OKOBOJI FOUNDATION DISASTER RECOVERY FUND
ISSUES GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

(Okoboji, IA)— As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to evolve across our community, local nonprofits are responding to meet the needs of people who are most affected. The Okoboji Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund is answering the call with urgent financial support for these organizations.

Thank you to those who have supported the Okoboji Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund. Because of your generosity, the Okoboji Foundation is proud to announce a grant distribution of $14,822 to three nonprofit organizations in the Iowa Great Lakes Community. These organizations are actively helping our community during this pandemic.

“We have tried to focus these grants to help people in our community who are the most vulnerable and the most at risk due to the crisis,” said Holly Skopec, interim president of the Okoboji Foundation. “This includes the elderly, the unemployed and the healthcare providers.”

Recipients for the first round of grants include:

**Lakes Regional Healthcare Foundation** | $8,822.30
To purchase six Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR). PAPR devices are a helmet with a purifying respirator that allows health professionals to be in the room and treat patients with suspected or known COVID-19 safely.

Brandon Rohrig Lakes Regional Healthcare COVID-19 Task Force Member said “The devices not only protect staff, protect patients, and preserve PPE, but also provide for better communication, greater provider vision fields, reduce fatigue on providers, and allows for patients to see staff’s caring faces better.”

**Voluntary Action Center** | $4,000
To subsidize costs of meals for the Meals on Wheels program, preparing alternative meal options to meet emergency needs, as well as connecting volunteers with the home-bound through phone communications.

**Bedell Family YMCA** | $2,000
To reopen the Community Table and serve two grab and go meals a week from the Character Center entrance for the next four weeks.

“We are excited to be able to support our community during this unsettling time.” Said Andrew Fisher, CEO YMCA of the Okobojis. “Thanks to this grant from the Okoboji Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund, we are able to provide meals to those in need and use our facility while being closed to the public. The support in this community is amazing.”

Due to the novel nature of the coronavirus — and the unprecedented measures being taken by state and local governments regarding health and safety — nonprofits are experiencing a dramatic increase in volumes of need. Every grant distributed went to nonprofits seeking funding for both new
and current needs, that have arisen as a direct response to COVID-19. Our grant review committee has vetted the requests to ensure vulnerable populations are receiving services.

**Accepting donations to support local nonprofits**
The Okoboji Foundation established the Disaster Recovery Fund to provide leadership and collaborative funding to support those who face the greatest need.

The coronavirus has stunned the world and is taking its toll on every individual and organization, including our community's nonprofits. To help respond to this unprecedented challenge, this effort will provide funding to local nonprofit organizations that work with people disproportionately affected by the consequences of COVID-19. Initially, these recipients include human service organizations that address food insecurity, especially for youth and older adults.

As a basis for this initiative, the Foundation contributed $10,000 dollars. The Okoboji Foundation is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from private foundations, corporate partners, and individual donors.

The Okoboji Foundation will administer grants from the Disaster Recovery Fund with the assistance of community volunteers who will sit on the grant selection committee. Grants will be distributed to nonprofit organizations throughout the Iowa Great Lakes Region through the course of the crisis as long as funding is available. The goal is to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs.

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**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**Online:** Go to [www.okobojifoundation.org](http://www.okobojifoundation.org) and click on the Okoboji Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund

**Checks:** may be made payable to Okoboji Foundation with "Disaster Recovery Fund" in the memo line and mailed to the Okoboji Foundation, PO Box 593, Arnolds Park, IA 51355.

If you have a [Donor Advised fund](http://www.okobojifoundation.org) with the Okoboji Foundation, you are welcome to contribute to this effort through your fund.

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