



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Northland Groups Tackle COVID-19 Challenges Locally**

Over \$200,000 in grants awarded to local Northland organizations

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected countless numbers of families in Clay and Platte Counties in Missouri through job loss, income reduction and the absence of children from numerous support programs that exist in their local schools. Two Northland funding agencies have made grants in excess of \$200,000 to help nonprofit agencies in Clay and Platte Counties address the challenges people face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Northland Community Foundation (an affiliate of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation), and the Harvest Ball Society have awarded \$150,500 and \$50,000, respectively, to 15 nonprofit agencies in Clay and Platte Counties that are working to provide basic needs and emergency assistance to families suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The agencies receiving grants from the Foundation and Harvest Ball Society were: A Turning Point Ministry Inc.; Assistance League of KC; Clay County Clothes Closet; Cornerstones of Care; Feed Northland Kids; Hillcrest Platte County; Love INC of Clay County; Meals on Wheels- Clay and Platte Counties; Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry dba Metro Lutheran Ministry; Northland Assistance Center; Northland Shepherd's Center; Platte Senior Services; Synergy Services, Inc.; Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc.; and YMCA of Greater Kansas City.

Bruce Cramer, Chairman of the Northland Community Foundation Advisory Board noted that, "The mission of the Northland Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Northland by increasing charitable giving, connecting donors to the needs in the community they care about and providing leadership on critical community issues. Allocating some of our available funds to address issues surround COVID-19 is a reflection of that mission."

One of the recipients of grants from both agencies was Feed Northland Kids ([www.feednorthlandkids.org](http://www.feednorthlandkids.org)), an agency that works to address childhood and student hunger in Clay and Platte Counties through partnership with the Harvester's BackSnack program and school food pantries. According to Chris Evans, Executive Director, "We had to revamp our entire program, essentially creating a new program, since our on-site delivery method (schools) were not in session. Doing that resulted in costs we had not budgeted. The grants from the Foundation and the Harvest Ball Society helped us address that budget gap and allowed us to

mobilize community food pack distributions at four sites in the two counties, even into the summer months.”

Veda Donner, 2020 Harvest Ball Society President stated that “Since 1987, Harvest Ball Society has been growing philanthropy in the Northland to respond to the evolving needs of the community. We are thrilled to provide emergency relief funding to these selected charities during this unprecedented pandemic. Harvest Ball Society has transitioned to a Giving Circle model rather than a Ball, and invites everyone to join in by going to [www.harvestballsociety.com](http://www.harvestballsociety.com) and become a part of the HBS Giving Circle. Together, we can continue to fulfill our mission.”

Learn more about the Northland Community Foundation at: [www.northlandcf.org](http://www.northlandcf.org).

Learn more about Harvest Ball Society at [www.harvestballsociety.com](http://www.harvestballsociety.com).

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