

## Your Community Update

### A Message From Our Executive Director

In April of this year, Bainbridge Community Foundation conducted a survey of our nonprofits to see how they were handling the COVID-19 crisis. At that time, nearly 30% of organizations feared they would permanently close by the end of the year after canceling programs, furloughing and laying off employees, and facing scarce emergency resources. We shared this information with the community and **you stepped up**. On a recent call with local nonprofit leaders, they shared stories of fruitful online fundraising events and successful new programs that were developed in consideration of the quarantine requirements. As a result, many are ending this tumultuous year in a strong position. Through hard work, innovation, and financial support from our community, these organizations have weathered the storms they faced in 2020 and in spite of challenges will continue to serve in 2021. It's a success story we all should be immensely proud of.

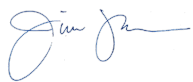
Nonetheless, as the COVID pandemic continues and social distancing becomes the norm, our continued contributions only become more critical.



Bainbridge Community Foundation's job is to strengthen the indispensable role of our nonprofits through analyzing community needs, raising funds from many diverse donors, awarding grants to meet those needs, and encouraging a stronger nonprofit sector. Your generous contributions have allowed us to meet escalating demand for essential services and to disburse emergency funds to health and human service organizations. Because of you, our nonprofits have been able to provide nutritious food for kids, childcare for essential workers, PPE for caregivers, financial assistance for housing costs, free counseling for teenagers and adults, and so much more.

We want to thank you for choosing resilience in a time of crisis. We know this has been a tumultuous year, and we know there are still tough times ahead—but we have each other. We will remain connected despite social distancing, and we will continue to build this community as we did before.

We will get through this together.



Jim Hopper  
Executive Director

## BCF's Response to COVID-19

We are stronger together. This is a phrase we hear often today, but how do we know it's true? Imagine our forests. Individual trees can flourish on their own, but they are stronger when living

together—with other trees nearby they share nutrients, create a local ecosystem in which they thrive, and act as buffer for each other during inclement weather. A forest is greater than the sum of its parts.



Community foundations help create a similar environment by supporting nonprofits that are critical to the place we call home. Specifically, Bainbridge Community Foundation (BCF) works in partnership with dozens of local nonprofits through promoting collaboration, analyzing community needs, awarding grants to meet those needs, and connecting donors to nonprofits. In 2019, BCF had one of its best years yet by having a remarkable fundraising year, ramping up its programmatic and educational work through trainings and workshops, and creating new partnerships with local organizations to support affordable housing and student assistance programs.

The success of 2019 made BCF uniquely positioned to respond to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. As of October 31, 2020, BCF has taken the following actions to support the community:



**ACTIVATED** our Community Response Fund to provide financial resources to local nonprofit organizations for urgent health and human service needs.



**PARTNERED** with Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island in supporting the Community Response Fund (CRF). To date, through the CRF, BCF has awarded almost \$131,000 in grants to support nutritious food distribution programs, emergency supplies, childcare, housing and rental assistance, and other essential services.



**CONDUCTED** three surveys to get real-time information about the changing needs for PPE, operating funding, and more.



**HOSTED** virtual education workshops on financial literacy and nonprofit resilience, with plans to ramp up training in 2021.



**AWARDED** a total of \$1,979,982 in grants through October, of which \$861,295 has been dedicated towards COVID-19 emergency relief. Total grantmaking by BCF to date is more than \$16.5 million.



**REFOCUSSED** the 2020 Community Grants Cycle to make impact of COVID-19 a priority, and reached a record-hitting year of awarding \$507,313 in grants to local nonprofits.



**RELEASED RESTRICTIONS** on unspent Community Grants Cycle funds from 2019 so that organizations could use the money for unexpected costs.



**CONVENED** weekly and biweekly meetings with nonprofit leaders to provide support and assess their needs and encourage collaboration.

## Join BCF in Supporting Our Community

Our work is only made possible through the generous support of donors. We know that the COVID pandemic is far from over, but with your continued support we will rise to the challenges ahead.

***Through our partnership with All In WA and through the generosity of Jeff Bezos, gifts to our Community Response Fund are currently being matched 1:1.*** Read more about each fund below.

## Join us. Here's how we can make a difference:

- **Bainbridge Community Fund:** Gifts to the Bainbridge Community Foundation support BCF's programs and activities, and are allocated at the discretion of the Board of Trustees to the area of greatest need. Gifts of \$1,000 or more to this fund are recognized in the Leadership Circle.
- **Community Grants Cycle Partners:** Donations support the Foundation's annual grantmaking program for nonprofit organizations serving the Bainbridge community. Grants are awarded to 501(c)(3) nonprofits doing work in all sectors of the community.
- **Capacity Building Grants Partners:** This special grant program helps nonprofits become more effective by building their capacity to function as stronger, more efficient organizations.
- **Community Response Fund:** This fund provides financial resources to nonprofit organizations for urgent health and human service needs in our community, especially during times of economic hardship or human or natural disaster. This fund has and will continue to award grants to local nonprofits that have been affected by COVID-19.
- **Housing Action Fund:** This fund addresses the critical need for affordable housing on Bainbridge Island by supporting both acquisition and bricks-and-mortar housing programs.
- **Scholarship Funds:** Annual scholarships awarded to graduating Bainbridge seniors pursuing higher education.
- **BCF Endowment Fund:** Gifts to permanent endowed funds ensure there will be ongoing support for our community for generations to come.

If you are interested in a contribution, please click on our "DONATE NOW" button at the top of our home page at [www.BainbridgeCF.org](http://www.BainbridgeCF.org) or [click here](#).

## Let's Always Bring #BainbridgeTogether



For the last two months, BCF has run an awareness campaign called Bainbridge Together because we wanted to showcase the incredible contributions of local nonprofits in our community. While the official campaign may be over, [#BainbridgeTogether](#) can continue through all of us. If you feel inspired by an act of kindness, an example of community, or just want to make a positive statement, feel free to use the #BainbridgeTogether hashtag. We are keeping our yard signs up because while the official campaign is over, the challenges we are facing remain—and we want to always remember that Bainbridge is better together.

To learn more about the campaign, please visit our website at

[www.BainbridgeCF.org](http://www.BainbridgeCF.org).

## In Case You Missed It

- **BCF is offering a donation of \$500 to the BCF grantee of your choice if you open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) between now and the end of 2020.** It's a great year to make charitable gifts and also great year to open a DAF at BCF. DAFs can help you get an immediate tax deduction for your gifts, while taking some time to decide what causes you wish to support. We encourage you to consult with your tax advisor to see how you might benefit from these opportunities.



- **You can use Amazon Smile to support BCF**, at no cost to you. When you select Bainbridge Community Foundation as your nonprofit of choice, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Visit [Amazon Smile here](#) to learn more. BCF's EIN is 91-2155208.

- **Capacity Building Grants Cycle** is underway, and we are reviewing applications. Through these grants, BCF supports organizations that want to invest in their long-term efficiency and efficacy—broadening their impact on our community. BCF funds training and workshops for grantees on creating 3-5 year strategic plans, on assessing their business models, or on integrating justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their work, and much more. You can read more about our capacity building grants on our [website here](#).
- **Being a Tax-Smart Donor** only takes a bit of research! Did you know that as long as you are 70½ or older, you can still make a tax-free qualified charitable distribution -- called a QCD or also known as an "IRA rollover" gift -- directly from your IRA? This is even though you aren't required to take your minimum distribution from your IRA this year.

This is not professional financial or legal advice, so please consult your professional advisor regarding your specific situation.



**Note:** To encourage more charitable giving in 2020, recently enacted government COVID-19 relief bill (the CARES ACT) provides some tax relief for individual donors. **If you take the standard deduction on your taxes, you may be able to claim a new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations to charitable nonprofits in 2020.** In addition, donors can get a Federal income tax deduction for charitable contributions of up to 100% of the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). There are also benefits to donors who itemize their taxes. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

If you have any questions about this newsletter, please contact [media@bainbridgecf.org](mailto:media@bainbridgecf.org). If you don't already, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at the links below!



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