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## **Local community leaders launch the Greater Attleboro Stronger Together Fund to raise \$1.5 Million in response to COVID-19 health crisis**

**Attleboro, MA (April 10, 2020)** – As the COVID-19 pandemic expands from a health crisis to a financial one, local families and individuals have been profoundly impacted throughout the Attleboro area. Established by local community leaders, the Greater Attleboro Stronger Together Fund aims to raise and quickly deploy funds to support those in our community who have lost income due to job loss or reduced work and are now facing food insecurity and potential homelessness.

Throughout our community, nonprofit organizations have gone above and beyond their typical missions to provide critical, emergency support to our most vulnerable neighbors through this crisis. They have expanded food and supply distribution, given emergency cash assistance, offered free child care and other resources for essential workers, and much more. The needs of our community continue to grow every day.

“The number of emergency meals we serve continues to rise and has nearly doubled with the current crisis,” says Lisa Piscatelli, Executive Director of the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative, which runs the Food n’ Friends meals program. “Having the Greater Attleboro Stronger Together Fund allows small nonprofits like ours to focus on what we do best – feeding individuals and families. It also centralizes community resources so that our neighbors in need are easily able to navigate to local services. In this time of social distancing, donating to this Fund is a way for us to all be together. It is something to behold, a community of care.”

With a goal of raising \$1.5 million, the Stronger Together Fund aims to provide much needed resources to those nonprofit organizations on the front lines and to ensure that they are able to continue their missions after the crisis has subsided. The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley has already committed to support the Fund as a Lead Sponsor, donating more than \$100,000.

Amanda Blount, Executive Director of The Literacy Center, emphasized how critical it is for a collective, community-wide response. “More and more people are finding themselves in financial distress and turning to our nonprofits for help,” she says. “That is why this Fund is so critical. This Fund provides us with an opportunity to address this crisis as a unified community, so we can all come out on the other side of this stronger than we were before.”

The Stronger Together Fund invites nonprofit organizations from Attleboro, Norton, North Attleboro, Mansfield, Rehoboth, and Dighton to join the Stronger Together Fund as nonprofit partners. All partners will be able to apply for grants to fund their emergency relief efforts and to help defray some of the nonprofits’ operational expenses and losses, so that they’ll be able to serve our community through the crisis and into the future. To become a Nonprofit Partner, nonprofits must fill out the application at [strongertogetherattleboro.org/resources-non-profits](http://strongertogetherattleboro.org/resources-non-profits) by 5 pm on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Fund is also reaching out to local businesses and organizations interested in supporting the Fund as major sponsors. Potential sponsors should contact Robin McDonald, CEO of the Attleboro YMCA and a member of the Fund's planning committee, at [rmcdonald@attleboroymca.org](mailto:rmcdonald@attleboroymca.org).

A one-week, community-wide Stronger Together Fund drive will begin on Monday, April 20th. The community is invited to donate at [strongertogetherattleboro.org/donate](http://strongertogetherattleboro.org/donate).