





For 56 years, the San Antonio Area Foundation has served as the city's community-giving headquarters. We facilitate charitable giving from the community for the community. As a community foundation, we help donors reach their charitable goals by hosting, managing and supporting over 500 charitable funds. With more than \$1 billion in assets, the Area Foundation has grown to become one of the largest community foundations in the nation based on asset size. To date, the Area Foundation has awarded over \$400 million in grants and scholarships to enhance the quality of life in our region. Learn more at [saafdn.org](https://saafdn.org).

# COVID-19 Community Response Fund Impact Report



## [ COVID-19 Response Timeline ]

Once it became clear in March 2020 that the coronavirus pandemic was just beginning to halt life as we knew it and cause an unprecedented ripple effect across our community, the San Antonio Area Foundation wasted no time in taking bold and decisive action. In conjunction with the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County (in close cooperation and coordination with the City of San Antonio), the COVID-19 Response Fund was created to provide an immediate lifeline to the nonprofit sector.

A crisis can't wait. We embraced the power of trust-based philanthropy, enabling unprecedented progress by prioritizing community-led solutions and removing procedural barriers. We learned that challenges are best solved by those who face them every day and live with the consequences of waiting too long for solutions. We stand proud of how quickly our community mobilized and learned just how much we can do and just how far we can go if we truly put the community first.



“It would be hard to overstate the importance of nonprofits in our community. By working alongside the City of San Antonio, local businesses, and residents, our nonprofits are a powerful force for good, helping meet community needs, advancing equity and opportunities for all.”

—Mayor Ron Nirenberg







Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Partners,

During unprecedented times, the San Antonio Area Foundation was committed to helping the community respond and recover.

The COVID-19 Response Fund was created by the Area Foundation and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, in partnership with multiple funders, to call forth the strengths and resiliency of our community in response to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Together, the San Antonio Area Foundation and 38 partners established a fund available for general operating grants for area nonprofit organizations most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Our ability to leverage relationships within our community allowed us to provide support to over 200 organizations with a community investment totaling \$6.4M.

While it is impossible to fully capture the awe-inspiring spirit of generosity and compassion that motivated donors and nonprofit workers throughout this past year, this report will focus on the collective efforts of the COVID-19 Response Fund.

Our gratitude goes to our founding partners and the thousands of other nonprofit organizations, donors, and leaders who came together to address our community's needs.

With gratitude,

Marjie French, CEO  
San Antonio Area Foundation

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, WE RELY ON RELATIONSHIPS.

**THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC** PROMPTED

ALL OF US TO ACT QUICKLY, DEPEND ON EACH OTHER, AND ENCOURAGE INNOVATION. WE HAVE

PRIORITIZED COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS —

TRUSTING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES TO DO

THE WORK THEY KNOW HOW TO GET DONE, TO

SERVE THEIR NEIGHBORS WHO ARE IN NEED.

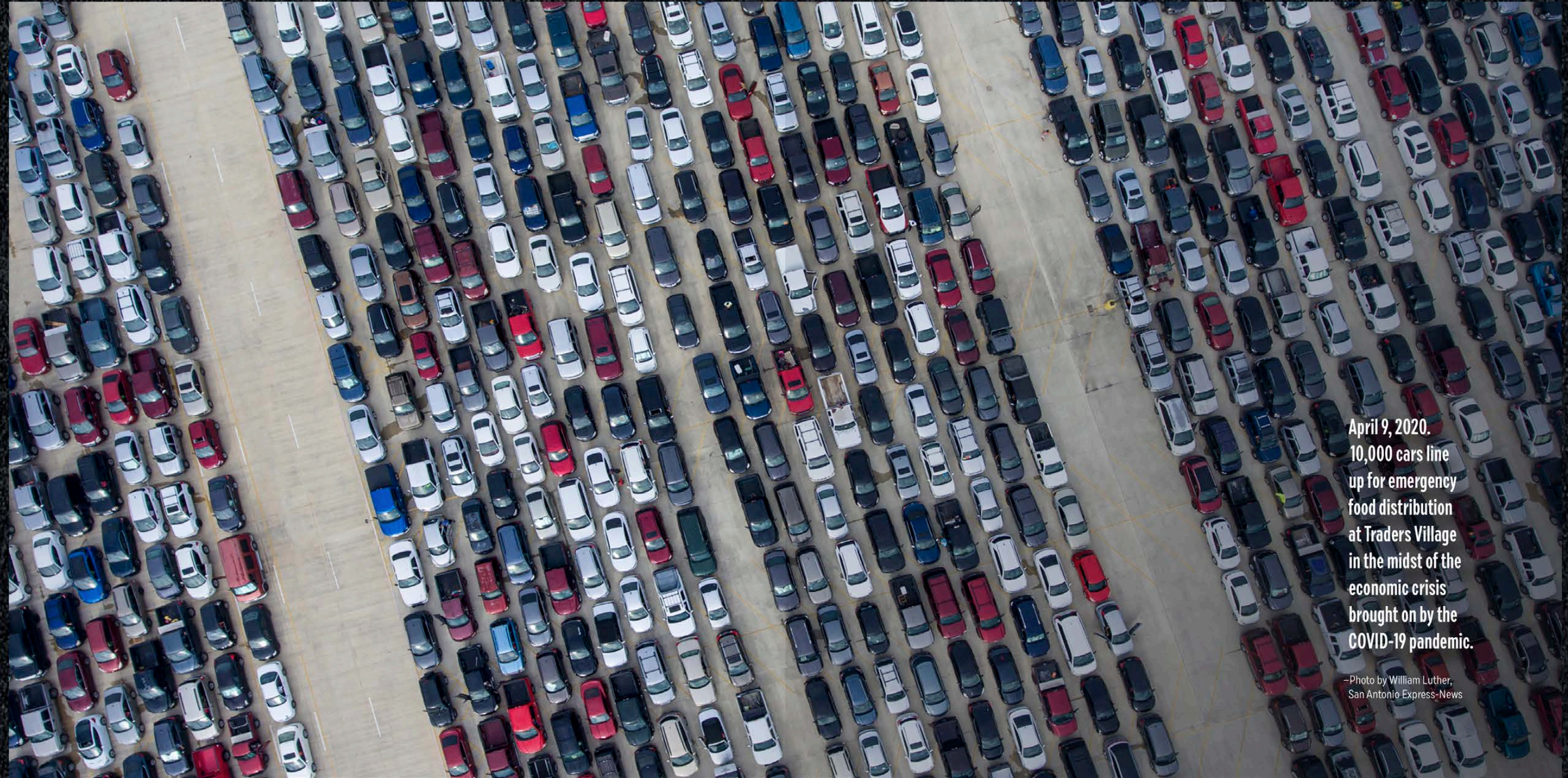
OUR WORK HAS BEEN RELENTLESS. IT HAS BEEN

EYE-OPENING. WE ARE PROUD OF THE PEOPLE OF

SAN ANTONIO WHO ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE,

WITH COMPASSION AND WITHOUT HESITATION.





April 9, 2020.  
10,000 cars line  
up for emergency  
food distribution  
at Traders Village  
in the midst of the  
economic crisis  
brought on by the  
COVID-19 pandemic.

—Photo by William Luther,  
San Antonio Express-News



## [ Stability in a time of chaos ]

There's a reason why the San Antonio community, starting with city leadership, looks to the San Antonio Area Foundation for innovation and efficacy in local philanthropy. Whether it was immediately reopening childcare centers, enabling emergency cash assistance, or empowering nonprofits to continue their mission even in the darkest of times, the Area Foundation was there, responding to the crisis with a stabilizing force that united the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors of our community.

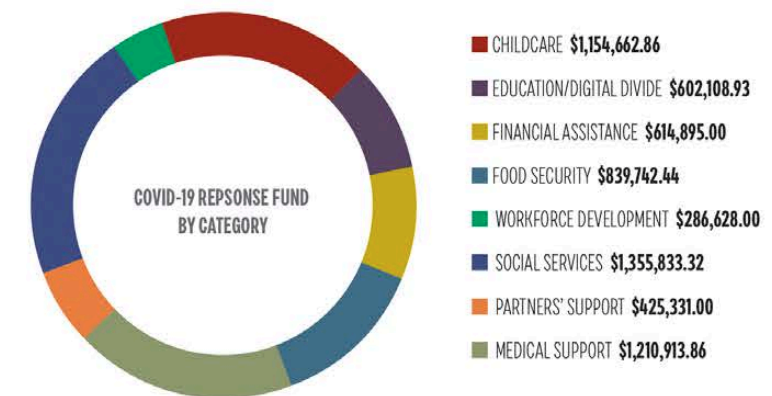
# \$6,490,115.41

Total funds distributed by the COVID-19 Response Fund

### A LIFELINE FOR THE COMMUNITY

The San Antonio Area Foundation and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County launched the COVID-19 Response Fund to provide immediate relief to those most impacted by the crisis.

The Fund established a set of priorities: the economic impact of reduced/lost work, the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, medical information/support, fear and confusion about the outbreak, and resources for school-aged children.







### YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HAVEN FOR HOPE

As the City began shutting down, so did daycare and other childcare centers. Response Fund partners started linking with nonprofits to reopen childcare centers for first responders and essential workers. The support provided immediate impact in stabilizing a spiraling crisis as the pandemic spread exponentially.

#### Total amount: \$200,000

*The learning center was able to stay open during the early months of COVID-19, providing full-day childcare to 269 children of essential workers when schools and other childcare centers closed.*

*Later, in August, the YMCA transitioned to offering e-Learning camps that gave 423 children boosted WiFi and support as they navigated their school's distance learning programs.*

**“My daughter enrolled in the distance learning camp, and sending her has been an absolute lifeline for our family. We work and have no family in town. Without this camp, we’d have to make some painful decisions for our family, financial and otherwise.”**

—YMCA Client



**UPTOGETHER**

In many respects, the Area Foundation was ready and able to provide immediate assistance for childcare providers. An example of that is a program put in place in 2019 which proved to be visionary in helping needy families during the pandemic.

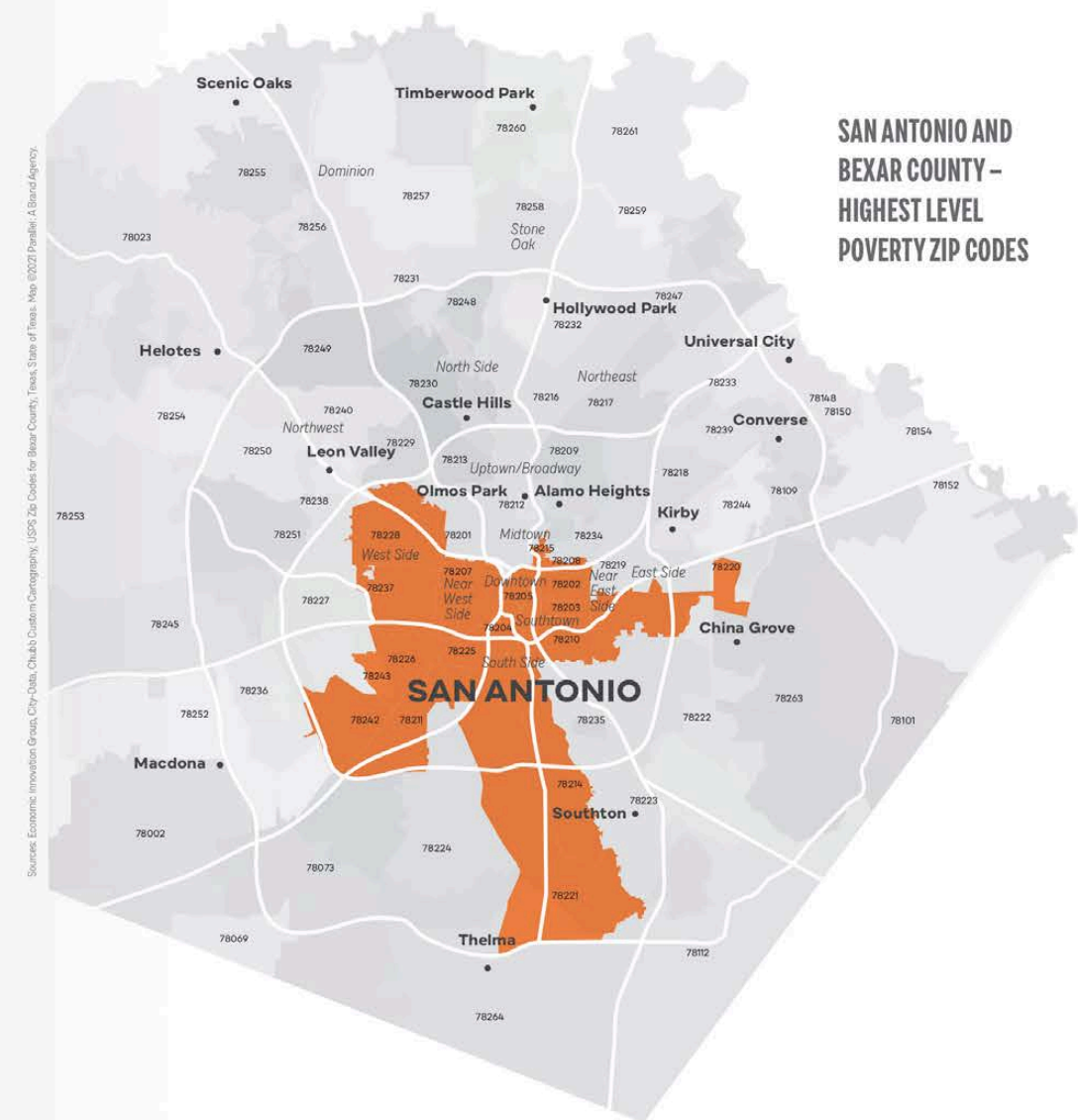
Along with the **H. E. Butt Foundation** and other key partners, the Area Foundation helped establish Family Independence Initiative, now known as **UpTogether**. The program is unique in its simplicity: it identifies eligible families in high-level poverty areas of Bexar County for direct emergency cash assistance.

“COVID-19 caught all of us off-guard, but we were uniquely prepared to join our partners and quickly get money to families, well before the first federal stimulus payments,” said Ivanna Neri, Partnership Director at UpTogether. “One mom had to stop working because schools closed, and she needed to care for her children. Another person told us she used part of the money to help her neighbors buy groceries.”

**Total grants: \$200,000**

The COVID-19 Response Fund invested in UpTogether so they could quickly get cash into households desperate to make ends meet, with one or both parents suddenly out of work and bills mounting.

*In all, UpTogether raised more than \$12 million, giving more than 31,000 San Antonio households a direct cash infusion (on average, \$150 to \$500 each).*







## ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

The grant provided by the COVID-19 Response Fund allowed this venerable community organization to keep programs going when it would otherwise have had to suspend or terminate them. For example, contributing artists still collected fees for their work, and members of the MujerArtes Women's Clay Cooperative continued to receive their regular stipends.

As social distancing and quarantine affected its programming, Esperanza staff had to walk the tightrope of providing quality virtual programming while remaining cognizant of our community's lingering digital divide.

Wellness and outreach opportunities traditionally held in-person, such as neighborhood canvassing and visiting clients in their homes, could not be switched to a digital format.

Educational programming, however, saw a significant bump, as other clients appreciated the flexibility and logistical ease of online workshops.

As virtual programming took hold, Esperanza found success with its virtual event held on Oct. 10, in celebration of the national observations of Hispanic Heritage Month and National Coming Out Month.

The online event was a much-needed showcase for talented artists, not just from San Antonio but from across the country, and an opportunity for the Latinx LGBTQ+ community to bond in times of crisis and despair.

### Total grant: \$20,000

*Esperanza put grant funds to good use providing basic needs for its clients — with nearly 500 meals served, including almost 200 food box deliveries.*

*In total, Esperanza was able to put on 31 live virtual cultural events and workshops, with the grant ultimately impacting the well-being of 15,000 residents.*



**CORAZÓN MINISTRIES, INC.**

Corazón has been serving downtown San Antonio's homeless population for more than two decades. The pandemic immediately impacted its homelessness service work since clients could no longer congregate in large groups. No longer able to host gatherings, the agency went mobile thanks to its \$5,000 grant.

Staffers used an "ice cream truck" model to distribute meals in the five largest public parks in the downtown area. Corazón then teamed up with **Centro SA** and the **City of San Antonio** to operate in a gymnasium following appropriate social distancing and safety protocols.

They were able to hire a kitchen assistant to help prepare more meals to meet increasing demand. Corazón maintained services crucial for keeping poverty in check, including ID recovery, a cooling center during hot summer days, voter registration, and medical services.

In addition, they partnered with Sichuan House and Pharm Table for six months, using the Area Foundation grant to provide meals for the homeless, keeping small businesses afloat.

**"We had to act fast. It was a great opportunity to provide meals to people in need while at the same time doing our part to provide jobs by keeping those restaurant employees on the job. It was a win-win."**

*—Gavin Rogers, Executive Director at Corazón Ministries, Inc.*



**Total grant: \$5,000**

*Corazón's services expanded from four to seven days a week, with the average weekly meal count doubling from 420 to 840. Since the pandemic hit, more than 21,000 meals have been served.*





### **GIRLS INCORPORATED OF SAN ANTONIO (GIRLS INC.)**

Girls Inc. was able to maintain its strong connection with the many girls whom they inspire “to be strong, smart, and bold.”

Academic programming did not stop — the organization was able to shift to virtual programs and administrators were able to increase bandwidth, actually expanding the client base as a result.

Essential wellness services did not stop either. The Girl Pad Grab & Go Program was created to keep offering feminine hygiene products to girls in the community. It quickly proved successful. On just its second distribution event, staff recounted many people showing up on bicycles and on foot — in the middle of a downpour.

One mother and daughter even walked over after having car trouble (though fearing they could be turned away since it was a drive-through event). They were eternally grateful to learn they would still receive their products.

Once it became safe enough to do so, Girls Inc. used grant funding to open its doors to girls and their families who could not access virtual programs, offering after-school, socially distanced programming.

#### **Total grant: \$20,000**

*Academic programming did not stop — the organization was able to shift to virtual programs. Additionally, given the increased demand for digital offerings, administrators were able to increase bandwidth. As a result, the client base expanded.*



**LIFTFUND**

With their doors shuttered, many small businesses faced dire, if not outright fatal, consequences as they struggled to stay afloat.

Fortunately, many small businesses were able to keep their heads above water with a lifeline from LiftFund, a microlending agency that received a \$75,000 grant from the COVID-19 Response Fund.

LiftFund immediately instituted a four-month loan deferral process for high-risk industries and distributed grants of up to \$5,000 to small business owners. Through its business support centers, LiftFund also provided COVID-specific coaching one-on-one and for larger audiences through webinars.

**Total grant: \$75,000**

*In all, LiftFund utilized its COVID-19 Response Fund grant to help more than 500 clients and save nearly 2,000 jobs.*

**“I have people depending on me and it has been my motivation to keep going and avoid layoffs. This grant is literally saving lives and families. I honestly don’t know how we would have recovered from this crisis without your help.”**

- Kela Nabors, Owner of Organically Bath & Beauty







#### **SAN ANTONIO FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, INC. (SAISD FOUNDATION)**

Perhaps no sector across our community most acutely felt the wrath and disastrous impact of the coronavirus pandemic more than schools. San Antonio Independent School District, serving the largest proportion of low-income and at-risk students, knew it faced one of its most menacing challenges.

Thanks to its philanthropic arm, **SAISD Foundation**, the district's grant assured the rapid purchase and distribution of 4,000 internet connectivity (hotspot) devices in the early days of the pandemic. This was crucial as students and staff quickly shifted to remote learning protocols.

As the pandemic persisted, additional devices had to be bought and distributed to students who were either new to the district or whose families faced financial hardship from lost wages.

Sadly, the experience highlighted how far San Antonio still must go to bridge its digital divide. The district was already aware that it served a large low-income and at-risk student population, but the need for remote learning made it clear many never had WiFi at home.

**"It is amazing how if you don't have connectivity, you are left out of the world these days. The digital divide has always been there, but we have to prioritize getting kids connected. We have to fix it if we are going to have equity."**

-Dina Toland, Second Grade Teacher at SAISD's Advanced Learning Academy

#### **Total grant: \$50,000**

*SAISD was able to purchase and distribute over 4,000 hotspot devices for low-income and at-risk students to participate in remote learning due to the COVID-19 Response Fund.*



## [ Funding the frontline ]

As the pandemic raged, it was the nonprofit community who stood fast, keeping so many of our vulnerable friends and neighbors from falling further into crisis. We knew our role was to trust these organizations to deliver help quickly and effectively. Yet “trust-based” doesn’t mean less accountability. The experts, our nonprofit leaders and their staffs, are more than willing to be held accountable – they’d just rather not get held back from the work they know how to get done.

### COVID-19 FUND GRANTEES

100 Black Men of San Antonio, Inc.  
Acts of Hope Center  
Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas  
Alamo Area Mutual Housing Association, Inc.  
Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center  
Alamo Center ENT, Inc.  
Alamo Colleges Foundation  
Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.  
Alpha Home, Inc.  
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.  
American GI Forum – National Veterans Outreach Program  
American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions  
American Kidney Fund, Inc.  
American Red Cross  
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc.  
Arc of San Antonio  
Arthur Nagel Community Clinic  
Artpace San Antonio  
Ascension DePaul Services  
Autism Service Center of San Antonio  
Autistic Treatment Center, Inc.  
Bandera County Committee on Aging, Inc.  
Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Care Center, Inc.  
Bexar County Community Health Collaborative  
Bexar County Medical Library Association  
Beyond the Light Outreach Project (BTLOP)  
Blessed Sacrament and Incarnate Word Convent  
Blood & Tissue Center Foundation  
Blueprint Ministries, Inc.

Boerne Community Coalition  
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio  
Brighton Center  
Bulverde Senior Center  
Carver Development Board  
Catholic Charities of San Antonio, Inc.  
Child Advocates of San Antonio (CASA)  
Children’s Bereavement Center of South Texas  
The Children’s Shelter  
ChildSafe  
Chosen Care Inc  
Chow Train  
Christ Community Church of Greater San Antonio  
Christ the King/Cristo Rey of Hope  
Christian Assistance Ministry  
Chromosome 18 Registry & Research Society  
Circle of Health International  
City of San Antonio, Department of Human Services  
City of San Antonio Westside Development Corporation  
City Year, Inc.  
Classical Music Institute  
Comal County Habitat for Humanity  
Communities in Schools of San Antonio  
Communities in Schools of South-Central Texas  
Community Council of South-Central Texas, Inc.  
Community Housing Resource Partners, Inc.  
Community Justice Foundation  
Community Options, Inc.  
Compass Rose Education  
Congregations of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
Conjunto Heritage Taller  
Connections – Individual and Family Services, Inc.  
Contemporary Art for San Antonio

Corazon Ministries, Inc.  
Crosspoint, Inc.  
CRRC of Canyon Lake, Inc.  
Culinaria  
Daily Bread Ministries  
Disability SA  
Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health  
El Centro del Barrio  
Epilepsy Foundation of Central & South Texas  
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center  
Family Independence Initiative  
Family Promise of Greater New Braunfels  
Family Service Association  
Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.  
Friends of Cibolo Wilderness  
Gemini Series, Inc.  
Girls Incorporated of San Antonio  
Global Evangelism, Inc.  
Golden Manor  
Good Samaritan Center of San Antonio  
Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, Good Careers Academy  
Greater Randolph Area Services Program, Inc.  
Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center  
H.I.S. BridgeBuilders  
Habitable Spaces  
Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio  
Haven for Hope of Bexar County  
Healy-Murphy Center  
Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries  
Hope Hospice  
Hope International for Community Development  
House of Neighborly Service  
Housing and Community Services, Inc.  
I Care San Antonio



ImmSchools  
Incarnate Word Retirement Community, Inc.  
Intercultural Development Research Association  
Jefferson Area Community Outreach  
for Older People  
Jewish Family Service of San Antonio  
JOVEN-Juvenile Outreach  
and Vocational/Educational Network  
Kendall County Women's Shelter  
Kinetic Kids  
KIPP San Antonio, Inc  
Libraries Without Borders  
LiftFund  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation – San Antonio  
Lord's Way, Inc.  
Luminaria  
Madonna Center  
Maestro Leadership Foundation  
Magik Children's Theatre  
Martinez Street Women's Center  
Meals on Wheels  
Merced Housing  
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc.  
Mission Road Developmental Center  
National Association for Latino Community  
Asset Builders  
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture  
National Center for Behavioral Health Solutions  
Neighborhood Housing Services of San Antonio  
New Braunfels Christian Ministries  
Northside Education Foundation  
Older Adults Technology Services, Inc.  
Pay It Forward, Clean & Sober Living  
Planned Parenthood South Texas  
Presa Community Service Center  
Project QUEST, Inc.  
Rainbow Senior Center Foundation, Inc.  
Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc.

Redeemer's Praise Church Love Community Center  
Restore Education  
Rise Recovery  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio  
Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, Inc.  
S.L.E.W. (Support Lending for Emotional Well-Being)  
SA Cancer Council  
SA Heals  
SA Hope Center  
SA Youth  
Salvation Army  
San Anto Cultural Arts, Inc.  
San Antonio AIDS Foundation  
San Antonio Clubhouse, Inc.  
San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness  
San Antonio Food Bank  
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)  
San Antonio Foundation for Excellence, Inc.  
San Antonio Housing Trust Foundation  
San Antonio Lifetime Recovery, Inc.  
San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind  
San Antonio Little Theatre, Inc.  
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc.  
San Antonio Oasis  
San Antonio Preparatory, Inc.  
San Antonio Public Library Foundation  
San Antonio Threads  
Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation  
SATX Inner City Development, Inc.  
SAY Si  
Seton Home for Pregnant Women  
Sistema Infantil Teleton USA  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Soldiers' Angels  
Somerset ISD Education Foundation  
South Texas Children's Home Ministries  
Southwest Outreach for Older People  
Spina Bifida Texas

St. Jude's Ranch for Children Texas Region, Inc.  
St. Peter – St. Joseph Children's Home  
Street2Feet  
Students in Christ's Youth Center, Inc.  
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation  
San Antonio  
TBI Warrior Foundation  
TEAMability, Inc.  
Teatro de Artes de Juan Seguin  
Texas Diaper Bank  
Texas Health Action  
Texas Public Radio  
Thrive Youth Center, Inc.  
Thrivewell Cancer Foundation  
THRU Project  
Transplant Association of Texas  
Travis Park United Methodist Church  
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at San Antonio  
Vault Fostering Community  
Vet TRIIP, Inc.  
Volunteers of America Texas, Inc.  
West Avenue Compassion  
Whitby Road Alliance  
Woodlawn Theatre  
YoungLife  
Young Men's Christian Association  
of Greater San Antonio  
Young Women's Christian Association of San Antonio  
Youth Code Jam San Antonio  
Youth Orchestras of San Antonio

THANK YOU, SAN ANTONIO

We are grateful to all the individuals, families, organizations, and businesses that have come together to support San Antonians in need through the San Antonio COVID-19 Response Fund. This list recognizes donors who supported the Fund at \$1000 or more. For a complete list of donors to the COVID-19 Response Fund, please visit [www.saafdn.org](http://www.saafdn.org).

John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation,  
a Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation  
The Najim Charitable Foundation  
Harvey E. Najim Charitable Fund of the  
San Antonio Area Foundation  
H. E. Butt Foundation  
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Bank of San Antonio  
Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio  
Benson Family Fund of the San Antonio  
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Shield-Ayres Foundation  
Spellman Charitable Fund of the San Antonio  
Area Foundation  
Annie and Tim Swan Fund of the San Antonio  
Area Foundation  
Bernard and Kathy Swift  
Texas Capital Bank  
Texas Mutual Insurance Company  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
The Tobin Endowment  
Toyota Manufacturing Company  
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Jill and George Vassar  
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Wells Fargo Foundation  
Tom White Charitable Fund of the San Antonio  
Area Foundation





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