



City of Leavenworth

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March 25, 2020

Community Members,

I promise that after my very long note yesterday (some would call it a letter, others a tome), I will keep this one much shorter. I want to be able to highlight the things that people are doing for each other, as well as ideas and suggestions that come from all of you. We have started a folder on our COVID-19 page for community suggestions, resources, creative ideas, etc. There will probably be a lot of duplicates for these items, but that is OK. I think in these times, I would rather repeat a lot of positive news – maybe it will reach a few new people. Can't overcommunicate, in my opinion.

Today I want to highlight one of the bright pieces of news that exemplifies the spirit of this community. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, our local Rotary Club, made up of local business and professional people, put out a challenge to our community: they would match dollar for dollar every contribution made to Upper Valley MEND's Community Cupboard food bank and emergency services up to \$15,000. Well, folks, that match was maxed out within three days! So... chapter two has begun. A couple of special anonymous benefactors of MEND decided that there was still untapped goodwill, and have offered to match every donation dollar for dollar up to an additional \$20,000. In the past two days, Executive Director Kaylin Bettinger informed me that an additional \$6,000 has already been given. You can donate by going here: <https://uvmend.org/> This is so critical, because not only are people going to need extra help with food, but also the kinds of emergency services MEND does so well. That includes help with utility bills and rent as well as other emergency needs. Let's pour out the love on our fellow residents.

And, if you have time to give, but not necessarily money, the Cupboard is looking for volunteers who might help them deliver food boxes to those who are in need, but who cannot, (or should not), get out to pick up a box. If this sounds like something you could do, contact Bob Mark, the Cupboard manager, at bob@uvmend.org.

Let's continue to make this a time when we show our resolve, our community pride, our compassion for one another. And stay safe!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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