

## The MidPen Resident Resiliency Fund

*A response to the COVID-19 pandemic*

### Background

For fifty years MidPen has strengthened communities by providing high-quality affordable housing to those in need, along with onsite services that empower our residents to achieve their goals. Indeed, 2020 marks our 50th anniversary year and we had planned to celebrate the impact of 5 decades of building communities and changing lives alongside our valued partners and friends. However, in the wake of COVID-19, those plans have changed and we feel the urgency of our mission more profoundly than ever.

### The Effects of COVID-19

MidPen has conducted over 6,500 wellness checks across our communities to understand how our residents are experiencing this crisis, their biggest challenges, and where they most need support. Here's what we've heard and seen:

- In the past six weeks, MidPen has fielded more benefits requests than in all of 2019. Nearly 100% of these are related to COVID-19 financial hardship.
- More than 25% are food insecure; over 2,000 households have received food distributions totaling 100 tons.
- Job loss – often for more than one member of a household – has been significant; many residents work in the service sector which has been particularly hard-hit.
- Hundreds don't have the technology required for distance learning (for youth), to look for jobs, or to stay connected to prevent social isolation.

In response to this heightened need – and inspired by the ways we continue to see our residents rising to the challenge – we have established the MidPen Resident Resiliency Fund with the goal of rapidly, equitably, and thoughtfully supporting our residents through this once in a century crisis.

“The welfare of each  
is bound up in the  
welfare of all.”

*Helen Keller*

### About the Fund

The fund will provide rapid-response micro-grants that put resources directly in the hands of resilient residents knowledgeable about their own economic needs and ways to address them. It will also provide technology equipment and access to help bridge the digital divide.

### Who will it support?

All of MidPen residents with COVID-related hardships are eligible to apply for support from the Resiliency Fund. This includes youth, working adults, seniors and those with special needs.



## What will it provide?

- **Direct-to-resident micro-grants** – We will first and foremost put resources in the hands of the experts: MidPen residents full of initiative, resiliency, and first-hand knowledge of their greatest economic needs and where the funds will be most beneficial. Through these micro-grants, we will empower our residents to be their own change agents. Funding may pay for utilities, wifi, supplemental food, or other important household needs.
- **Bridging the digital divide** – The ability to connect from home may be the single most important factor to making it through this crisis intact, impacting livelihood, academics, and physical, mental and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, several hundred MidPen households lack access to the devices (laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, etc.) they need for distance learning, finding employment or to stay connected to their families and social network. We will deploy monies from this fund – along with in-kind donations – to make sure that every youth, working adult and senior has what they need to stay on track.

## First Funders – An Invitation

We are inviting a small, select group of partners – those whom we originally invited to sponsor MidPen’s 50th Anniversary activities which have been postponed this year under the circumstance – to seed the fund with a target amount of \$500,000. We will then widen our reach by inviting other funders – organizations and individual donors – to invest both financially and through in-kind donations.

For those who choose to join us, we will include your organization’s name and/or logo in all related communications including a designated web page, social media campaign, and a press release. We will also produce a multi-media e-book of stories, profiling the residents whose lives have been positively impacted by this fund.

## You are invited to join at various contribution levels:

\$100,000 – Inspirers      \$75,000 – Innovators      \$50,000 – Champions      \$25,000 – Allies      \$10,000 – Friends

## RSVP

Please respond by May 19th in order to have your organization’s name and logo included in the broader outreach we plan to do later this month.

## Contact

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