



Acton-Boxborough
United Way

DONATE

VOLUNTEER



Rally For Acton and Boxborough Residents in Need Give to COVID-19 Impact Fund

#GivingTuesdayNow | May 5, 2020



Message from the Executive Director

Greetings!

“Amid today’s grief, loss, and hardship, what can I do?” This is a question I get every day. It’s my hope that we can come out of this crisis together, even more resilient.

On May 5, we are participating in #GivingTuesdayNow, a global day of generosity to provide relief during the pandemic. Let’s rally for our neighbors - hairdressers, Uber drivers, restaurant and retail workers and so many others who never imagined they’d need financial support.

Our COVID-19 Impact Fund has raised \$140,000 in one month. We are closely working together with our town social workers to bring relief to individuals and families in need with \$1,000 emergency grants.

On #GivingTuesdayNow, we hope to raise \$30,000 as we anticipate that this crisis will harshly impact hundreds of cash-strapped Acton and Boxborough families and individuals for months to come. Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$15,000 thanks to the Orange Door Fund.

What can you do to help? Donate to #GivingTuesdayNow and spread the word to strengthen community solidarity. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

We're in it together!

Griet Dehandschutter
Executive Director



Take Part

Easy Tips to Inspire Generosity

Take part in #GivingTuesdayNow to support our Acton and Boxborough neighbors in need. Whether you prefer Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email, it's easy to spread the word and inspire generosity. Use [these simple tips](#) to join the

cause and set up your own fundraising campaign. Reach out to your friends and family today and inspire giving to the COVID-19 Impact Fund that will quickly and directly provide emergency grants for local residents.



COVID-19 Emergency Grants Available Now

The Covid-19 Impact Fund, launched on March 24th, has raised nearly \$140,000 so far, thanks to generous donations from community members doubled by five matching grants. Town social workers, food pantries and other food distribution partners are seeing a spike in requests for assistance from people who never needed support before. We are asking those who can help to step forward. Just imagine how difficult it is to keep up with expenses. One month's rent is easily \$1,500 for a family of three.

We have collaborated with town social workers and other community partners to [establish criteria and provide residents with \\$1,000 emergency grants](#), available now, to help pay rent or other critical bills. The social workers also help residents find temporary work and apply for unemployment support, fuel assistance, SNAP benefits, and more.

The emergency grants are just one part of our larger goal to build a strong local community support network, both for today and the future.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Jen Orcutt

Jen Orcutt has been supporting A-B United Way for five years as Chair of our Outreach Committee. [This Volunteer Spotlight article](#) highlights the achievements of this committee. It describes the

amazing work they are doing to coordinate COVID-19 efforts among 30 local direct service agencies, and to ensure that COVID-19 emergency grant requests are quickly distributed.



On The Bright Side

In these unusual times, so many individuals and families, local nonprofit staff and volunteers, town workers, and school teachers are stepping forward to demonstrate community spirit and care in innovative ways.

Watch our new [“On The Bright Side” video series](#) as these inspiring, hometown heroes are interviewed by Neil Gordon, CEO of the Discovery Museum. We are proud of our volunteer ABRHS student production team. See for yourself what it means to Live United. In episode #6, Neil interviews [Jim Cogan, Acton Deputy Chief of Police](#). Watch for new episodes weekly on Facebook, Instagram, and soon on ActonTV - stay tuned!



Keep in Mind

If your neighbor needs help, please share these [COVID-19 Community Resources](#)

If you are a resident in need of emergency funds, see our [FAQ for residents](#)

If you can give help, [volunteer](#)

If you can provide financial support, [donate now](#)

JOIN THE FIGHT



United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED®.