**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Eau Claire Community Foundation and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley Announce Phase 3 “Response and Recovery” Grant Recipients**

*“Response and Recovery” grants help nonprofits address challenges caused by COVID-19.*

The Eau Claire Community Foundation and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley are pleased to announce the recipients of their Phase 3 “Response and Recovery” granting. These grants support Chippewa Valley nonprofits in their work to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Each organization offered its own grant opportunities, then collaborated to ensure that their grant awards would be the most effective at meeting Chippewa Valley needs. These grants, when combined with previous pandemic-related granting, bring their collective impact to almost $975,000.

More information about the “Response and Recovery” grants can be found at [www.uwgcv.org](http://www.uwgcv.org) and [www.eccfwi.org](http://www.eccfwi.org) .

The Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF) awarded $137,315 to 17 Eau Claire area nonprofits through its “Response and Recovery” Community Fund. These grants will help the organizations meet urgent basic needs (such as food, shelter, and healthcare) as well as support nonprofits as they find ways to function safely during the pandemic. This amount wouldn’t have been possible without the generosity of the Xcel Energy Foundation, which made a $30,000 gift to the “Response and Recovery” Community Fund.

“We are fortunate for the work of all of the organizations in our area who are providing these important resources for those in need during these challenging times,” said Brian Elwood, general manager of Customer & Community Service at Xcel Energy. “The Eau Claire Community Foundation has long served our community, and we are thankful to support these ongoing efforts which will make a positive impact for so many.”

The United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley (UWGCV) awarded $54,119 in “Response and Recovery” grants to 3 Chippewa Valley nonprofits for programs that directly address the needs of vulnerable children. UWGCV had identified early childhood development and the well-being of the children’s families as being critical during their recent assessment of pandemic-related community needs. It will offer another round of granting in the coming months.

ECCF and UWGCV implemented the “Response and Recovery” grant cycles to ensure that Chippewa Valley nonprofits have the resources they need to continue serving the community. Although these collaborative grant cycles have ended, the work of the two organizations has not. UWGCV will continue to support its nonprofit partners, and grants from ECCF will continue to address important community needs. ECCF always welcomes donations to its Community Fund, which will support Eau Claire area nonprofits now and for years to come. To learn more or donate, please visit the “Family of Funds” page of [www.eccfwi.org](http://www.eccfwi.org) .

*Eau Claire Community Foundation strengthens our community by offering donors opportunities to establish charitable legacies, by making grants, and by serving as a catalyst to address community needs.* [*www.eccfwi.org*](http://www.eccfwi.org)

*United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley improves lives and builds stronger Chippewa Valley communities by bringing resources together to advance the common good.* [*www.uwgcv.org*](http://www.uwgcv.org)