gifts, contact Jonathan Hoose [jhoose@racf.org](mailto:jhoose@racf.org). Nonprofits interested in learning more about how to apply to the Relief Fund, contact Sara Bukowiec at [sbukowiec@racf.org](mailto:sbukowiec@racf.org).

***About the Wayne County Community Endowment:*** *This Endowment was established in 1984 with a portion of the estate of Jeanette "Nettie" Bullis to begin a permanent endowment that supports the county's changing and evolving needs. The Endowment is under the guidance of an all-volunteer, all-local Advisory Committee. Since its founding, the Wayne County Community Endowment and its affiliate funds have distributed more than \$1.2 million in grants to support nonprofit organizations serving Wayne County as well as scholarships to help students attending college or trade schools.*