

# West Vancouver Foundation

## PRESS RELEASE



Tuesday, March 24, 2020, West Vancouver B.C.

**West Vancouver Foundation launches North Shore Emergency Response Fund to support front-line services and programs designed for the most vulnerable populations in our communities.**

**Reaches \$100,000 of \$500,000 goal to support first wave of grants.**

The West Vancouver Foundation has launched the **North Shore COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund**—to support local charitable organizations providing frontline services to people and organizations that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in our communities. Granting will be based on high priority needs as they develop and evolve.

It is well recognized that that communities with older residents and more cultural diversity are at greater risk and will need a broad range of services - some of which we can not even predict yet. The groups of those requiring support are going to change dramatically over the next weeks and months to include more families, single parents, and young adults

*“No one is untouched by the current circumstances, but the impacts of COVID-19 will not be shared equally. It would be impossible to overstate the extent of the social emergency we are facing”, says Adine Mees, CEO West Vancouver Foundation. “This goes beyond community wellness. It is about helping to ensure the safety and health of our neighbours and family members over an extended period.”*

Initial funding of \$100,000 has been established through contributions by the West Vancouver Foundation, local corporate partners, and individual donors to the West Vancouver Foundation. The first-round funding goal is \$500,000 and it is anticipated that ongoing funding will be required.

*“This is the time for collaboration and coordination across our communities. While district staff are working to maintain essential services and establish new services to meet emerging needs, it is critical to have a trusted centralized funding source such as the West Vancouver Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for the North Shore”, said Mayor Mary-Ann Booth. “We appreciate the leadership of the West Vancouver Foundation as well as the generosity of the individual and corporate donors who have come forward with this first wave of funding.”*

Individuals, families, and corporations can give now at: [www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19](http://www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19)

The first phase of granting will prioritize community-based organizations that are addressing food security, mental & physical wellness, and challenges of isolation. It is important

they compliment the critically important work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address urgent needs in an efficient manner.

In addition to this new fund, the West Vancouver Foundation has announced immediate granting of over \$55,000 from their *2020 Community Grants* program to local organizations providing support for families, mental health counselling, and accessible food services. Organizations include North Shore Family Services, Meals on Wheels, Hollyburn Family Services, Canadian Mental Health- North & West Vancouver. A further \$10,000 was awarded to the Canadian Mental Health Association by the 100 Women Who Care on the North Shore hosted by WVF.

DONATE TODAY AT: [www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19](http://www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19)

### **About West Vancouver Foundation**

The West Vancouver Foundation is a leader in community-based philanthropy across Vancouver's North Shore, and with \$20 million in assets is the largest in the Greater Sea-to-Sky area. We work with individual, family and corporate donors; provide grants to support community organizations and non-profits; plus highlight the changing needs and areas of vulnerability in our communities through our VitalSigns reporting. Established in 1979, the Foundation provides professionally managed philanthropic services to build stronger, more caring, and inclusive communities. The West Vancouver Foundation is located on the unceded territories of Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Nations.

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