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## **Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Announces Seven Rapid Response and Recovery Fund Grants for Local Nonprofits**

OAK PARK, IL (July 26, 2021) – The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation (OPRFCF) today announced its latest round of Rapid Response and Recovery Fund grants, totaling \$115,000 for seven nonprofits in the western Cook County region.

“The vaccination effort has allowed many in our community to get out and enjoy something close to pre-pandemic normal, but many others continue to struggle, and the long-term effects of the pandemic are yet to be understood,” said Tony Martinez, Jr., president and CEO of the OPRFCF. “This most recent round of grants therefore includes a number of organizations that provide mental health services, as well as rent and utility assistance, vaccine education, and support for minority owned businesses and arts organizations.”

The following organizations were awarded grants in the latest round:

- Leyden Family Service
- Children’s Research Triangle
- Taller de Jose
- Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce
- Oak Park Area Arts Council
- Oak Park Regional Housing Center
- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP)

The Rapid Response and Recovery Fund was created in March 2020 with a seed investment of \$50,000 from the Foundation to provide desperately needed dollars to agencies fighting to provide daily, ongoing support to our most vulnerable neighbors: those struggling with food insecurity, permanent housing, and health concerns. In addition, the fund is combating the socioeconomic inequities exacerbated by this virus, and is supporting the mental health and physical safety of all our community members. The fund has received a total of \$1.2 million in donations since its inception, and has given grants to 56 organizations in the community.

Individual, family and corporate donors contributed generously toward this vital effort — including \$30,000 raised by the 700 Block of Bonnie Brae’s LemonAid charity drive, which selected the fund as its beneficiary in 2020, and over \$500,000 in a match challenge by longtime Oak Parkers Ken and Patty Hunt. The fund also received \$250,000 from the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund.

“These grants could have never happened if it wasn’t the heartfelt generosity of so many community members,” said Martinez, “We are eternally grateful to each one who contributed to this fund.”

To support the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and its work on behalf of the community visit [oprfcf.org](http://oprfcf.org) or call 708-848-1560.

**About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation**

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Foundation focuses on helping its donors identify and achieve their long-term philanthropic goals, and providing grants and leadership support to organizations working to effect positive change in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods. Its mission is to unite community members to mobilize resources to advance a racially just society and equitable outcomes for residents of Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding communities. Learn more about the Foundation’s programs and services online at [oprfcf.org](http://oprfcf.org).

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