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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HCCF issues first grants from Heart for Hancock: A Community Response Fund**

**GREENFIELD, Ind. (March 25, 2020)** – The Hancock County Community Foundation, Inc. (HCCF) made its grants from the newly-established Heart for Hancock fund totaling \$15,000.

- Hancock County Food Pantry - \$5,000
- Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen - \$5,000
- Salvation Army (Hancock County) - \$5,000

These dollars are designed to meet the most pressing needs of organizations directly serving individuals in the community most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. HCCF surveyed nonprofits serving Hancock County to identify areas of challenge.

“The HCCF staff worked with members of our Executive Committee and Grants Committee to evaluate the nonprofit survey information and determine the greatest needs facing our community today,” explains Mary Gible, HCCF President and CEO. “A few areas clearly rose to the top – food insecurity, child and senior welfare, and rent/utility assistance. That is what these initial grants are supporting.”

“We also found that many nonprofit leaders are still unsure what the far-reaching effects of this crisis will be. We will continue to keep in communication with the nonprofit community to gauge how needs are evolving and tailor our continued response accordingly.”

Heart for Hancock, established by the HCCF Board of Directors, is a fund that will allow the foundation to mobilize charitable dollars to local organizations serving Hancock County. HCCF is and will continue to gather intel and collaborate with other funders to make grants:

- Thoughtfully
- Effectively
- In coordination with others
- In recognition that there are limited resources and that this situation will have long reaching effects

In addition, HCCF made grants to four organizations from its field of interest funds dedicated to animal welfare: William Harold and Mary Katherine Kingery Friends of Domestic Animals Fund, Sharon Yates Endowment Fund for the Care of Animals, and Animal Welfare Fund of Hancock County. These grants total \$30,586.

- Frenzy Animal Rescue - \$7,646.50
- Greenfield Hancock Animal Management - \$7,646.50
- Hancock County Humane Society - \$7,646.50
- Partners for Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) - \$7,646.50

“HCCF is fortunate to steward these funds dedicated to animal welfare and so pleased we have four strong agencies in our county who rescue and care for animals without owners,” says Gible.

*HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. Working with caring individuals, families, and organizations to create or grow existing permanent endowment funds is critical to the organization’s mission. These funds generate income that is distributed in the form of grants and scholarships to enrich and enhance life in Hancock County, as well as support the donor’s favorite charitable causes, both at home and afar forever. HCCF has granted millions of dollars since their inception in 1992.*

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