

Contact: Ashley René Lee, Vice President, PR & Marketing,
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
p: 616.284.4932
e: alee@grfoundation.org



Grand Rapids Community Foundation Partners with Hispanic Center of Western Michigan During COVID-19 Crisis to Ensure all People Receive Information and Resources

March 20, 2020 – As individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations feel the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Grand Rapids Community Foundation has partnered with the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan to support multilingual translation and interpretation services. This grant partnership will help ensure all members of the community have access to critical information about minimizing exposure to and spreading COVID-19, as well as resources.

“We encourage the use of this resource during this emergency, and also hope that organizations providing critical information regarding the support and wellbeing of all members of our community consider this approach in their communications moving forward,” said Diana Sieger, President at Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The Center has the capability to translate written materials in 85 languages, in most cases within 24 hours. This includes same day, simultaneous interpretation of things like press conferences or short videos.

“Lack of multi-language translation and interpretation of information further exacerbates the public health pandemic we are facing,” said Adnoris ‘Bo’ Torres, Executive Director, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan. “Because of our partnership with the Community Foundation, our Language Services Department is working around the clock and can ensure every person in our community has accurate, timely information in their language.”

Nonprofit organizations can contact Holly Rea, the Center's language services manager at hrea@hispanic-center.org or 616- 828-9679 for translation and interpretation requests. At this time, cost is not a barrier for organizations to access the language services at the Center.

During this unprecedented time, the Community Foundation is actively communicating with community partners to ensure an informed and collaborative response to address the immediate and long-term impact of this crisis.

Heart of West Michigan United Way has partnered with the Community Foundation and other local foundations and funders to establish a Kent County Coronavirus Response Fund for people to donate to help meet immediate needs in the community related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will support area nonprofits serving vulnerable populations during this time. The Community Foundation is also working with philanthropic, nonprofit and business partners to prepare for an extended response to address the near and long-term implications the COVID-19 pandemic will have on area nonprofits and small businesses. Details are forthcoming.

The Community Foundation recommends anyone interested in volunteer opportunities consider [Heart of West Michigan United Way](#) or [Grand Rapids Area Mutual Aid Network](#), two organizations deeply engaged in this work.

About Grand Rapids Community Foundation

Grand Rapids Community Foundation leads Kent County in making positive, sustainable change. With its endowment, the Community Foundation supports local nonprofits, leads significant social change and helps donors achieve their philanthropic goals. For more information, please visit grfoundation.org.

###