



Fairfield  
UNIVERSITY

# Center for Social Impact COVID-19 How to Support Local Partners or Your Local Community

## Remote Volunteer & Community Engagement Opportunities

### Device Collection Drive

The Center for Social Impact will be collecting new or used electronic devices for our community partner organizations who are experiencing an increased need for laptops, netbooks, and tablets.

Nursing care/rehab facilities want to provide devices so that those recovering from COVID-19 can still keep in touch with their families when visitors are not permitted. Many of our youth-serving organizations are working to ensure that all students have access to distance learning curricula.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO DELETE ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM THE DEVICE BEFORE DONATING.** Many mobile devices have a “Restore to Factory Settings” option. For more guidance on how to wipe your device:

- <https://smallbusiness.chron.com/erase-personal-information-off-computers-erasing-hard-drives-30053.html>
- <https://www.techsoup.org/support/articles-and-how-tos/ten-tips-for-donating-a-computer>
- <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201274>

If you'd like to donate a device, please email [Andrea Canuel](mailto:Andrea.Canuel@Fairfield.edu) to make arrangements for pickup!

### Browse Volunteer/Engagement/Donation Opportunities with Local Partners (Bridgeport/Fairfield)

- [Service@Fairfield Portal on Life@Fairfield](mailto:Service@Fairfield.edu) (for students)
- [Center for Social Impact: Community Partner Survey Results \(Searchable\)](#)
- **Many nonprofit partners that provide essential services such as food and housing are in need of in-person volunteers.** The Center for Social Impact is encouraging members of the Fairfield University community to volunteer remotely. However, if those who are feeling well choose to volunteer in-person, please review the CDC guidelines around [social distancing and community-based organizations](#).
  - [Connecticut Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) has an updated list of volunteer needs around the state.
- From Sen. Chris Murphy: “Governor Ned Lamont is urging Connecticut residents to consider taking on a volunteer role in their communities to help respond to the COVID-19 crisis if they are able to. While the state already began a campaign seeking out volunteers who have health care experience, yesterday, Governor Lamont launched a campaign seeking volunteers from the general public who are needed for other services at many different types of providers, such as food banks, deliveries to the elderly, shelters, and more. Visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus) to sign up and you will be matched with a provider in need in your area.”

- If you are located outside of CT, you can search for similar volunteer opportunities in your local area on [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org).
- **Donate blood.** Blood banks are at a critical shortage. Use the [Red Cross's online tool](#) to search for open appointments near you.
- **Support local small businesses.** Patronize your favorite local restaurant with takeout or delivery (which presents minimal risk).
- **Check in on elderly/immunocompromised family, friends, or neighbors** who may need help accessing critical supplies such as food or medication.
- **Take care of yourself and others.** Our colleagues at Imagining America are compiling a wonderful list of [Small Yet Significant Kindnesses in the Time of COVID-19](#).

## Online Giving/Donation Opportunities

Several of our nonprofit partners have set up emergency funds to serve low-income residents and others most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis in our region. Please consider supporting these organizations and/or distributing these requests to your networks.

- **Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund** has been established by **Fairfield County's Community Foundation**. The new Fund will rapidly deploy resources to trusted, frontline community organizations that meet the basic needs of local residents in Fairfield County. This includes low-income individuals without health insurance and/or access to sick days; immigrants; persons with disabilities; and communities of color, among others. The Fund has been set up with generous seed funding from a cross-section of individuals, private foundations, corporations and others. The Fund's purpose is to help alleviate the social and economic consequences of this global pandemic and to prevent the widening of disparities in education, employment, housing, and health. To learn more about the Fund, its purpose, and to donate, please visit: [FCCFoundation.org/Covid19ResiliencyFund](http://FCCFoundation.org/Covid19ResiliencyFund)
- **Connecticut United Ways** have created a common fund that will allow them to deliver help quickly to those in need. This fund is a way to get money for necessities into the hands of those suffering financial losses, as soon as possible. To donate to the Connecticut United Ways COVID-19 Response Fund go to [www.CTUWCovid19ResponseFund.org](http://www.CTUWCovid19ResponseFund.org). **United Way of Coastal Fairfield County** has also established a **Neighbors in Need Emergency Fund**. This fund will provide strategic, targeted, and direct relief to those on the front lines, and to families impacted by COVID-19 across Fairfield County. While the state United Way fund focuses on emergency financial support to families, the Fairfield County local fund provides relief of the specific challenges faced by our community.
- **Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County Resiliency Fund**, set up to support families served by Habitat with urgent needs due to lost income. To learn more and donate: <https://www.givegab.com/campaigns/resiliencyfund>
- **Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants:** [Amazon wish list for supplies for refugee families](#)
- **Make the Road CT Immigrant Community Relief Fund**
- **Online "Acoustic Soul" Concert with Singer-Songwriter and The Voice Winner Javier Colon to Be Held June 18**
  - *Bridgeport Native to Perform Online in a Virtual Event to Benefit Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and Hall Neighborhood House. To purchase tickets: [https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/ODU5NzM=#!](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/ODU5NzM=#!)*

**Support nonprofits who have had to postpone, cancel, or digitize major fundraising events.** Many of our partners rely on these large events for the majority of their revenue.

- [Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport](#)
- [Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County](#)
- [Simply Smiles](#)
- [Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo](#)
- [Hall Neighborhood House](#)

- [Homes for the Brave](#) (housing security for veterans)
- [Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders](#)
- [Caroline House](#)
- [Mercy Learning Center](#)

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