For Mississippi, through Uncertain and Unprecedented Times

At the start of the new year, we could not have predicted or prepared for our nation and world to come to a standstill by spring. The COVID-19 pandemic has genuinely rocked our country and communities across our state. Despite these uncertain and unprecedented times, I find comfort in the knowledge that Mississippians are resilient and responsive to the needs of their neighbors. These difficult times further demonstrate that we are genuinely a state of neighbors who care for and look after our neighbors.

Over the next several months, we must continue to look out for each other and take measures to keep ourselves and others healthy and safe. The Community Foundation for Mississippi remains committed to connecting donors, communities, and nonprofit organizations to make meaningful and lasting change. As a part of this work, we launched the Mississippi Community Response and Recovery Fund to address the current and emerging needs of our state’s citizens during times of need. We’ve included more information about the fund in this newsletter. Having a ready pool of dollars to deploy to communities is a critical part of the response to and recovery from crises.

We remain committed to the nonprofits and causes that depend on our services to support their constituents and communities. Our determination to influence and facilitate positive, transformational change is unshaken. We recognize that we could not do this work without you. Together, we remain for Mississippi. Forever.

Jane Alexander
President and CEO
The Foundation is working with a growing network of donors and partners to ensure the resources for responding to and recovering from crises are available to meet the current and future needs of the state’s residents. CFM established the Mississippi Community Response and Recovery Fund to support the needs of communities and organizations working on responding to emerging and extraordinary events, including COVID-19, in the state. All tax-deductible donations to the fund will support people and communities in Mississippi.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be working with a coalition of partners to deploy funds to organizations that are working directly with Mississippians affected by COVID-19 and other response efforts affecting Mississippi communities. We will provide additional information and updates on our website.

Learn more or donate to the Mississippi Community Response and Recovery Fund by visiting formississippi.org.
The Foundation is continuing its work with The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation to identify 75 community members in the Jackson area who will train to become a collective force for change for Jackson. Last summer, a group of community stakeholders gathered to discuss some of the issues and underlying conditions that have shaped Jackson. This group also explored ways for people in the city to move forward with shared responsibility for the city's success. The result was the development of A New Civic Covenant - Jackson Ready to Step Forward.

The Harwood Institute has established a Virtual Public Innovators Lab that transitions the traditional in-person training into an interactive 8-week online course. The course covers topics such as:

- How to engage and understand your community the right way
- How to use what you learn to gain new allies
- How to improve your programs and strategies to work for your community - not just the experts

If you are interested in participating in the program or know someone who should join, you can complete a nomination form on our website — jacksonready.formississippi.org.
Thank you for all you do—for Mississippi, for good. Forever.

Although we are all living through difficult and uncertain times, we wanted to pause to thank each of our annual donors, partners, and friends. Without your generosity, we would not be able to support the efforts of the nonprofits, communities, and causes we serve. Many of these organizations are on the frontline of COVID-19 response efforts or have continued to find ways to support their communities despite the global public health crisis. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and work. We truly value our partnership with you.

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