



THANK YOU

Thank You Members and Donors

Black Diamond Foundation April Update

Coronavirus Updates

The seminar on *Charitable Giving in Today's Tax Environment*, originally scheduled for April 7, has been postponed until after Coronavirus precautions are lifted.

Foundation members have received calls and emails about the staff layoffs at Black Diamond. Due to the service economy of Citrus County, as many as 25% of working age people in our county may be laid off during the pandemic. Many small business employers may not be able to reopen / rehire laid off employees. While some individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits, we believe that additional help is needed.

The Black Diamond Foundation has built an emergency fund over the years. Little did we imagine that our emergency would be a flu epidemic rather than a once per century hurricane. The Foundation will be meeting soon to determine how to best allocate these funds.

We are in the middle of our annual fundraising appeal with very good participation to date. If you have already donated to the Foundation. Thank You! If you have not yet donated, there is no time like the present to contribute. Member donations are our primary source of funds. Donations can be made to:

Black Diamond Foundation

3125 Black Diamond Circle

Lecanto Florida 34461

The March Board meeting was a busy one with four grants being awarded to local charities.

Community Food Bank: \$20,000 to assist in purchase of a new panel truck. The Community Food Bank is the central distribution organization which supplies food to the over 50 food pantries in the county that give food to those in need. The truck that the food bank has been using to collect food from grocery stores throughout the county has broken down and is not worth repairing. Without replacement, their ability to collect and distribute would be impaired.

The Path Rescue Mission: \$10,000 to help purchase a minivan for client transportation. The opening of the old Beverly Hills Motel as temporary housing has greatly expanded the Path's ability to house the homeless. They are now able to house families and homeless youth. The focus of the Path is to prepare their clients to reenter the work force with the tools necessary to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. The minivan will help clients get to work, healthcare and other support services.

The Citrus County Education Foundation: \$14,000 for several programs. The first library program was given \$5,000 for books to be sent home with early readers. \$5,000 was given for teacher mini grants allowing teachers to develop expanded curriculum content. A \$2,000 "Golden Heart Scholarship"

will be granted to a graduating senior who has overcome the greatest hardship, and \$2,000 to help fund summer camp at the Marine Science Station.

The Board doubled our annual contribution to the Mission United "Got Your Back Fund" awarding \$10,000 to be used to support Citrus County veterans that are experiencing difficulty. Examples would include building handicap ramps to allow disabled veterans to return to their homes after release from the hospital and paying for electrical hookup for vets living in mobile homes and campers. The programs director, Tom O'Brien, related that the program has served over 250 veterans since inception in 2018.

Thank you for your support and stay safe

The Black Diamond Foundation Board of Directors

Click here to see the organizations that received a BDF grant.

Click here to see the BDF Honor Roll of Donors .

Click here to visit the Black Diamond Foundation website