

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND FOR STORY COUNTY IMMIGRANTS

October 2020

Dear friend:

When the pandemic hit Iowa in mid-March, we had no idea how long it would be with us or the extensive damage it would do: Over 7,000 individuals in Story County lost their jobs (from February to July 2020), many more were furloughed or had their hours reduced, and countless households dealt with the anxiety and stress of physical illness and the many unknowns.

For immigrant households, this damage was and continues to be particularly severe. Not only do many Story County immigrants work in the hard-hit service sector (restaurants, hotels), but many are ineligible for the safety-net benefits such as coronavirus stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, city and state eviction prevention programs, and more. This is in spite of the fact that many paid taxes (through their ITIN). Additionally, immigrants with U.S. citizenship or permanent residence - those technically eligible for governmental benefits - have struggled to complete the extensive paperwork required given limited English, literacy levels, and/or limited technology access.

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants has provided critical shelter from the pandemic storm. With multilingual caseworkers and other trusted community members leading the Fund, we have been able to assist 95 unduplicated immigrant households from throughout the globe. Not only have we helped pay nearly 400 rent and utility bills, but we have worked to connect immigrants with long-standing community partners to supplement our dollars and, hopefully, to build a network of sustainable support.

Of course, without you and our other donors, our work would not be possible. To date, we have received over \$150,000 in donations from individuals, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and others. The depth of caring is heartening in these difficult times. We have received many notes of thanks - thanks owed to you! As one of our recipients wrote, "Ustedes hacen un buen trabajo." (You are doing good work).

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us care for our neighbors.

Anneke Mundel, Community Impact Director at United Way
Nancy Heideman, St. Cecilia Volunteer
on behalf of the entire Immigrant Fund Committee

Our Impact

By the numbers:

- 293 donors, including 23 institutions
- 387 rent and utility payments made
- 95 unduplicated immigrant households helped
- 146,219 dollars allocated

Early fall 2020 survey results:

- 81% stated the Fund helped reduce household stress
- 78% stated the Fund kept their utilities connected
- 59% said the Fund helped connect them with other essential community resources
- 44% said the Fund spared them eviction

Allocation Committee (caseworkers, landlord liaisons, and conveners):

Susan Benner (AMOS)
Jamel Colton
Rick Exner (AMOS)
Chuck Glatz (St. Thomas)
David Hansen (ASIP)
Nancy Heideman (St. Cecilia)
Awein Majak
Anneke Mundel (United Way)
Soledad Slowing-Romero
Kathy Trahanovksy (St. Thomas)

Additional Steering Committee Members:

Maria Alcivar (ASIP)
Diane Birt (AIRA)
Ariadna Davis (ACCESS)
Nancy Foote (Bridges
International)
Pr. Eileen Gebbie (Ames UCC)
Linda Hanson (Ames UCC)
Randi Peters (Bethesda)
Amy Erica Smith (Ames UCC)
Donna Vandehaar (AMOS/
Collegiate United Methodist)
Mary Ellen Wishart (St. Thomas)

Active Partners (in addition to those listed above):

Good Neighbor Emergency
Assistance (Lori Allen)
MICA (Abra Dougherty)
The Salvation Army (Cari
McPartland)

Institutional Donors 2020:

Ames Friends Meeting
Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance
Ames Jewish Congregation
Ames Pride
Ames UCC
Beta Sigma Phi
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Burke Family Foundation
Chapter MI PEO
Collegiate Presbyterian
Collegiate United Methodist
Church & Wesley Foundation
First Christian Church
Hernandez-Bachen Family Fund
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Shelter Foundation
Sisters of the Heart
Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque
St. Anne's Circle (St. Cecilia)
St. Cecilia Catholic Church
St. Mary's Circle (St. Cecilia)
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
United Way of Story County, Inc.
Wheatsfield Cooperative

I was able to keep my children safe in this pandemic due to help with my rent and my bills. I sincerely thank you for your help.

“Mantener a salvo a mis hijos en esta pandemia con ayuda de mi alquiler y mis billes. Agradezco enormemente su ayuda.”



As the weather turns cold, we all know the importance of a roof over our heads and a furnace to keep us warm. If you are able, please help us continue to support immigrant households in paying their rent and keeping their power on. With only \$5,000 left in our account, we need the community's support now more than ever.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made via check to St. Cecilia, 2900 Hoover Ave, Ames, IA 50010 ("Immigrant Fund" in memo line) or via GoFundMe online: <https://gf.me/u/yk8dfj>.

Thank you!