



City of Edmonds Media Release

Mayor's Office ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

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MAYOR NELSON ANNOUNCES \$200,000 COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

Three Local Non-Profits to Receive Funds

(Edmonds, WA) Recognizing the enormous impact COVID-19 has had on local businesses, our senior population and our most vulnerable residents, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson announced the creation of a Community and Economic Relief Fund from which the City of Edmonds will make available \$200,000 to nonprofit community organizations.

“We must respond to the increasing needs in the community, especially our seniors and lower-income residents and families,” said Mayor Nelson. “We are also investing in our community’s economic vitality by supporting our small businesses so they will survive this crisis and continue to contribute in many ways to our community.”

The funds are available immediately and will provide financial support to the Edmonds Food Bank, the Edmonds Senior Center, and the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce Foundation. “These organizations were selected due to their experience, existing infrastructure, and ability to provide relief to those who need it most as quickly as possible,” commented Nelson.

Edmonds Food Bank

Money from this Fund for the Food Bank will go toward more food, as donations are down markedly. It will also buy supplies and pay for helpers, if necessary. “With increased job loss, and greater demand, we are meeting today’s challenges by providing online food ordering and a drive-through pick-up system, as well as purchasing a refrigerated truck to provide and deliver fresh produce,” commented Edmonds Food Bank President & Executive Director Casey Davis. “We are very pleased that Mayor Nelson and the City of Edmonds have offered to help us at the Food Bank with our core mission of providing food to individuals and families in need.”

Senior Center

Monies from this Fund will help the Senior Center with its *Project Senior Connect*, which is intended to connect one way or another with their over 900 members for everything from weekly check-in calls to meals deliveries. The Project will provide the following services:

- Home delivery for lunch 7 days a week
- Grocery shopping and delivery
- Help with exterior home chores
- Weekly check-in calls
- Weekly livestream classes
- Tech support
- Phone counseling with Social Worker
- Phone consultation with Registered Nurse
- Resource & Referral

“Mayor Nelson’s offer for City of Edmonds financial assistance at this time is very welcome news as we stand up our *Project Senior Connect*, intended to provide an array of services to our over 900 members. We are both honored and delighted to be a recipient of the City’s assistance, which will go far in helping our most vulnerable residents,” commented Edmonds Senior Center Executive Director Farrell Fleming.

Edmonds Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The Foundation offers grants through its WISH Fund to businesses in need, leveraging resiliency measures such as assistance with legal matters, accounting, financial or business planning, social media strategies, web design or online marketing, graphic design and signage, or IT support in a business-to-business model where an Edmonds business with expertise is paid to provide these services to another Edmonds business in need. Businesses served by this fund do not have to be Chamber members.

"In this unprecedented time the Edmonds Chamber is working even harder to support *all* businesses, as it is not a matter of if we come through but when," said Edmonds Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Nancy Ekrem, Owner of DME CPA Group. "During the Stay-At-Home order many people are unable to work at their business but they can still work on their business. The Edmonds Chamber Foundation WISH Fund's *business-to-business* grants will help companies pivot and improve operations in order to be better positioned for recovery when doors reopen. This support will enable us to expand our capacity and help hundreds of Edmonds businesses weather this COVID crisis."

Source of funding

The Fund is the result of contributions from several City departments, achieved by foregoing certain projects or programs this year and salary savings from open positions not yet filled. This is an initial commitment of funds. If greater needs arise, the Mayor may seek approval from City Council of appropriation from the General Fund for additional monies at a future date.

“I am grateful to City staff who were able to find savings to donate,” said Mayor Nelson.