

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Terence Mulligan, President Napa Valley Community Foundation 707.254.9565 x 11

NAPA VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION APPROVES \$1.2 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL COVID-19 GRANTS

CASH AID FOR FARMWORKERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN MANDATED TO QUARANTINE BUT CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS WORK IS INCLUDED

Wednesday, July 15, Napa, CA — Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) has approved additional expenditures from the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund of up to \$1.2 million to address the ongoing health and economic challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in Napa County. In March and April, the Foundation approved grants totaling \$3.7 million to support public health, safety net programs and emergency financial assistance for local residents who lost work hours or employment but could not access government unemployment benefits. Today's announcement brings approved COVID-19 expenditures from the Foundation to \$4.9 million in total.

In the last three months, two nonprofit organizations funded by the Foundation to deliver cash aid to individuals and families have screened 3,100 households for assistance; identified 1,550 that are eligible; and issued payments to more than 1,000 unduplicated households. The Foundation's nonprofit partners for its Emergency Financial Assistance program are On The Move and UpValley Family Centers, each of which also provides case management services to people in need of assistance. So far, the average award has been \$1,200 per household.

"Until recently, our cash aid program was largely a response to economic hardship" said NVCF President Terence Mulligan. "Now it is also about helping to prevent community spread of the virus, because we are supporting farmworkers and families who test positive to remain in quarantine."

"Making sure people who test positive for COVID-19 can afford to remain in their homes while they are unable to work is critical" said Napa County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio. "We are grateful to NVCF and its partners for helping us meet the basic needs of these individuals and families – and for helping us protect the wider community by doing so."

Moving forward, staff at On The Move and UpValley Family Centers will work closely with the Napa County Public Health Department to provide cash aid and case management services to eligible low-income residents who are COVID-positive and required to go into quarantine and/or isolation.

Low-income individuals and families who test positive for COVID-19 will be referred directly by County Public Health staff to the Emergency Financial Assistance program. Napa County residents facing economic hardship because of the pandemic -- who don't qualify for government unemployment benefits and whose household income is at or below 120% of Area Median Income -- can seek assistance by contacting On The Move or UpValley Family Centers.

 For residents of Calistoga, St. Helena and surrounding areas: call (707) 965-5010 or email <u>efa@upvalleyfamilycenters.org</u>. For residents of Napa, Yountville and American Canyon: call (707) 363-8390 or email efa@onthemovebayarea.org.

To date, more than \$1.7 million has been donated by local individuals, families, corporations and foundations to help NVCF blunt the effects of COVID-19 in Napa Valley. To make a tax-deductible donation or learn more, please visit www.napavalleycf.org/covid-19-giving/

About Napa Valley Community Foundation

Napa Valley Community Foundation works side-by-side with local donors and nonprofits to tackle the most important challenges our Valley faces. Now celebrating 25 years of service to the community, the Foundation has distributed more than \$75 million in grants to improve the quality of life for residents of the region, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to thousands of individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley and beyond.

The Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund is managed by Napa Valley Community Foundation and was established with a \$10 million lead gift from Napa Valley Vintners following the 2014 South Napa Earthquake. So far, the Fund has distributed more than \$25 million for relief and recovery from recent disasters.

###