

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.



COMMUNITY UPDATE

WINTER 2020



In Case You Missed It!

Our Community Response Fund is still active, and is supporting nutritious food programs for kids, childcare, essential services for families, financial support for housing costs, purchase of PPE for care of senior citizens, online activities to promote health for cancer survivors, and much more. To donate, please visit our website at www.BainbridgeCF.org and click on "Giving."

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 (www.BainbridgeCF.org) under "Grants."

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 <https://smile.amazon.com> to learn more. BCF's EIN is 91-2155208.



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



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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.

How To Support Our Work

Whether you have lived on the island for generations or moved here more recently for the quality of life, it's clear that Bainbridge Island has a strong and unique sense of community. Island residents are able to maintain a high quality of life primarily because of its vibrant nonprofit sector.



We respond to the changes in our community as it grows, and remain flexible in times of need. Through the support of donors at all levels—from \$10 to \$10,000 or more—BCF has been able to award a total of \$1,979,982 in grants so far in 2020. The impact of the work of our grantees is truly inspiring—and the need for support is only increasing each year. It is never too late to get involved.

When you give through BCF, you become our partner in funding critical efforts to create and maintain a healthy future for the people we love and for the island we call home. Through direct contributions to our work, by opening a Donor Advised Fund, by participating in campaign drives, or by leaving Bainbridge Community Foundation in your will or estate plan, you help maintain Bainbridge Island as a place our children and grandchildren will be proud to call home.

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.

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. **Please feel free to learn more or donate at www.BainbridgeCF.org.**

Don't Miss Out on Tax Incentives for Giving in 2020

The CARES Act has created a number of programs that make charitable giving in 2020 particularly advantageous. For example, as a result of the increase in the standard deduction in 2018, fewer people are eligible to itemize charitable deductions. But the CARES Act allows anyone to itemize charitable deductions of up to \$300 while still claiming the standard deduction. And for those who do itemize, the benefits of charitable giving are even better. Under the CARES Act, you can deduct up to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI), for all of your 2020 cash donations. Normally, this limit is 60% of AGI.

It's a great year to make charitable gifts and also great year to open a Donor Advised Fund at BCF. **BCF is offering a donation of \$500 to the BCF grantee of your choice if you open a Donor Advised Fund in 2020.** Donor Advised Funds 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.

