

Sandy Hook Relief Information

United Way of Western Connecticut

Sandy Hook School Support Fund

1. *approximate dollar amount received to date?* \$11 million
2. *Funds used solely for victims?* Funds are unrestricted, and decisions on how funds will be spent are up to the board of the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation. Request from UW was that they support short term and long term needs for families who lost a loved one, families with surviving children of SHES, first responders, teachers and school personnel, and finally community needs that are result of 12/14 tragedy. The funds have been transferred to the Foundation. 100% of the funds are being transferred; there are no fees or administrative costs.
3. *How much has your organization spent to date?* United Way of Western Connecticut has not spent any of these funds, they have all been transferred to the Foundation.
4. *What services has your organization provided to those affected by the tragedy?* In addition to the \$ raised, the United Way has provided staffing to help the town manage the influx of large offers from corporations, assisted the Newtown Volunteer Task Force, organized nonprofit calls to ensure coordination in response to the tragedy, provide administrative support to the newly formed Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation, and assisting town in scan of funds and purposes. The money raised will help first those most impacted (families of victims, families of surviving children from the 2 classrooms, 2 injured teachers, first responders, teachers and school personnel), the children and families of SHES, and then others profoundly impacted in the community.
5. *Has your organization provided funding to other organizations?* No money has been spent by United Way out of the Sandy Hook School Support Fund.
6. *Has your organization provided direct financial assistance to individuals, etc?* No money has been spent by United Way out of the Sandy Hook School Support Fund.
7. *Does your organization have a plan in place for surplus funds not spent?* 100% of the Sandy Hook School Support Fund will be given to the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation.

United Way has incurred about \$150,000 in expenses to date due to the fundraising efforts. This includes having to hire temporary staff to manage the influx of donations (received within 3 months almost four times the amount usually processed in one year), assistance with communication department, additional staffing to assist volunteer services in Newtown, and other costs such as processing donor recognition. Additionally about \$140,000 in-kind staff time has been diverted to work in the community in response to the tragedy. Deloitte has donated 300 hours of auditing services to monitor the fund.

Submitted by,

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Chief Executive Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation, Inc. Announces
Initial Release of Funds and Timeline of Activities**

\$4 Million Dollars Released for Distribution by April 24, 2013

DANBURY, CONN. – April 9, 2013 – The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation (The Foundation) today announced the release of \$4 million to be disbursed by an interim advancement committee to 40 families most severely impacted by the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. The 40 families are those of the 26 victims, the families of 12 surviving children from classrooms directly involved in the shooting, and the families of 2 people injured in the tragedy. The interim advancement committee will also consider disbursements to address immediate needs of first responders and teachers/school personnel in its funding decisions.

The Foundation is a nonprofit group designed to oversee the distribution of the more than \$11 million that the Sandy Hook School Support Fund has received to date. The Sandy Hook School Support Fund (the Fund) is a charitable fund established jointly by United Way of Western Connecticut and Newtown Savings Bank to support the Newtown community following the Sandy Hook School tragedy. In the first week of March 2013, United Way of Western CT transferred all funds currently raised by the Sandy Hook School Support Fund to the Foundation. All subsequent donations also will be transferred to the Foundation on a monthly basis; ensuring that 100% of the money contributed to the Sandy Hook School Support Fund will be transferred to the Foundation. The Foundation also announced a schedule of its planned activities and meetings, including the appointment of a volunteer executive director and a series of meetings to solicit input and feedback from families, first responders, teachers and others impacted by the tragedy of December 14, 2012.

“This initial release of funds and our schedule of activities in the next two weeks reflects the board’s intention and efforts to balance a thoughtful, transparent process with the appropriate sense of urgency to meet the needs of the community”, said Anne Ragusa, a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “To date we have held 3 meetings with another 6 scheduled with victims’ families, survivor families, injured teachers, first responders, teachers and school personnel over the next 2 weeks”, added Ragusa.

One goal of the meetings with affected stakeholder groups is to get their input on how to best represent their views in the work of the Foundation’s distribution committees. The members of the interim advancement committee will be named based on the feedback received at these meetings.

“The reality of the approach that we have adopted is that having a dialogue with those impacted in the community requires time particularly when so many are in the midst of responding to trauma. The board will move as quickly as possible to bring relief to the families while also ensuring decisions are made thoughtfully for the future”, said Dr. Charles Herrick, a member of the Foundation’ Board of Directors.

This first advancement of funds does not preclude families or others from receiving other monies in future disbursements. It allows the Foundation to look at their needs and additional community needs over the next several weeks with public input.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Friday, April 12th and an announcement of an interim executive director is anticipated to be made on Monday April 15th. For further information go to www.nshcf.org.

Timeline of Activities

Date	Task	Notes
Interim Advancement of Funds		
4/9/13	Announce first advancement of funds to most affected groups of \$4 million to be disbursed by Interim Advancement Committee of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 families who lost someone • 12 families of children who escaped from 2 classrooms • First responders • School personnel and teachers
4/15	Announce Interim Committee members	Takes into account feedback received to date
4/16-4/23	Committee receives feedback from affected groups	May include meetings, one on one conversations, survey, etc.
4/24	Initial Advancement Distribution announced	
Distribution of Funds		
2/20	Formation of Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation Board	First meeting with 26 families
3/4-3/18	Board meets and addresses regulatory items	
Begin meetings to share purpose of foundation, get input on distribution committee formation, identify best way to communicate with most affected groups for future distribution decisions/needs		
3/18-4/5	Meeting with first responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newtown Police Executive Board • Newtown Fire Leadership

		• Newtown Ambulance EMS Leadership
4/10	Meeting with 12 families	
4/11	Meeting with teachers Meeting with 26 families	
4/12	Meeting with 26 families	
4/15	Interim Volunteer Executive Director announced	
4/15-4/24	Final meetings with families, state police, injured teachers, school personnel	Meet with anyone unable to meet previously
4/29	Distribution committee confirmed	Designed from input from most affected groups
4/29-5/17	Meetings with stakeholders	Includes public input from most affected groups and families from SHES
5/20-5/24	Distribution committee reviews findings	
5/20	Board announces release of funds	
5/29	First full allocations announced	May include specific distributions, or categories (e.g. first responders needs)

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