FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2020

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Noreen J. Dunnells, President & CEO: 320-492-8247, ndunnells@unitedwaylane.org
Christie Costello, Marketing Manager: 714-745-4751, ccostello@unitedwaylane.org

UNITED WAY OF LANE COUNTY LAUNCHES COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND
Funds will support local nonprofits’ efforts helping people experiencing hardship from COVID-19 pandemic

EUGENE, OR—United Way of Lane County (UWLC) has just launched a Community Response Fund to support local nonprofits’ efforts assisting those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Lane County. Specifically, funds will be invested in local programs offering food relief, rental assistance, childcare assistance, health care services, supports for unhoused populations, and supports for vulnerable populations. This is just one of many ways United Way of Lane County is responding to local needs during this COVID-19 pandemic.

PacificSource Health Plans is helping to launch this fund with a generous donation of $50,000.

“We are so grateful to PacificSource Health Plans for seeding this fund. In conjunction with our community partners, we are assessing and monitoring needs across Lane County to ensure that agencies serving the most vulnerable will have access to those resources,” shares Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County’s President and CEO.

“We understand the gravity of the current public health crisis, and the wide ranging implications for vulnerable community members, arising as a result of COVID-19. We’re partnering with United Ways across our service areas, because they are trusted non-profit organizations, able to develop and leverage emergency funds, and ensure those resources are directed where they are most needed in the community,” shares Marian Blankenship, Vice President, Community Strategy for PacificSource.

Donations to this local response fund can be made online at www.unitedwaylane.org/covid-19-fund; by mailing checks to United Way of Lane County, with Response Fund in the memo line, to 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield OR 97477, or by calling (541) 741-6000.

United Way of Lane County is not taking an administrative fee on donations to this fund. One hundred percent of funds raised will support nonprofit agencies in Lane County working directly to meet the needs of local families and individuals, except for a credit card fee recovery of 3%. Nonprofits interested in applying for funds can visit www.unitedwaylane.org for more details; grant application materials are being finalized in the next few days.

In addition to establishing the Community Response Fund, United Way of Lane County is assessing and addressing local needs by asking Lane County nonprofits to fill out a short survey about current needs and how COVID-19 is impacting their work; encouraging community members to get involved with a variety of volunteer and in-kind donation opportunities posted on UWLC’s Volunteer United website, and offering information and resources for individuals and families seeking support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These efforts mirror United Way of Lane County’s everyday work of actively assessing needs of Lane County; working with partners to raise funds and invest in; mobilizing volunteers, and measuring results of these efforts.

United Way of Lane County works to ensure all children are successful in school and life. To do this, United Way brings together the passionate individuals and organizations that have the knowledge and resources to get things done, engaging top leadership from every sector to develop strategies that will change systems, and invests in programs and services that address our community’s current social crises. To learn more, visit www.unitedwaylane.org.

####