

cape cod and islands
**MAJOR CRISIS
RELIEF FUND**

Contact:

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Responding to Coronavirus:

**Major Crisis Relief Fund Passes \$1 Million Raised to Help Cape and Island Residents;
Expects Prolonged Effects of Pandemic, Pushes toward \$1.5 Million Goal**

Barnstable, MA, May 12, 2020—The Major Crisis Relief Fund (MCRF) www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org has surpassed \$1 million in donations, with more than half of that total received in the last two months following the outbreak of the coronavirus. During this period, MCRF has responded to calls from more than 1,000 local residents who have requested financial aid for basic needs such as food, rent, and transportation.

“In reaching this million-dollar milestone, we must salute the enormous generosity of individuals and organizations on the Cape and Islands as part of a grassroots effort to help our neighbors who have been hit hard by this public health crisis,” said Peter Meyer, President of the Board, Cape Cod Times Needy Fund, and President/Publisher of the Cape Cod Times.

Meyer cautioned, however, “It is critical that MCRF reaches its goal of \$1.5 million, since the pandemic’s effect will be ongoing, with a prolonged recovery expected even as people slowly return to work.”

According to Judy Walden Scarafile, MCRF Managing Director, “More than 1,000 donors have stepped up as we continue to help heal our communities.”

Scarafile also echoed concerns about the need to raise additional funds, reminding supporters that the fund may need to mobilize on another front as we approach hurricane season in June.

MCRF was formed in 2016 as an arm of the Cape Cod Times Needy Fund, a well-established 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, to provide funding following man-made as well as weather-related disasters. The fund addresses basic immediate *and ongoing* needs that are unmet by traditional forms of public and private disaster aid.

To donate, visit <http://www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org/donate/>, call 508-778-7107, email mcrf@needyfund.org, or send a check made out to Cape Cod Times Needy Fund – Major Crisis Relief, Major Crisis Relief Fund, P.O. Box 804, Hyannis, MA 02601. All donations are tax deductible; the tax identification of the Needy Fund is 222480332.

To request assistance, call 508-778-7107 and leave your name and phone as prompted. Since MCRF and The Needy Fund are experiencing an unusually high volume of requests, it

may take up to a few days to receive a reply, but calls are being returned in the order they are received and as soon as possible.

Those calling with financial aid inquiries will speak with trained intake professionals who will provide information and referral counseling as needed. The intake process is led by Betsey Sethares, Executive Director of The Needy Fund.

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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