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July 5, 2018

Dear Community Supporters,

The current fire in Basalt and El Jebel has devastated us with the speed and ferocity with which it has wreaked havoc across our neighborhoods and towns. Aspen Community Foundation, with its headquarters and several employees residing in Basalt, is heartbroken yet thankful that the destruction has not claimed any lives. As an organization committed to serving the Aspen to Parachute region since 1980, we are called to action to help those on the front lines and those impacted by the disaster. We can and should do our part on behalf of the immediate response efforts and to address the long-term recovery needs of this local calamity.

Aspen Community Foundation has activated its Community to Community Disaster Relief Fund to channel needed resources to respond to immediate and long-term needs of disaster victims, their families and impacted communities. Monies from this fund are disbursed directly to organizations and entities with the capability to affect the greatest need among individuals impacted by a disaster.

Many worthy agencies are working hard to battle the fire and help those displaced. The fire is not contained and the weather is unpredictable. While we don't yet know a timeline for this to end, we are monitoring and assessing the situation and its impacts on families. We've been in contact with our nonprofit partners, particularly those whose clients have been displaced. Valley Settlement is helping with outreach to our Spanish-speaking neighbors and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Folklorico is ensuring that its students and their families are safe. Others are also on standby, ready to step in where needed.

The Community to Community Fund will be used to support the efforts of these and other nonprofits, as well as provide direct assistance to families if necessary. If you'd like to contribute to the fund, please visit our website. Otherwise we encourage you to contribute directly to organizations of your choosing.

The best source of information on the fires is the Eagle County Sheriff's Office. You can call 970-445-4911 or follow on social media.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the firefighters and first responders out there engaging the fire and keeping us safe.

Sincerely,

Tamara Tormohlen
Executive Director

HOW TO HELP (courtesy of The Aspen Times)

- The Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help with fire relief for those affected by the Lake Christine Fire in Basalt and El Jebel. Volunteers would help with shifts at the evacuation shelters in Basalt and Carbondale. If interested, contact Pamela Herr at pjherr@yahoo.com
- The Aspen Emporium and Flying Circus is accepting donations of water and liquids such as Gatorade in sealed containers to deliver to firefighters battling the Lake Christine Fire. You can drop off donations in boxes at the store located at 315 E. Main Street in downtown Aspen.
- The Vail Valley Salvation Army is coordinating donation efforts for the area. Call 970-748-0704 for more information.
- Alpine Bank is matching donations to the Red Cross dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 to help those impacted by the fires throughout Colorado. You can make donations at <https://www.redcross.org/donate/cm/alpinebank-pub>