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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento COVID-19 Response Fund Surpasses More Than \$1 Million to Support Local Families, Nonprofits, Small Businesses

April 6, 2020, Sacramento, Calif. – Donate4Sacramento (D4S) announces today that community pledges to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund topped the million-dollar mark and currently stands at \$1,053,364. Donations to the site since its launch two weeks ago make it possible for Donate4Sacramento to release \$357,000 in a second round of funding. To date, over \$619,678 has been released to partners to fund community organizations providing direct support to families, workers, unhoused individuals, nonprofit organizations and small businesses throughout Sacramento that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 830 individual donors have pledged \$520,864, matching \$532,500 in corporate and philanthropic contributions. Donate4Sacramento received several major new commitments last week that include Patricia and George Lytal Family (\$50,000), AT&T (\$20,000) and Axiom Advisors (\$10,000), and \$300,000 from an anonymous family foundation.

Donate4Sacramento released \$262,678 in funds a week ago to the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Sacramento Steps Forward and United Way California Capital Region, allowing for direct support to more than 175 families, 49 small businesses and food for families and unhoused individuals. In this second fund allocation, intermediary partners are applying Donate4Sacramento funds to continue support for those most impacted by COVID-19. This will include thousands of meals to families and unhoused individuals through Sacramento Food Bank, community organizations and Sacramento Loaves and Fishes, as well as expanded supports for families and businesses.

“Although the total harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will not be fully understood for some time, what we do know now is the physical, emotional and financial health concerns that vulnerable communities experience have been made significantly worse by this crisis,” said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and The Center, a founding member of the Donate4Sacramento coalition. “As such, we are engaging donors, community partners, nonprofits, businesses and those in need of support to assist families and individuals to meet their basic needs now.”



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Fund dollars are allocated in waves as the Donate4Sacramento fund grows. As pledges come in as committed funds, Sierra Health Foundation is using its endowment in the interim to move funds quickly into communities.

"The small businesses receiving initial donation funds represent the diverse culture of the Sacramento Region as well as many different industry sectors. The range of companies has included restaurants, retail, services such as nail salons and barbers – small businesses who support their communities every single day," said Pat Fong Kushida, president and CEO of Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, which houses the Sacramento Inclusive Economic Development Collaborative, a cohort of Sacramento's ethnic chambers, the Metro Chamber and seven Property and Business Improvement Districts (PBIDs) serving the City of Sacramento's urban corridors.

A full list of businesses receiving initial funds, as well as information about a small business town hall and other resources, can be found at the [Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce website](#).

"We are grateful for the support to help maintain the ability to serve our community and look out for our staff and their families. The fact that donations have come from a collection of people and institutions who care about all of Sacramento – and who may be struggling themselves – is incredibly meaningful," said Leo Hickman, owner of [Classy Hippie Tea Co.](#), located in Oak Park.

Individuals and institutions can continue to make donations through the [Donate4Sacramento website](#).

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About Donate4Sacramento:

Donate4Sacramento is a growing public-private coalition of community partners comprising some of the region's largest foundations, chambers of commerce, and community groups, including the City of Sacramento, Sierra Health Foundation, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, United Way of California Capital Region, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Sacramento Steps Forward.