



**Heart of West  
Michigan  
United Way**

**Grand Rapids  
Disaster Relief Fund**  
December 17, 2024

# National Examples

- Disaster Relief Fund- United Way of South-Central Michigan
  - May 2024 Tornado
- Community Urgent Relief Fund - CF Kalamazoo
  - *“has served as KZCF’s fastest and most flexible tool to respond to crises and natural disasters as they arise”*
- Disaster Response Fund – Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Michigan
- Disaster Fund | United Way of Southwest Louisiana



# Overview of Community Relief/Disaster Funds

- Raise funds during blue sky days (no disasters occurring) to provide a funding foundation
  - Funding comes from private, municipalities, businesses, foundations, etc.
  - Goal of \$100K per community always available in the fund during blue sky days - *Donations during a disaster will increase the balance to support the disaster at hand*
- Parameters of funding to the community is set per disaster
  - Collaboration between United Way, Community Foundation, and others
- During recovery phase, the Disaster Fund will fund non-profits who in turn support recovery efforts of impacted community members

# United Way's Role as a Fiduciary

## United Way will:

- Receive all donations (*as a 501c3*) and manage all donor/tax reporting
- Assist with fundraising
- United Way will collect an administrative fee (*% of dollars raised*)

## In time of disaster:

- Coordinate setting funding criteria
- Develop applications for funding
- Remit funds



# How will this Fund Help Grand Rapids?

- Lean forward to have a Disaster Fund ready to be utilized to support recovery efforts
- Support community members who are impacted by disaster and need additional assistance outside of insurance or state/federal assistance
- Ability to support impacted community members when disasters don't meet State and Federal thresholds for assistance
- Provides the Grand Rapids area a trusted avenue to support community members impacted by disaster in a coordinated and trusted manner