

April 8, 2020

Greetings

We hope this email finds you, your family, and your business safe and healthy. Many of us are facing challenges we never thought possible or even entertained as part of business continuity. Imagine how it must be for families that are challenged when times are good, they are now struggling in worse and undefined ways.

In the past few weeks RVC has been actively working and connecting community, resources, and partners to ease the burden many at-risk families are facing.

We understand crisis times place a high demand on you and your fiscal resources. We also understand the call to action affects everyone in different ways. It is our sincere hope you will consider partnering with River Valley Charities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a snapshot of our efforts:

Backpack Programs - Hosted conf call with St Croix Valley backpack programs and food shelves to define their crisis-centered needs. We were able to connect Stillwater and WI schools in ways not previously defined. Districts are offering delivery and pickup of hot meals.

Hudson School District - Announced anyone is available to opt-in to a food delivery service offered by the Hudson Backpack program.

New Richmond School District - This district has seen a doubling of the meals normally offered, up to 600 daily. RVC has successfully coordinated with local businesses to provide cardboard boxes for food packs (Innovize & GNC) and a trailer for hot food (Big Guys BBQ Roadhouse & Willow River Saloon).

The Sheridan Story - Accelerated conversations with this MN-based non-profit to expand their delivery network to the St Croix Valley. <https://www.thesheridanstory.org> They have delivered over 4,000 bags of food to local backpack programs.

Valley Cartage - Coordinated efforts for use of their trucks delivering food provided by The Sheridan Story

Camp St Croix - With all but three employees furloughed, including the tunnel garden coordinator, RVC is assisting with efforts to return a few employees and maintain the much needed tunnel garden for the April/May harvest schedule of spinach, baby greens, lettuce, carrots, box choy, radishes, turnips.

St Croix Valley Foundation - RVC connected primary leadership of SCVF, United Way, and thoroughly explained the purpose and function of the backpack programs. This is a connection that had not previously existed. SCVF is issuing payments to all backpack programs which will help them continue and improve their crisis response.

United Way - Increased demand at 211 hotline has generated a volunteer staffing need. Historically this helpline is used by families living below the ALICE line. It is expected additional needs will be defined by those living above the ALICE line. <https://www.unitedwaystcroix.org/meet-alice>

Faith Community and Shepherd of the Valley Church - Identified a coordination opportunity related to existing and new volunteers needed for respond to filling needs registered by the community. Conversations are ongoing to expand this ministry to singular St Croix Valley resource.

54016 COVID Taskforce – RVC is participating in weekly calls to prepare Hudson for a COVID-19 community outbreak. This task force is composed of healthcare, non-profit, faith-based organizations, business community, and local government officials. Our goal is to have a unified approach to address this issue for the Hudson community.

RVC Golf Tournament - The primary fundraiser and hugely successful event, scheduled for August 24, remains open and registration will begin in the coming weeks. Your 2019 generosity provided a 100% return to efforts noted above and others. \$89,000 was specifically distributed to seven area backpack programs. As a past participant, partner, contributor, volunteer, we hope you are able to continue your support in 2020.

Thank you,
RVC Board of Directors