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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley Completes $500,000 Recovery Grant Process**

*Third wave of funding supports eight projects in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties*

**Eau Claire, Wis. –** United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley (UWGCV) today announced its third and final wave of COVID Recovery grant funding. A total of $141,630.51 was awarded in this wave and when combined with waves one and two brings the total grant funding amount to $500,000. Combined with the funds awarded by the Eau Claire Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, the “Response and Recovery” grant partnership provided over **$1.2 Million** to area nonprofits. All UWGCV funds were released from the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley Endowment Fund.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity to partner with the Community Foundations in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties to maximize our impact during this challenging year,” UWGCV Executive Director Andy Neborak said. “The collaborative process we followed allowed us to limit duplication of efforts and focus on helping many areas in our region.”

UWGCV identified early childhood development and the well-being of the children’s families as being critical during its assessment of pandemic-related community needs. Four goals were prioritized as part of the request for proposal process.

**Goal One** – To advance the development of and learning for children at levels 4K to grade three (the third wave expanded to include grades four and five)

**Goal Two** – To advance the development of children from birth to age five

**Goal Three** – To protect and support the mental well-being of these children and their family systems

**Goal Four** – To protect and support the physical well-being of these children and their family systems, including meeting basic needs - shelter, food, hygiene, and safety.

The third wave of funding allowed for support of eight projects. One of those projects, the Chippewa Falls StoryWalk was independently funded by Tom and Pam Kell. The StoryWalk proposal was highly scored by the UWGCV Grant Committee and this generous donation ultimately allowed the wave three funding to make an expanded impact.

Overall, the UWGCV Endowment released $500,000 to inspire and fund impactful COVID recovery efforts in the Chippewa Valley. In total, 16 projects were supported in the three waves. Those projects and their organizations are listed below.

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| **Wave One:***Project*  | *Organization* |
| Bouncing Back: Building Resilient Child Care in the Chippewa Valley  | Western Dairyland EOC |
| Bridging the Gap for Youth During COVID (Grades K-3)  | Boys and Girls Club |
| COVID-19 YMCA Child Care Assistance  | Chippewa Valley YMCA |
| Feed Our Kids – a response to COVID-19  | Feed My People |
| Virtual ECLIPSE COVID-19 Response and Recovery | ECLIPSE |

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| **Wave Two:***Project*  | *Organization* |
| 1-to-1 Youth Mentoring (Virtual & Community Based) | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Wisconsin |
| Eau Claire Literacy StoryWalk | L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library |
| Family Connections Virtual Parenting Support | Family Resource Center |

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| **Wave Three:***Project*  | *Organization* |
| 1-to-1 Youth Mentoring for 8-10 Year-Old Children | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Wisconsin |
| Bridging the Gap for Youth During COVID (Grades 4-5) | Boys and Girls Club |
| Child Care Partnership Scholarship Collaboration Program | Western Dairyland EOC |
| Chippewa Falls StoryWalk\* | Chippewa Falls Library |
| COVID-19 YMCA Child Care Assistance Extension | Chippewa Valley YMCA |
| Feed Our Kids School Pantry Program | Feed My People |
| Pablo Center Learning Pods | Pablo Center at the Confluence |
| Women and Children Program | Hope Gospel Mission |

\*Funded independently through private donor

To learn more about United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and the impact it makes in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties, visit [www.uwgcv.org](http://www.uwgcv.org).

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**United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley** has supported the human services of Chippewa and Eau Claire counties for over 50 years. It brings community members and resources together to ensure that children in the Chippewa Valley will enter school ready to succeed, Chippewa Valley residents will achieve self-sufficiency, and the mental health of Chippewa Valley residents will improve.