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COMMUNITY FUND FOR WELLESLEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley Students Mask Up with Child-Sized PPE from Wellesley Fire Department and the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund

October 15, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley Fire Department delivered 2,500 homemade masks to Wellesley Public Schools this week to help keep the youngest residents in our community safe. The masks were sewn by members of the group, *Sewing COVID-19 Help – Working Together*, with supplies purchased from a Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund grant that was awarded to the Wellesley Fire Department earlier this fall.

These child-sized masks are key to helping Wellesley Public Schools students stay safe while they are attending school in-person.

“All of our students are required to wear their masks inside classrooms and buildings during the day. These homemade masks come in sizes small enough for our youngest learners, are made of soft fabric with comfortable elastic ear loops or baby headbands, and can be washed frequently,” said Linda Corridan, WPS Director of Nursing. “They will also help us replace student masks that may be damaged or lost during a school day.”

With the large number of masks received, Wellesley Public Schools is well prepared should PPE supplies again run short in the coming winter months. The *Sewing COVID-19 Help* group was founded by former Wellesley resident Lynda Cowin-Nijensohn and includes more than 40 volunteers from Wellesley, Newton, Needham and other local communities. Members started sewing masks in March 2020 and have donated more than 24,000 handmade masks to local hospitals, long-term care facilities, businesses, schools, and individuals throughout the Boston area.

For the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund, providing the funds to buy these supplies is an investment in the future health of our community.

“The Community Fund for Wellesley’s COVID-19 Relief Fund continues to play an important role in funding essential services during this current phase of the pandemic. Our recent grant to the Wellesley Fire Department/*Sewing COVID-19* group will continue to help make the school year safe for students, teachers, and parents,” said Jamie Ebersole, Board Chair of the Community Fund for Wellesley. “We are grateful for the support from the community that allows us to provide resources where they are most needed during this critical period.”

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between the Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, and the Wellesley Board of Selectmen, that addresses unmet needs in our community resulting from the

Coronavirus pandemic. Grant proposals are reviewed by the members of the COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee which is comprised of community members, elected officials and staff from the Town of Wellesley, and are awarded to local non-profits and Town departments on a rapid and rolling basis.

Up-to-date information on the COVID-19 Relief Fund and photos of the grant recipients and programs are regularly shared on the [Town of Wellesley website](#) and on the Community Fund for Wellesley's Facebook page [@CFFWellesley](#).

Show Your Support

To donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org
Donations are accepted electronically using the link above or by sending checks made out to the [Foundation for MetroWest](#); please specify in the memo line 'Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund' and mail to:

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c/o Foundation for MetroWest
3 Eliot Street
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About the Community Fund for Wellesley

The mission of the Community Fund for Wellesley is to promote the common good and to benefit all residents of our Town. The Fund serves as a permanent source of funding to foster innovation and collaboration in support of community needs and opportunities. The Community Fund for Wellesley was established in 2008 in celebration of Wellesley's 125th birthday. A dedicated group of Town residents had a vision to create a fund that would exist to benefit members of the Wellesley community for generations to come. In the past 11 years, the Fund has made grants of over \$500,000 to more than 30 local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments.

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