

May 8, 2020

Dear _____,

These are unprecedented times and with uncertainty come new challenges for those in our community. United Way of Sullivan County, the members of the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network, Sullivan County government, and other community partners have come together to form Greater Sullivan Strong. This Coalition assists organizations that are supporting residents in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. It monitors and assesses household, community organization and community system needs and works together to meet needs that can be addressed with resources on hand as well as raises and distributes funds as needed. ***We invite you to join us in this effort.***

Before this crisis, residents of Sullivan County were coping with significant challenges. 41% of children enrolled in our public schools were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and 38% of children were living in a household headed by a single parent. These percentages were the second highest in New Hampshire. With COVID-19, households now face additional challenges, including access to the internet for students and families, food access, lack of supplies for babies, lack of housing and more. The needs will continue to change and grow as the pandemic progresses.

Will you help us? Funding is needed now and in the weeks and months ahead. Please consider contributing what you can to **Greater Sullivan Strong**. Already, Dartmouth-Hitchcock has contributed \$55,000 to support immediate relief efforts. These dollars helped pay outstanding rent for the Claremont Senior Center, ensuring that the center remains in operation and continues serving some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Dollars were also provided to Got Lunch! Newport, providing meals for children and families in the Newport School District who would otherwise be receiving free or reduced-price meals at school.

You can make a tax-deductible gift to this effort by sending your donation to: **United Way of Sullivan County, ATTN: Greater Sullivan Strong, PO Box 237 Newport, NH 03773**, or by contacting Dawn Ranney at 603-543-0121 or dranney@scunitedway.org.

If you know organizations in need, please ask them to complete this funding request form - <https://preview.tinyurl.com/ycutp68f> - found at the Sullivan County website (<https://www.sullivancountynh.gov/>), and email the completed form to GSCPHN@hitchcock.org.

We hope that you are staying safe and well. Thank you for any support you can give. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us by phone or email.

Sincerely,

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