



Contact:

Gary Woonteiler, Woonteiler Ink, 617-584-1032, gary@woonteilerink.com

Judy Walden Scarafile, 508-362-4467, judyscarafile@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Where Can Those Hardest Hit by Coronavirus Find Local Relief?
Major Crisis Relief Fund Mobilizes to Provide Assistance to Cape and
Island Residents**

**MCRF Collaborating with Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning
Committee, Cape Cod Foundation, Other Groups**

Barnstable, MA, March 18, 2020---While communities throughout Massachusetts are scrambling to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, at-risk residents and organizations on Cape Cod and the Islands are wondering where they can turn for local assistance. A relatively new but well-established charity called the Major Crisis Relief Fund (MCRF) www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org, whose mission is to provide funding in the wake of a disaster, is stepping forward to provide financial aid.

“It is imperative that we address the needs of those most vulnerable on the Cape and the Islands, including our elderly neighbors,” said Peter Meyer, President of the Board, Cape Cod Times Needy Fund; and President/Publisher of the Cape Cod Times. “Many people are anxious and don’t know how to seek relief during this crisis. We need to spread the word that the Major Crisis Relief Fund is the best-positioned local resource set up to help provide financial relief during this unprecedented public health emergency.”

Meyer said that while only a few Cape residents have thus far been identified as contracting the virus, “We must address the most pressing immediate needs in our community and also bolster our capacity to possibly provide extended services before the situation gets worse. To do this, we are reaching out to donors to help us make a difference.”

In 2016, with original funding provided by the Davenport Family, MCRF was formed as an arm of the Cape Cod Times Needy Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, as a local disaster relief organization to provide funding to meet basic immediate *and ongoing* needs that are unmet by traditional forms of public and private disaster aid.

According to MCRF Managing Director Judy Walden Scarafile, the Fund prepares for and responds to weather-related and man-made disasters. “We have fortunately dodged the impact of devastating hurricanes and blizzards the last several years, but the mission of MCRF includes response to public health crises, which is why we are mobilizing in earnest right now.

“We are in a fluid situation, and are prepared to be flexible in meeting requests for financial needs,” added Scarafile. “Right now, however, in response to the closing of schools and retail outlets, businesses running remotely, and spiking healthcare concerns, we are focusing on a broad spectrum of immediate needs, including loss of income, need for food, and need for medical care.”

“Our fund relies on the generosity of donors, and today there is an increasing need and a great opportunity for leaders in the corporate community to join us,” said Meyer. “Responding to a crisis like the coronavirus is precisely why MCRF was created, and now we need to maximize our resources to best help those who are hardest hit.”

To date, MCRF’s major donors include the Davenport Family, Cape Cod Healthcare, Kelley Foundation, Seaside LeMans, Shepley Wood Products, Cape Cod Five Cents Saving Bank, and Barnstable County Mutual Insurance.

As part of this outreach effort, MCRF is collaborating with the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, the Cape Cod Foundation, and other groups.

To learn more about donating to support this effort, visit <http://www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org/donate/>, call 508-778-7107, or email mcrf@needyfund.org

For information regarding assistance, criteria for funding, and volunteering, see website updates on www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org.

About the Major Crisis Relief Fund

The [Cape Cod and Islands Major Crisis Relief Fund](http://www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org) (MCRF), a nonprofit disaster response organization, provides humanitarian aid to local individuals and families. Established in 2016 by the Cape Cod Times Needy Fund, it addresses critical, long-term needs that are unmet by traditional forms of private and public disaster aid. Filling the existing gaps in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and blizzards, and man-made crises such as health epidemics and terrorism, the MCRF provides financial aid for food, housing, transportation, and medical/mental healthcare services. For more information, visit www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org, call 508-778-7107, email mcrf@needyfund.org, or visit [mcrf](#) on [Facebook](#).

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