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Headwaters

RELIEF ORGANIZATION

Quarterly Newsletter

Special COVID-19 Edition
January- April 2020

Welcome to this special edition of Headwaters Relief Organization's quarterly newsletter. We are sending it on this day in recognition of both giveMN and Giving Tuesday Now. These two giving dates were combined to support organizations working in COVID-19 response.

Dear Friends,

Together we are going through challenging times.

As the volume of international travel increases, so do the rates of infectious disease transmission. No country can ignore the fact that their neighbor's problem is also their problem. COVID-19 is a fresh reminder that disease doesn't differentiate between countries, economic status, race, gender, or background. We all knew an outbreak of this magnitude could happen at any time. We should all agree that none of us were prepared.

Resiliency is characteristic of humans, often displayed during disasters. We have endured months of lockdown and stay-at-home orders. We lost our jobs, co-existed with family members, dashed for basic essential supplies, and counted our toilet paper rolls. The truth is we survived; we united to flatten the curve; we trusted our health officials, and we will ultimately defeat the illness.

It might still be months before the world comes back to what we regard as normal, but the lessons learned from the pandemic should never be forgotten. The planet earth is our home, where the citizens of the world must unite towards a common goal.

We want to thank you, our donors, volunteers, friends, and family who have helped us launch our four volunteer opportunities: **the PhonePal Program, Sewing Masks, the Homeschool Assistance Program**, and our coloring book, **When We All Stayed Home**. These programs have been received with unprecedented kindness and support from all of you.

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support. We adapted and held our first online board meeting respecting the social distancing needs.

As we all try to return to a more normal version of our daily lives, I wish you all the best of health and happiness.

Stay safe. Stay Healthy.

Roshan Khatri
Medical Director



Headwaters Relief Organization's Fight Against Coronavirus, COVID-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our world. As the doctors, nurses, scientists, and researchers lead the battle against this disease, there are ways you can help too!

Headwaters Relief Organization has been working in disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery for more than 15 years locally, nationally, and internationally. We have committed ourselves to helping families and our communities.

Headwaters Relief Organization's volunteers have been creating children's books to help children, families, and communities in the aftermath of disasters since 2010. Our books have assisted children in response to earthquakes, typhoons, hurricanes, the refugee crisis, trafficking, and the Ebola crisis.

We have created a children's coloring book, **When We All Stayed Home**, to help explain COVID-19 and to assist children and families process their feelings and cope with the uncertainty of this time. To learn more about how you can support the publication of our books, [click here](#).

Please join us in supporting our communities. We have several volunteer activities that you can do from the comfort of your home:

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- **Phone Pal Program.** Make phone calls to people who are home bound and would like someone to visit with each week. [Click here](#)
- **Home-schooling Assistance Program.** Parents are often overwhelmed with the demands of remote learning. If you can assist parents with a certain subject, let us know. [Click here](#)
- **Help donate our coloring book, When We All Stayed Home.** Our book explains COVID-19 to children and assists and supports parents with talking with children and dealing with the stress and uncertainties of this time. [Click here.](#)

100% of your donation goes directly to those we serve.

DONATE NOW

Volunteer Highlight

On December 25, 2019, more than 250 people were displaced by a fire that destroyed the Francis Drake Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted in helping the survivors of the fire. Our volunteers helped with childcare at a community resource event in January so parents could focus on connecting with support and resources.



We asked one of our volunteers to share her volunteer experience.

Melissa Hofstede

What made this volunteer experience meaningful?

This was a local event, and I was able to volunteer with my daughter. It was important to me to be able to teach my daughter that you can always make time to volunteer.

The experience at the Multi-Agency Resource Center was important because you were able to see organizations come together. It was shocking to see the magnitude of the disaster and

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What were some of the activities you did?

The majority of the time I spent with the kids we colored, read books, played with balloons, and played games. At the end of the day, we were able to clean and organize toys for the next day.

What surprised you most about working with the kids?

It was surprising that after the fire, they did not know what was next. The predictability was gone for them. For example, a little boy asked if he was going to sleep at the center.

Are you interested in volunteering with us? Fill out the [volunteer interest form](#), and we will reach out to you with volunteer opportunities.



2020 Events

Headwaters 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Gala

Headwaters 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Gala was held on February 15th, 2020, at Watson Block in downtown Minneapolis. This year's Gala included a fabulous creole dinner, unique silent auction items, a live auction, street performers, fortune-telling, and live music. One of the musicians performing for our gala was an old friend and piano player from New Orleans. The Mardi Gras theme reflects our history and early work providing disaster relief as a non-profit collaboration of volunteers after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

A special thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, performers, and attendees for making the Gala a success. Through your support, we were able to raise funds that help Headwaters programs around the world. We look forward to seeing you next year!

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Sleigh Ride



The Royal Gold Club in Lake Elmo and our board member, Joel LeVahn hosted a sleigh ride and brunch on Saturday, February 29th, 2020. Although the lack of snow turned the sleigh ride into a horse-drawn wagon ride, it was a beautiful day with a lovely brunch, sledding, and ice fishing. We look forward to an expanded event next year, timed with the Winter Carnival.



Upcoming events

May 1st- 8th, 2020 #GiveAtHomeMN

#GiveatHomeMN is officially underway! Every donation given now through May 8th makes us eligible for bonus grant opportunities ranging from \$250 to \$2,500! Thank you, friends, for helping us continue this good work. We can't do it without you.

Art-A-Whirl Online

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fun way to connect with you and see beautiful artwork all from home.

Did you know we have a store?

Help support artisans in Haiti, Nepal and Liberia.

100% of the sales go back to the programs in

Haiti, Liberia and Nepal.



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