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# NEWS Release

For Immediate Release

December 1, 2020

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## **Richmond Rapid Response Fund seeks Giving Tuesday donations, announces launch of Rent Assistance Program**

**RICHMOND, CALIF.** – Richmond Mayor Tom Butt and leaders of the Richmond Rapid Response Fund (R3F) including staff from the city, RYSE Center, EdFUND West, Richmond Promise, Building Blocks for Kids (BBK), and the Richmond Rent Program kick off the fund’s Giving Tuesday campaign by sharing the launch of the Rent Assistance Program For Displacement And Homelessness Prevention.

Since the launch of the response fund, R3F has also received several generous contributions from donors including The California Endowment, Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation, East Brother Beer Company, Hellman Foundation, Mayor’s Community Fund, SH Cowell Foundation, Richmond Community Foundation, RYSE Center, The San Francisco Foundation, Chevron, and dozens of individual donors. In October, the Richmond City Council also allocated \$150,000 of the city’s CARES Act funding to the response fund. R3F hopes to receive more contributions on Giving Tuesday and in the days and weeks to come as residents and families continue to grapple with financial and resource insecurity due to COVID-19.

“R3F stands out as one of the most unique and holistic response funds in the Bay Area and maybe the entire country. R3F’s broad coalition of leaders are working to make every dollar and resource count for people in need, and they can use everyone’s support and donations,” said Mayor Butt. “If you have the means to give, show your support and make a donation this Giving Tuesday!” the mayor continued.

To date, R3F has raised over \$600,000 towards its total minimum goal of \$10 million and has supported approximately 600 families and individuals. Donations to R3F are supporting phase one of the fund – providing direct financial disbursement to residents – and phase two, establishing a rent assistance program and providing support for community-based organizations and small businesses.

“This is the time of year where families are excited about the holidays and spending time with folks they love. With the rise in COVID-19 cases, the uncertainty of financial support from the government, and challenges faced by many to pay rent given job losses and increased medical expenses, we just want to make sure people have a warm place to stay and healthy food to eat,” said the R3F Core Team.

R3F’s work has been recognized through the receipt of a National Philanthropy Day Award as the 2020 Outstanding Foundation, among several other award nominations. As R3F leaders continue working to meet their phase one and two fundraising goals, the fund will continue focusing on its core priority areas: Food and Essential Supplies, Education and Learning, Health and Healing, Housing and Homelessness, and Economic Recovery and Security.

For more information about the Richmond Rapid Response Fund, including how to donate and how funds will be distributed to the community, visit [www.richmondresponsefund.org](http://www.richmondresponsefund.org). All donations are tax deductible.

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