



March 21, 2020

Dear Community Members:

There are no words that can change our reality; this is a challenging time for all—one of great uncertainty, anxiety, and restlessness.

This is also a time when humanity is fundamentally tested; a time when each of us is called to reflect on how we might not only persist, but contribute to the health and wellbeing of those around us.

Yet, we are not alone! Despite the isolation that we are asked to endure as individuals and families at this time, it is important to remember that we are all part of a powerful community—family philanthropy. As members of this community, it is important that we care for one another, connect with one another, and learn from one another.

Family philanthropy is a powerful movement; and it is during times of crisis that we must especially embrace the role of an active and inspired giver. It means caring for those in need, listening to the needs of our communities, and using our positions of privilege to reach those who suffer from unwavering prejudices and circumstances of inequality.

On April 3, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [delivered his final public remarks](#) to an audience in Memphis, Tennessee. His words ring as true today as they did half a century ago: “the nation is sick. Trouble is in the land; confusion all around. That’s a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

And we are indeed beginning to see the twinkling of the proverbial stars as each of you rise to the occasion.

As we reflect on our role as the National Center for Family Philanthropy, we believe that it is our job to lift up the efforts of our community and share them far and wide. Accordingly, we are excited to release our newest publication—[Leadership in Difficult Times: Guidance for Donors and Giving Families](#). This resource is a compilation of lessons and inspirations to help you act in the near-term. It shares ideas and resources from giving families, family funders, and philanthropy organizations.

We also recognize the power of partnership—an essential element for effective philanthropy and a healthy sector. To this end, the National Center for Family Philanthropy is actively aligning efforts with peer philanthropy and donor serving organizations to curate and share resources from across the field, including:

- [March 27 webinar](#) featuring the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Nonprofit Finance Fund, and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations to highlight how family philanthropy can best address the COVID-19 crisis and bolster the long-term financial and organizational health of the sector.

- Collaboration with [Giving Compass](#) to source and highlight a comprehensive list of COVID-19 relief funds from local and national partners (see [here](#)).

Please consider us a resource and partner in your efforts. Please call us with your questions, and share your strategies of success—and lessons learned. We are grateful for your commitment to one another and the global community at-large.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a large, stylized 'T'. Below the 'N' is the word 'Nick' and below the 'T' is the word 'Tedesco'.

Nick Tedesco

President & CEO
National Center for Family Philanthropy