



Bay Front. Home Front. Out Front.



NEWS Release

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City of Richmond, community leaders announce launch of Richmond Rapid Response Fund

RICHMOND, CALIF. – A collective of community and government leaders including the City of Richmond, The RYSE Center, EdFUND West, Richmond Promise, and Building Blocks for Kids (BBK) announced the launch of the Richmond Rapid Response Fund (R3F) – a wraparound initiative that will meet the immediate and ongoing needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The fund will support the community in three phases – 1) direct financial disbursement to residents 2) expand financial assistance and support for business and community-based organizations; and 3) facilitate a community needs assessment and ongoing infrastructure support. The creation of the R3F was made possible by support from the Hellman Foundation which awarded \$25,000 in technical support.

“We hope this effort on the part of the Hellman Foundation will help reach the most vulnerable among us right now, particularly those who are unhoused, working hourly wage jobs, or heroically assisting the sick in our health care systems,” said Dr. Tricia Hellman, MD, Board Chair, Hellman Foundation.

The Richmond Rapid Response Fund also received early support from Mayor Tom Butt who committed \$25,000 from the Mayor’s Community Fund. A minimum fundraising goal of \$5 million has been set to support the community through the fund.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has caused historic levels of financial and resource insecurity for people everywhere, including here in Richmond. I’m proud to support R3F and I’m issuing a call to action for foundations, companies, and the community to double or triple my donation,” said Mayor Tom Butt.

R3F was born out of a community-centered process made up of over 100 cross-sector stakeholders known as the West Contra Costa COVID Community Care Coalition.

“R3F reflects a collective commitment to leading with love in times of immense crises and inequity. We are committed to ensuring those most impacted by COVID-19 are at the center of driving the strategies and direction of these resources,” said R3F Core Launch partners.

R3F is also partnering with East Brother Beer Company, a Richmond-based brewery that will donate a portion of the proceeds from their special edition Pride & Purpose beer to the fund. The Pride & Purpose beer will be available for purchase starting Friday, May 8, 2020 and can be ordered online at www.eastbrotherbeer.com for delivery, or by pickup at the brewery, located at 1001 Canal Blvd, Richmond, CA 94804.

“This beer is our way of giving back to the city that has given us so much. We believe that if we look out for our neighbors, we all have a better chance of getting through this together – and what better way to do good than by enjoying a beer,” said Rob Lightner, Co-Founder of East Brother Beer Company.

To initiate the first phase of R3F support, organizers of the fund will work with long-term community partners with strong track records of serving the community to receive referrals for individuals and families in need. For more information about the Richmond Rapid Response Fund, including how to donate and how funds will be distributed to the community. All donations are tax deductible.