April 20, 2020

Dear Editor:

A heartfelt thank you to your readers who have generously donated over $500,000 to the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund. When the foundation launched the fund last month, we knew that the need would be significant as our economy locked down. We now know that the needs will be even greater than any of us could have imagined just one month ago. It is clear that the need for the fund is unprecedented.

We are heartened that so many nonprofits have risen to the challenge, reaching out to their donors in order to serve at-risk populations with even greater needs. As I write this letter of gratitude, the foundation has distributed $221,755 to 34 front line organizations serving the most vulnerable in Delaware County (for a complete list, visit delcofoundation.org). They are addressing critical needs like food and diapers, caring for pregnant women, seniors, and those with behavioral health challenges and physical disabilities.

It’s no accident that Penn’s Center for High Impact Philanthropy points to community foundations as an impactful way that donors at every giving level can help during this critical time. We exist to democratize philanthropy, providing the opportunity for generous people of every economic background to give back. Gifts to the fund have been as small as $10 and as large as $60,000. Every gift is valuable and appreciated.

We will continue to do everything we can to support nonprofits providing emergency aid on behalf of those in need in Delaware County. Please help us spread the word. And meanwhile please stay safe.

Gratefully,

Frances Sheehan, President
The Foundation for Delaware County
Media, PA