

The Coronavirus Affected Everything, and MCF Pivoted to Respond

As the coronavirus spread across the globe in early 2020, it quickly became clear that it would have a major impact on all aspects of life. On March 16, MCF staff began working from home in anticipation of Governor Tony Evers' Safer at Home order. The transition went smoothly and staff have been working primarily from home since then.

The pandemic's impact on area nonprofit organizations was profound. Many were forced to close their doors, losing income from admissions, performances, and classes. Others experienced a major increase in demand for their services. MCF responded to these developments by:

- Working with grant recipients to repurpose \$1 million in outstanding grants to help cover the costs of regular operations or converting programs to an online format.
- Distributing more than \$10 million to nonprofits (through June 2020), from endowments and passthrough funds.
- Creating the MCF COVID-19 Priority Fund to support nonprofits that were ineligible for funding from the Dane County COVID-19 Emergency and Recovery Fund. MCF used those donations in part to make a \$50,000 grant to the Madison Metropolitan School District to help provide wifi hotspots to the 1,800 families whose lack of reliable internet access prevented them from participating in their schools' virtual learning.
- Hiring Scholz Nonprofit Law to guide nonprofit organizations through the intricacies of applying for loans through the Paycheck Protection Act, and to provide information about the other aid available under the CARES Act. This \$35,000 investment provided training for 298 people from more than 170 organizations. So far, participants have reported receiving \$20.4 million in aid as a result.

MCF Deepens Its Commitment to Ending Racism

MCF's commitment to ending racism goes hand in hand with its long-standing vision: that greater Madison will be a vibrant and generous place where all people thrive. Unfortunately, the events that unfolded during the opening months of 2020 have shown that much work remains before this vision is realized.

MCF has a strong history of grants to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in our community. From 2017 through 2019, MCF made 50 grants totaling \$2.6 million to support 45 organizations working to strengthen DEI. As we look ahead, we recognize we must bring our community together to achieve far more, on a much greater scale.

As the community's foundation, MCF will always:

1. Use its voice to denounce racism and discrimination in all its forms.
2. Use its resources to fund strong DEI initiatives in our community.
3. Align its systems, policies, and culture to help the board and staff think and act in more inclusive and equitable ways.

**The origin of the word “philanthropy” is “humanity, benevolence, love of mankind.”
Together with our community, we can realize this vision to create
a place where people don't just live, but thrive.**

Finding Hope in Adversity

While we strive for social justice and yearn for an end to the devastating pandemic, we are heartened by a few silver linings:

- 1. People are generous.** Studies have shown that giving has increased across the nation during the pandemic. At MCF, we have seen the same thing: Contributions are higher through the second quarter of 2020 than through the same period in 2019.
- 2. People care about others.** Every day strangers in our community protect each of us by staying home when they can, and wearing a mask to protect others when they go out.
- 3. Environmental degradation is not inevitable.** Carbon emissions decreased significantly around the globe during lockdowns, providing visibly cleaner air, reducing health-related problems and demonstrating what's possible when the world cooperates.
- 4. The social justice movement is not a passing fad.** It is larger, more racially diverse, and ubiquitous across the country than during the Civil Rights era.

Learn More About MCF's Actions

If you would like to learn more about what MCF is doing to help our community in 2020 and into the future, visit madisongives.org.



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