Community philanthropy is one of West Virginia’s greatest advantages.
Before 2020, West Virginia was already dealing with substantial challenges—and, at the same time, pursuing incredible opportunities. The state’s philanthropic sector was always leading, working, and investing behind the scenes, responding to both immediate and long-term challenges. This work has often been done with great humility. It has almost always had a significant impact.

While COVID-19 hit later in West Virginia than in other states, we felt the effects quickly. Food insecurity spiked when schools closed. The sudden drop in commerce threatened small businesses. Students’ sudden need for distance education exposed the true depth of the digital divide across the state, and a population already struggling with diabetes, obesity, and other chronic health conditions lost much-needed access to health care.

But nonprofit organizations across the state stepped up at historic levels to respond. Our community foundations, United Ways, and other nonprofits leveraged the networks they already had in place and worked, in some cases, literally around the clock to respond to the immense need. As the need has risen to more than 300 percent of a regular year, they are still responding to the needs of now and the future.

Collaboration among nonprofits, philanthropy, businesses, and government is the lifeblood of this year for our citizens, nonprofits, and communities to survive and thrive. West Virginians are naturally generous in supporting their local community foundations and nonprofits across the state, thanks to long-time donors increasing their giving and new donors joining the call. Community foundations and our nonprofits are forging new partnerships, crafting innovative solutions, and embracing the renewed focus on the greater health and well-being of our citizens and vitality of our communities.

This surge of energy speaks to the hopes of every community across the state for the coming decades. We can harness this momentum together to do tremendous, creative new work, to lift West Virginians up toward a brighter future. Our community foundations are a nimble, ready resource for that work—and it’s never been more important to support them.

Leading Us Through Challenging Times

At a time of need that no one saw coming, West Virginia’s community foundations had a long-standing network in place. Now they’re even more ready to build for the future.

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WEST VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS and the counties they serve

1. Beckley Area Foundation
   Fayette, McDowell, Raleigh, Webster, and Wyoming

2. Barbour County Community Foundation
   Barbour

3. Boone County Community Foundation
   Boone

4. Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley
   Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Tyler, and Wetzel

5. Community Foundation of the Virginias
   McDowell and Mercer

6. Community Trust Foundation
   Mineral

7. Doddridge County Community Foundation
   Doddridge

8. Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation
   Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, and Morgan

9. Foundation for the Tri-State Community
   Cabell, Mingo, and Wayne

10. The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
    Boone, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam

11. Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation
    Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas

12. Hampshire County Community Foundation
    Hampshire

13. Hardy County Community Foundation
    Hardy

14. Hinton Area Foundation
    Summers

15. Little Kanawha Community Foundation
    Calhoun, Gilmer, and Wirt

16. Logan County Charitable and Education Foundation
    Logan

17. Mingo County Endowment Fund
    Mingo

18. Nicholas County Community Foundation
    Nicholas

19. Parkersburg Area Community Foundation & Regional Affiliates
    Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood

20. Pleasants Community Foundation
    Pleasants

21. Ritchie County Community Foundation
    Ritchie

22. Snowshoe Foundation
    Pocahontas

23. Taylor County Fund
    Taylor

24. Tucker Community Foundation
    Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, and Tucker

25. Webster County Community Fund
    Pocahontas, Randolph, and Webster

26. Wyoming County Community Fund
    Wyoming

27. Your Community Foundation
    Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor

To contact your local community foundation, visit keep5local.org

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Acting Strategically

The Parkersburg Area Community Foundation & Regional Affiliates serve 11 counties—10 in West Virginia and one in Ohio. When COVID-19 hit in March, its small staff swiftly adapted to working remotely while building a strategic and inclusive multi-phased plan.

**Phase One** Address basic needs via a speedy and simplified process. PACF reached out to organizations addressing food insecurity and individual financial hardship. The Foundation filled gaps quickly as it learned about the unique needs generated by the pandemic.

**Phase Two** Supply general operating funds to nonprofits experiencing increased demand for services or decreased revenue due to COVID-19. These essential grants focused on health, human services, youth and family services, and community development organizations.

**Phase Three** Maintain community-critical arts and cultural organizations to keep the life in local communities. PACF joined forces with individual donors, corporations, and other funders to help money go further. Meanwhile, the Foundation maintained its important ongoing work. Its annual 24-hour online Give Local MOV campaign received resounding public support—a record year, at $425,000. And PACF partnered with area employers to host its summer Civic Leaders Fellowship project, employing 22 young people for seven weeks.

Since April 1, PACF has supported 57 agencies with more than $315,000 in COVID-relief grants for operating support, food and critical resources. “In addition to money, we’ve supplied hope for our region that by working together, we can get through this pandemic,” says Executive Director Judy Sjostedt Ritchie.

Playing the Long Game

The Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley sees the response to extraordinary community needs as one of its essential roles. So in March, CFOV created an Emergency Impact Fund to provide operating grants that would enable organizations in its eight-county service area—six in West Virginia and two in Ohio—to continue their work under the strain of COVID.

Strong and supported nonprofits play a critical role in improving the quality of life for all, in CFOV Executive Director Susie Nelson’s view. “We know our area’s nonprofit organizations seek to make the Ohio Valley better in diverse and meaningful ways,” Nelson said at the time. “Many of those organizations serve vulnerable populations and provide opportunities to strengthen and support individuals, families, and those in recovery. These same organizations rely on resources of all types that are quickly diminishing in the current environment. The Emergency Impact Fund is just one way we can help keep critical work from stopping.”

Donors responded generously. By mid-September, CFOV was proud to have disbursed almost $200,000 in flexible operating grants, focusing its assistance on nonprofits that support basic human needs.

But because the pandemic continued, the Foundation launched Emergency Impact Fund 2.0. It redirected its annual Community Impact funding stream and appealed once again for donations, and donations flowed in. By mid-November, CFOV had granted over $260,000 to 53 organizations. Its COVID relief efforts continue with the aim of leaving the area’s nonprofits in strong condition when the pandemic ends.
2020 Summit on Race Matters
This year wasn’t only about COVID. With international protests against the killing of George Floyd, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation seized the moment to host a follow-up to the 2014 Summit on Race Matters in West Virginia. This six-session, virtual series held from August to December addressed systemic barriers that impede Black West Virginians from participating fully in moving the state forward. The topics—like criminal justice in September and housing and wealth inequities in December—generated enthusiastic discussion. This passionate engagement gives President Michelle Foster hope for changes in policies and practices, as people move from awareness to action.

A Quick Ramp-Up
The Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation teamed up with the United Way of Greenbrier Valley on a COVID-19 Relief Fund. “I was blown away by how quickly nonprofit organizations and elected officials in our community responded,” says GVCF Executive Director Anne Bowling Tuckwiller. “We had a task force within a couple of days.” The fund targeted youth, with food assistance and digital education support; seniors, with food and other essential needs; the affected workforce, with basic needs assistance; and public health needs by funding PPE, commercial sanitizing equipment, and more. By fall, the fund awarded over $200,000 in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties.

Gratitude for Donors
The Beckley Area Foundation’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund supports the emergency needs of BAF’s nonprofit partners in Raleigh, McDowell, Webster, and Wyoming counties. To stretch donations, BAF waived its administrative fees—100 percent of donations help organizations in human services, health, housing, and education. “All the work we do is possible because of generous donors who believe in making things happen,” says Executive Director Dena Cushman. “Every donation, no matter how large or small, lets us know our supporters believe in BAF’s mission to advance our community.” By November, the fund had distributed more than $75,000 dollars to 43 organizations.

Helping Small Businesses and Organizations
The Tucker Community Foundation responded to COVID needs by creating a Disaster Recovery Fund in April. The fund provides recovery support to small businesses—those with up to 50 employees—and nonprofit organizations, and 100 percent of donations address needs in Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pendleton, Preston, Pocahontas, Tucker, and Randolph counties. A May 5 call for donations exceeded its goal of $29,500, and the Foundation raised an additional $50,000 for November distribution. “While we still don’t know how this pandemic will impact our communities in the long-term,” said Board President David Cooper, “we want to continue our mission of helping small businesses and organizations.”

Two for One
MyHuntington, a fund of the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, worked out a win-win: In April, as COVID case numbers mounted and the stay-at-home order continued, the fund matched dollars donated for grants to local hospitals. The grants fed health care professionals with meals from local restaurants—sustaining health care workers through a stressful time and supporting restaurants when doors were closed to the public. Two rounds of fundraising drew nearly $14,000. “MyHuntington Cares enabled donors to celebrate emergency workers while supporting the local economy,” says Tri-State CEO Mary Witten Wiseman.
The West Virginia Neighborhood Investment Program
The NIP is a charitable giving incentive providing a tax credit of up to 50 percent of each $1 donated (minimum donation of $500) to approved nonprofits, reducing the donor’s tax liability for West Virginia personal income or corporate net income tax. It can be applied to both cash and in-kind donations to approved nonprofits focusing on direct need programs that serve persons whose annual income is no more than 125 percent of the federal poverty level. Over the past quarter-century, the NIP has leveraged more than $109 million in private donations to feed, educate, house, and assist thousands of low-income individuals. This program will be up for renewal in the 2021 West Virginia legislative session, and its renewal is a priority for nonprofits in our state as the program benefits all 55 counties.

Temporary Federal Universal Charitable Deduction
While temporary for 2020 only, the federal government’s COVID Relief legislation included a giving incentive for all citizens in the form of a Federal Universal Charitable Giving Deduction of $300 per individual or $600 per household. This allows an above-the-line deduction on your 2020 taxes on either a standard or itemized tax return. Check with your local community foundation to determine options available to you.

Individual Retirement Account Rollover Opportunity
Those who are 70½ and older can reduce the tax burden of the mandatory distributions of income from their IRAs through IRA Rollover Gifts to their community foundations or other charities of choice. Contact your financial adviser or IRA manager to determine options for supporting your charity of choice and reducing your tax liability.

Charitable Giving Partnerships
Your local community foundation is a tremendous partner in helping you facilitate your own and your company’s charitable giving. Your local community foundation works with United Ways and local nonprofits of all types, sizes, and purposes to ensure healthy and thriving communities. Their work is to help fulfill your charitable giving interests and priorities, whether they are for immediate community needs or long-term opportunities. As you consider your charitable giving plan, community foundations can accept a variety of assets, such as cash, stocks, IRA rollover gifts, tangible property, retirement accounts, and more complicated gifts of real estate, businesses, and extensive estates. Whether your passion is feeding the hungry, addressing homelessness, downtown community development, advancing small businesses, sparking entrepreneurship, advancing female leaders, addressing substance use disorder, or any other cause, your community foundation exists to support your favorite causes, nonprofits, and passions for the long-term. When you build a fund at a community foundation, you are building up your community’s future. To locate your local community foundation, visit wvcommunityfoundations.org.

These tools and resources will help increase the impact of your giving now and forever in West Virginia. Contact your local community foundation to explore all of your options for your annual giving and estate plans, for they will be your charitable connector across the wonderful United Ways and community foundations in our state.
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