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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Final COVID-19 Relief Fund Grant will Support Summer Jobs for Teens

June 24, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) – Council on Aging greeters, Recreation Department camp counselors, mobile movie staff, and more - these are just a few of the teen job opportunities this summer that are now possible thanks to a final grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley's COVID-19 Relief Fund. As COVID-19 cases in our community continue to decline and the pandemic recedes, the Fund wrapped up its grant making program with one final donation this week that will meet immediate needs for youth employment in our community. The money will support the Wellesley Green Shirts 2021 summer jobs program administered by the [Wellesley Youth Commission](#).

"Summer jobs are crucial for young people. They provide meaningful work, a set schedule, and the chance to learn life skills and make important connections in the community. I'm so thrilled that the Green Shirts program, which started during the pandemic when everything else was closed, can go forward as the Town and the country opens up," said Maura Renzella, Youth Commission Director.

Working with Wellesley Recreation Director Matt Chin, Renzella has identified jobs throughout Town and is beginning the hiring process now. The COVID-19 Relief Fund grant will support 200+ job hours for local teens during an eight-week period in June, July, and August. Last year, the Wellesley Green Shirts were familiar sights around Town as they delivered hot meals to seniors and vulnerable citizens, packaged PPE and distributed sanitizing stations, staffed mobile movie nights, and assisted with other COVID-19 initiatives.

\$125,000 in Total Grants

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is ending on a high note fourteen months after it was established in April 2020. 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 Select Board, COVID-19 Relief Fund grants supported unmet needs in Wellesley resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. With this most recent award, a total of \$125,000 in grants have been distributed to local non-profits and Town departments. One hundred percent of donations have been returned to the community for the direct benefit to all residents.

"The response to the COVID-19 Relief Fund was incredible and the support from so many donors was simply overwhelming," said Jamie Ebersole, outgoing board chair of the Community Fund for Wellesley. "During an unprecedented year, it enabled us to forge partnerships and develop innovative programs for the community. Most of all, it provided an opportunity for residents to help out one another."

With the immediate need for emergency relief subsiding, the Community Fund for Wellesley is excited to shift focus and support other needs in Wellesley.

"The Community Fund for Wellesley will continue to be a source of funding for critical needs throughout our community, and we are excited to support these impactful local projects, initiatives, and organizations as we look to the future," said Michael Stephens, incoming board chair.

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. To give to the Community Fund for Wellesley or learn more, visit <https://foundationmw.org/give/town-funds/>

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