



NEWSLETTER



April 2020

It's hard to believe how much life has changed since our last update. As we all navigate a new "normal", there's one thing that remains the same. That's our gratitude for YOU! In the face of serious adversity, together we've been able to make some big positive impacts for our community. We hope you are well and taking good care of yourself ! We're all in this together.

Letter from Alisa

Dear Friends,

Much has changed in our lives in just a few weeks. Not long ago most of us had barely heard of the Coronavirus or thought of it as an illness affecting people in another country far away. Today we are self-isolating and social distancing—words and actions we have recently learned. COVID-19 has become a major disruptor of our lives. Yet, life does, and must, go on.

By now you have received much advice on how to protect yourself and your family. I hope you are well, heed the recommendations, and place the health of your family and our community first.

There are several aspects of COVID-19 that affect the Rush County Community Foundation.

Let me share with you how we are responding to the following:

- The effect of the stock market on the investment of our funds
- The effect of the stock market on RCCF's grants and distributions
- The effect of the stock market on RCCF's operating budget
- The health and wellness of our stakeholders, staff and volunteers

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Rush to Help: COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund

Help is on the way for Rush County organizations impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. RCCF has established the Rush to Help COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund to assist local organizations addressing immediate needs as well as short- and long-term effects of the outbreak and recovery from the pandemic.

The RCCF board of directors has approved the use of \$25,000 in unrestricted funds to offer support to our local community. We need help from individuals and businesses, too.

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\$32,345 and counting...



rushcountyfoundation.org/relief

\$50,000 Grant Made to Rush Memorial Hospital



"This donation will help save lives." - Brad Smith, RMH CEO (l to r): Dr. Daas, Alisa Winters (RCCF Executive Director), Brad Smith, Carrie Tressler (RMH VP of Nursing), Alle Lilly (RMH Foundation Executive Director)

When a world-wide crisis hits close to home, it becomes necessary to take all precautions and make every preparation to ensure our community thrives. RCCF has granted \$50,000 to Rush Memorial Hospital (RMH) in support of efforts to

treat and stop the COVID-19 epidemic. The amount is equivalent to the cost of a new respirator but will be used for the most urgent need as determined by RMH.

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Help @ Home: A Resource Guide

We've created [a guide to help you navigate essential local resources](#) including: Internet access, vital assistance for nonprofits and small businesses, food, social services and links to social media accounts for important local updates. [Bookmark it for easy access.](#)



Give it. Get it. *live.life.local.*

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Introducing 2020 Board Member: Dave Malson



We're happy to have such a community-minded person as **Dave Malson** join the RCCF board and grateful he could with all of his other commitments.

You might just want to give him a high-five after you learn about all the ways he and Barbara, his wife, care for Rush County youth.

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Rush County's Readiness for Change Part 4: How to Move Forward

If you're longing for a break from our present situation, take a look at what we've learned from our dive into Rush County's readiness for change and how we can move forward together once this pandemic is no longer a threat.

So, [we know from data \(part 1\)](#) that jobs and businesses go where the people are. People go where they want to live. Our community has a lot going for us – small

town, rural feel, safety, quality schools and good people. But the [community insights \(part 2\)](#) and [survey responses \(part 3\)](#) tell us that amenities – parks, trails, restaurants, art, beautification, community centers and broadband access – would help us love our community even more.

How do we move forward? Here are some considerations.

[READ MORE](#)



Save the Date: Five in 50 Bike Ride



The best event on two wheels makes its return to Rush County - **The Five in 50 Covered Bridge Bike Ride on Saturday, September 19**. RCCF will once again host and benefit from the event.

March Gifts In Memoriam and In Honor

Thank you to the donors who selected to give to Rush County Community Foundation in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. This month, the following individuals were recognized through gifts to the Foundation:

- Alice R. Wiley
- Betty Shelton
- Bob and Emmy Waggener
- Edward Gariano
- Jeannie Laker
- Joan Edwards
- Larry Cox

- Lora Hatfield
- Martha Brown
- Robert "Bob" Ash

In Honor of:

- Tom Simpson

Get Social with Us

Stay up-to-date on the latest RCCF happenings by visiting our [website](#) and following us on social media. Our website is a comprehensive source for all things related to our work, as well as offering fun features such as donor stories, board member bios, and scholar updates. We often share news and features on our [Facebook page](#), which we encourage you to follow if you use social media! The more you "like" and "share" helps share our message and inspire future content.

