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Our third annual data walk will take place virtually on October 6.  
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# Giving Matters

Fall 2020



## STEPPING UP FOR DUBUQUE

Our world is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis created by COVID-19. Preparing for future emergencies requires us to harness our community's generosity today.

# STEPPING UP FOR DUBUQUE

Providing food to people in need is an ongoing challenge for Tom Townsend and his colleagues at the Dubuque Area Labor Harvest. In an average week, the organization delivers 25,000 meals across the Dubuque region. But in the past several months, their work has grown exponentially due to COVID-19.

“When the pandemic started, we encountered more high-risk people who had concerns about going out in the community to get food,” says Townsend, the organization’s treasurer. “Without grant support from the Community Foundation, we wouldn’t have gotten a new delivery program off the ground.”

The Dubuque Area Labor Harvest’s work is just one example of how the community has responded swiftly during the COVID-19 crisis to help people meet basic needs, including food, safety and health. Since March, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque has made \$950,000 in grants to organizations on the front lines of the pandemic response.

While the community response has made a major impact, the pandemic also highlights the need for Dubuque, like communities across the country, to prepare for the unexpected. The Greater Dubuque Forever Fund offers a way to give toward the future, helping new generations prepare for and cope with unforeseen challenges, whether a widespread emergency like COVID-19 or something else.

“Most of us have never encountered a crisis like this pandemic,” says Nancy Van Milligen, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. “We are fortunate to live among many selfless people who have given generously



*Above: A family picks up food provided by Project Rooted, a Dubuque nonprofit that has been providing critical food distribution services during the pandemic. It is one of more than 40 organizations that have received grants from the Community Foundation. Cover: Project Rooted volunteers prepare meals for distribution. (Photos courtesy of Project Rooted)*

to disaster recovery efforts in the past year. We also know that having a robust Forever Fund enables us to proactively meet future challenges head on rather than respond reactively.”

The pandemic is unique because it impacts many aspects of people’s lives and requires a coordinated, multi-faceted response. Food distributions are important for people who can’t shop or have experienced income loss, but they are just one need. Medical professionals need options for telehealth appointments. Students need resources while learning remotely. Essential workers need safe child care.

With the community’s support, Dubuque will get through this crisis, yet it’s also important to prepare for what comes next. Those who wish to help build resiliency in the face of the unexpected can give to the Forever Fund. Doing so enables gifts to broadly support the array of needs that can arise in times of crisis.

“We can’t predict what specific disasters or emergencies will occur, but we do know that when they happen, people will rely on local organizations to help meet basic needs,” says Van Milligen. “When that time comes, the Community Foundation and the people of Dubuque will be there to offer support.”

**Make your gift to the Greater Dubuque Forever Fund. Visit [dbqfoundation.org/forever](https://dbqfoundation.org/forever) to get started.**

## During the pandemic, your generosity has supported:



11,500 meals per week for children not in school



700 well-being checks, 43 shopping trips, and food deliveries to 27 addresses through DuRide



Utility and housing assistance for 430 residents through Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque



375 telehealth counseling sessions through Substance Abuse Services Center



12 iPads for Stonehill Franciscan Services to conduct telehealth visits



5 food pantries throughout Dubuque County

## A LEGACY OF FULFILLMENT

Linda Sanford spent more than three decades helping people thrive. Now, her generosity is supporting a strong future for the Dubuque region.

Throughout her career, Linda Sanford helped thousands of people find jobs and live fulfilling lives. In retirement, she's made a commitment to support the needs of her community for generations to come.

With no heirs or siblings, Linda, who retired from her vocational rehabilitation job in 2006, decided that supporting the community with a legacy gift would be the best way for her estate to have an impact long after she is gone. Working with her lawyer, she updated her will to include a bequest to the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque's Greater Dubuque Forever Fund, which will help address the region's greatest needs and opportunities — whatever they might be in the future.

"I like it here in Dubuque, because I've been here for so many years, I feel like I know everybody," she says. "My doctor is here, my friends are here, I play golf here. I've traveled around the world, but this is my home."

Linda spent the first eight years of her life in rural Elgin, Iowa, before her family moved to Dubuque. She studied psychology and business at the University of Iowa, where she graduated. She was selected by the U.S. Department of State as a student ambassador and spent that summer in Europe, mostly in Spain.

Upon graduation, she landed a job in human resources with John Deere, and after a couple years, she found a new position with the state of Iowa helping place people with physical and cognitive disabilities in jobs. She served in that role for 35 years.

The work, which took her across Dubuque, Jackson and Clayton counties, was personally rewarding,



Linda Sanford, left, and Amy Manternach, vice president of finance and philanthropy for the Community Foundation

as she helped many different people live fulfilling lives.

In 2006, after a routine eye exam revealed a brain aneurysm, Linda began thinking harder about her future.

"I thought, I don't know how long I'm going to be here," she says. She took early retirement, traveling the world — often playing golf in different countries — and spending quality time with her friends closer to home.

In recent years, she started attending Women's Giving Circle events and learning about ways the Community Foundation makes a difference, building a relationship that will make a lasting impact on the Dubuque region.

"With the Foundation, I like where the money goes," Linda says. Thanks to her generous legacy gift, the Foundation's efforts to build a region where everyone can thrive will continue long into the future.

*What will your legacy be? Contact Faye Finnegan, director of donor relations, at [faye@dbqfoundation.org](mailto:faye@dbqfoundation.org) or 563-588-2700 to get started.*



# Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

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## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY TAKES ALL OF US

A message from President and CEO Nancy Van Milligen

Our community's needs have grown during this time of uncertainty, and we have seen an outpouring of generosity that highlights what it means to be a Dubuquer — caring for one's neighbors, regardless of who they are or what circumstances brought them here.

What does this generosity look like? It looks like Pastor Stan Samson, who turned Paradise Church in Dubuque's Washington Neighborhood into a safe home for Marshallese residents who have needed to quarantine and recover from COVID-19.

It looks like Khalea Neal and Mariah Garner, teachers who have worked to make sure Dubuque Community School District students can overcome barriers to learning remotely.

It looks like Whitney Sanger, whose nonprofit, Project Rooted, has helped

feed Dubuque's children during the pandemic.

The Community Foundation is proud to highlight people like these as part of our #AllofUsDubuque campaign, which focuses on coming together as one community to fight COVID-19. Read about them at [allofusdubuque.com](http://allofusdubuque.com).

Importantly, this generosity also looks like you. Your gifts have enabled us to grant nearly \$950,000 to nonprofits addressing Dubuque's most pressing needs during the crisis.

They also helped us raise an additional \$340,000 on Great Give Day, which directly supports organizations both serving the community and struggling with their own financial challenges.

Looking to the future, your ongoing support is essential to building a community that can respond nimbly and strategically to new emergencies.



A gift to the Greater Dubuque Forever Fund will help us prepare for whatever challenges come our way. Make yours at [dbqfoundation.org/forever](http://dbqfoundation.org/forever) or give us a call.

Thank you for all you do for this community.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.