

Together, we

# TAKE ACTION



Many of our non-profits have been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis. As Rotarians, we want to help.

Take a look at our member-connected organizations and see how you can reach out:



The American Red Cross has two service delivery pillars during the COVID-19 crisis: ensuring an adequate blood supply and continuing to deliver our mission while keeping our workforce and clients safe.

During the initial response blood drives were cancelling at an alarming rate as schools, businesses and faith communities closed their doors to regular business. We implemented social distancing guidelines and increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures ensuring a safe blood donation environment during COVID-19. The need for blood continues but the outpouring of additional blood donations has safeguarded blood and blood product inventory for the near term.

Red Cross volunteers continue to respond when disaster strikes. Service delivery guidance was modified to allow virtual service delivery focusing on keeping volunteers and clients safe while still ensuring emergency needs were met. Since COVID-19, Des Moines area has experienced several single-family fires and three apartment fires using virtual service delivery. We are also working with government partners to modify response plans to large disaster like tornados focusing on keeping volunteers and clients safe.

Our Grand Avenue office building is temporarily closed to the public and will reopen when the crisis is resolved. Visit <https://www.redcross.org/local/iowa/about-us/locations/central-iowa.html> or email [leslie.schaffer@redcross.org](mailto:leslie.schaffer@redcross.org) for more information. (Leslie Schaffer, RCDM Member)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa is continuing to defend the potential of youth during the pandemic. Even in the best of times, our Littles (youth ages 5-18) face adversity at a higher rate than the average young person. Social distancing can lead to social isolation. Bigs (adult mentors) are staying connected with their Littles through video chats, phone calls, emails, and sending notes or cards. To support our matches, we are continually updating a resource list with activities and inspiration. Since we can't replace face-to-face interaction at this time, we are launching a BIG idea starting on Giving Tuesday Now (Tuesday, May 5) to help our matches learn, grow, and interact through a virtual mentoring program starting June 1. Learn more at [www.bbbsia.org](http://www.bbbsia.org) or email [info@bbbsia.org](mailto:info@bbbsia.org). (Colleen Rogers Messenger, RCDM Member)



Community Support Advocates is working hard to support our 1,900 individuals and families living with disabilities and mental health disorders during this community crisis. Our number one priority is to keep our members safe, and ensure they have their basic needs met including access to food, housing, medicine, medical care and phones. Isolation and uncertainty has been hard on all of us, but it is especially difficult on individuals already struggling with significant mental health disorders. While our Momentum art studio is closed, we are building a virtual community to build hope and resiliency through art, offering art and wellness workshops and support online. To learn more about ways you can help, please visit [www.TeamCSA.org](http://www.TeamCSA.org). (Christina Smith, RCDM Member)



Students MUST have access to high-quality global education. Social distancing has huge implications for diversity. Increased isolation, deepening bias, a rise in prejudice. As our children engage in distance learning and we move toward working remotely, Iowans will experience the same effect that social media has had on society with compounding intensity: we will sort ourselves into like-minded communities. This echo chamber of like-minded thinking puts us at risk, socially, emotionally, and economically. CultureALL is working to keep us together, creating online interactions that expand perspectives and lead to collaboration and innovation. For an example, join CultureALL on Facebook Livestream <https://www.facebook.com/events/247941149596885/> each Tuesday @ 7 pm for RIGHT WHERE WE BELONG. Host Mollie Cooney will interview extraordinary people in Central Iowa about their life experiences and their role in making Iowa a more inclusive community. Learn more about CultureALL: <https://cultureall.networkforgood.com/> (Sherry Gupta, RCDM Member)



The DMARC Food Pantry Network has made many adaptations to continue food assistance service in a manner that is safe for staff, volunteers, and pantry visitors. Regular cleaning/sanitization is happening, and staff are equipped with PPE. We have moved to pre-packed distribution and narrowed our intake processes where necessary to minimize contact and waiting in line. Most pantries are operating where visitors do not need to enter the building either through drive up/curbside or walk-up window distributions and our mobile pantries have adapted as well. We also have implemented a delivery service for vulnerable folks who cannot make it to a pantry or cannot have a proxy make a pantry pick up for them. Our volunteer opportunities have become much more limited, but there are still shifts available. For more information about how you can help DMARC visit [www.dmarcunited.org](http://www.dmarcunited.org). For more on our COVID-19 response and pantry changes, please visit [www.dmarcunited.org/COVID-19](http://www.dmarcunited.org/COVID-19). (Matt Unger, RCDM Member)



Goodwill of Central Iowa is working hard to continue supporting the community during this time. With retail stores closed and many of our mission programs temporarily suspended, Goodwill has had to adapt and make adjustments in order to continue serving. Goodwill is asking for businesses to walk hand-in-hand with them by outsourcing processes and tasks to the Goodwill in-house Solutions team. Light assembly, kitting, packaging, e-commerce order fulfillment and other projects outsourced to Goodwill of Central Iowa provide paid jobs and job training for people facing barriers to employment. Learn more at [www.dmgoodwill.org/partner-with-us/](http://www.dmgoodwill.org/partner-with-us/) or email [jackien@dmgoodwill.org](mailto:jackien@dmgoodwill.org). (Jackie Norris, RCDM Member)



Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity's work looks a little different than normal right now, but we are continuing to build in our community. Many Habitat homeowners are providing essential services to our community, representing the fields of healthcare, transportation, education, hospitality, and food service, while others have experienced job loss and/or reduced hours. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GDM Habitat ReStores are physically closed to the public, affecting financial and material donations. The net proceeds from ReStore sales make up a large percentage of funding used to support GDM Habitat's business model. GDM Habitat relies heavily on volunteer labor to complete construction of repair and construction projects for low-income families in our community, and without volunteers on site, workflow and construction costs are significantly affected. Learn how you can help at [www.gdmhabitat.org/donate](http://www.gdmhabitat.org/donate) (Michael Wilson, RCDM Member)



Hope Ministries is working hard to keep guests at our men's shelter, our men's life recovery center, and our women and children's center encouraged, sheltered, fed and safe. We've implemented additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures, made adjustments to facilitate safe social distancing, and found alternative ways to support our guests such as equipping them with tablets for telehealth counseling sessions. Our ENCORE Thrift Stores are temporarily closed, and we're providing our Hope Café community members with daily to-go sack lunches. Learn more at [www.hopeiowa.org](http://www.hopeiowa.org) or email [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org) (Kathy Coady, RCDM Member)



- @LivablePlaces
- Blank Park Zoo
- Children & Fam. of IA
- ChildServe
- DSM Comm. Playhouse
- DSM Pastoral Couns. Ctr.
- EveryStep
- Food Bank of Iowa
- iJAG
- Iowa PBS Foundation
- Iowa Public Radio
- Mid-Iowa Council
- On With Life
- Orchard Place
- Outreach International
- Plymouth Church
- Primary Health Care Inc.
- Ronald McDonald House
- YMCA of Greater Des Moines
- Kent Sovern
- Mark Vukovich
- Janice Lane
- Erica Axiotis
- Chris Andersen
- Roberta Yoder
- Heather Stuyvesant
- Michelle Book
- Robert Reid
- Susan Scharnberg
- Myrna Johnson
- Steve Hill
- Jeanette Shelton
- Anne Starr
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