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**FM Area Foundation Activates Community Response Fund**
***To Respond To COVID-19***

FARGO, N.D., March 20, 2020…The FM Area Foundation has activated its Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties to respond to the impact of COVID-19. The purpose of this fund is to collect donations from individuals, families, businesses, private foundations, and the like, to support immediate and long-term recovery efforts following a community crisis or disaster. In this case, the Foundation will use donations to help meet the needs of the nonprofit sector impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The FM Area Foundation is providing an initial $25,000 into the fund with the anticipation of adding more as things progress.

“Donations into the Community Response Fund will be granted directly to Cass Clay nonprofits. Some donations will be used immediately for the greatest needs, and a portion of funds will be used to help support long-term efforts,” said Tim Beaton, Executive Director. “The flexibility of the fund allows us to respond to the needs of our nonprofit community not being met through other available programs.”

Grants will go to qualified organizations and service providers and will not be given directly to individuals.

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. There will be no administrative fees, so more dollars go directly to assist nonprofits impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. For online donations, standard credit card fees will apply.

Community members can give to the Community Response Fund of Cass and Clay Counties to help provide relief for nonprofits affected by COVID-19 by visiting areafoundation.org/disaster. Donors can also send checks to the Foundation’s address below with "Community Response Fund” noted in the memo line:

FM Area Foundation
409 7th St. S
Fargo, ND 58103

**About the FM Area Foundation:**

The FM Area Foundation is a nonprofit, community foundation created by and for the people of Cass County, North Dakota, and Clay County, Minnesota. The FM Area Foundation helps people give back to the community and ensures the needs of the community are addressed now and in perpetuity. Working in partnership with individuals, families, businesses and professional advisors, the FM Area Foundation manages charitable funds and provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and causes. The FM Area Foundation has been serving the community since 1960.

**About the FM Area Foundation’s Involvement in Disaster Philanthropy:**

The FM Area Foundation is the region's community foundation and is home to more than 400 charitable funds. The Foundation has been serving the Cass Clay region through philanthropy since 1960. The FM Area Foundation is one of 18 community foundations across the Midwest participating in the Philanthropic Preparedness, Resiliency, and Emergency Partnership (PPREP). The program provides resources, learning and best practices to help participating foundations build their skills and leadership capacity for better preparation in the event of a disaster.

Community foundations bring unique attributes to disaster work, notably their capacity to efficiently pool and distribute funds from donors to help the community recover in both the short and long term. They also can bring together service providers, community-based organizations, businesses, government and others when an immediate, effective and coordinated response is paramount.

PPREP is a project of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. The FM Area Foundation is also a member and fiscal sponsor of the Cass Clay Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.