



BLUE MOUNTAIN  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Kari Isaacson, Executive Director

509-529-4371, ext. 102

[kari@bluemountainfoundation.org](mailto:kari@bluemountainfoundation.org)

### **WALLA WALLA VALLEY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND – FIRST GRANTS**

Walla Walla, WA – Grants of \$99,000 to Blue Mountain Action Council, \$14,460 to Providence St. Mary Foundation and \$25,000 to Project Timothy (Dayton) were approved by Blue Mountain Community Foundation's Walla Walla Valley Covid-19 Response Fund on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The grants were made based on the recommendations of the Fund's 22 member Advisory Committee which prioritized local needs as food and hunger, homelessness and health and mental health.

BMAC food bank program, which includes Columbia and Garfield counties in its five county service area, received funding to ensure there is enough food available through local food banks and take out meal programs in the Valley. In addition to purchasing more food for distribution the grant included support for logistics to get the food to the right places at the right time. The \$99,000 grant is intended to cover the months of April, May and June. "As we proceed into ramification of this pandemic, BMAC Food Bank will be supplying a higher portion of a families calories, this money will help us purchase product that rounds out the families nutritional needs. We are also experiencing a shift to grab-n-go meals and this will help us provide the food and packaging for that new style of delivery." said Jeff Mathias, director, BMAC Food Bank.

Providence St. Mary Foundation received \$14,460 for a portable ultrasound machine, an addition to their resources to diagnose and treat patients. This is less than half the cost of the

machine which generous donors had challenged others to match their contribution. “We are grateful to Sharon and Larry Clinton, Mike Martin and others who were instrumental in starting our fundraising efforts for the ultrasound. And we are thankful to BMCF for urgently approving this generous grant for the remainder.” says Lindsey Oldridge, Chief Philanthropy Officer.

Project Timothy is the primary way to deliver food and shelter to meet emergency needs in Dayton and Columbia County. The grant is intended to be responsive to local needs on a rolling basis.

The Walla Walla Valley Covid-19 Response Fund has benefitted from the generous support of many people and organizations and continues to seek support for the Valley’s expanding needs. An anonymous company is providing \$10,000 and an anonymous foundation from the Seattle area has also granted \$10,000. The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, WA recently made a \$75,000 grant to the Fund. The Sherwood Trust also generously donated \$10,000. When added to \$100,000 provided by BMCF, the Fund exceeded \$200,000 before this first round of grants. The Advisory Committee continues to work together to address community needs through the Walla Walla Valley Covid-19 Response Fund.

The following organizations are represented on the Advisory Committee: Blue Mountain Action Council, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, City of Milton-Freewater, Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, Helpline, Port of Columbia County, Providence St. Mary’s Foundation, the Sherwood Trust, SonBridge, United Way of the Blue Mountains, Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless, Walla Walla Center for Children and Families (WWPS), Walla Walla County Dept. of Community Health, Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce, Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance and YMCA of Walla Walla,

For more information contact Kari Isaacson, Executive Director, BMCF at 520-404-5302 (mobile) or 509-529-4371 (office).

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For over 30 years, the Blue Mountain Community Foundation has worked to strengthen the well-being of communities in the Walla Walla Valley. It has grown to over \$50 million in assets and has over 300 charitable funds directed to benefit the people of Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington and Umatilla County in Oregon. The Foundation distributed over \$2.5 million in grants and scholarships in 2019.