A REPORT ON BEYOND HOUSING’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
ON APRIL 3RD OF THIS YEAR we posted our first State of the Community report detailing our emergency response efforts to the growing crisis in North St. Louis County caused by COVID-19. As noted in that first report, much like we saw in the 2008 financial crisis, we expected low-income families and communities like those we serve to be the hardest hit.

While this has certainly been the case, we’re thankful that we and our partners were uniquely positioned to make an immediate difference. Thanks to the generosity of our nonprofit and corporate partners and individual donors—as well as external support including the federal stimulus packages—many families in the 24:1 Community were able to provide for their families despite the social and economic disruptions due to the pandemic.

Over the past three months, Beyond Housing has pivoted from our long-term work of strengthening families and transforming communities to provide immediate short-term relief when it was greatly needed. The most recent figures and highlights of our response efforts are summarized in the following report.

Whatever the future holds, we will be prepared to respond thanks to our infrastructure of partner organizations and deep, close relationships with residents, municipal officials, and other stakeholders.
BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Gathering and sharing resources and information is an essential step in building trusting relationships so we can better understand the challenges our community faces.

| CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT FOR FAMILIES IN 24:1 COMMUNITY |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 27% | laid off | 24% | hours cut back |
| 1% | increased hours/new job | 41% | no change |

OUR241.COM SITE offered more than 160 informational posts about COVID-related support at the local, state, and federal levels.

Let’s Chalk campaign highlighted the voices of individuals in the 24:1 Community through the simple act of providing chalk and inviting residents to share their feelings on the events of 2020 by drawing on their sidewalks, driveways, and streets and posting the pictures on social media.

“We didn’t prepare to respond to a global pandemic, but I’m heartened that we were able to pivot quickly because of the way we come to this work.”
—BEYOND HOUSING CEO CHRIS KREHMeyer
SOTC: A REPORT ON BEYOND HOUSING’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

HOUSING AND UTILITIES

$175,053
Since March, 276 households received $175,053 in rent and utility assistance directly from Beyond Housing, with two-thirds going toward rent assistance and the remaining one-third toward utilities. The Community Impact Network also provided $20,000 in utility assistance for residents in the 24:1 Community.

HOUSING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Past due on a housing payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Unable to make a full payment in the past month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Unable to make a full payment next month (expected)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UTILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Behind on utility payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Unable to make a full payment next month (expected)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Currently facing utility shutoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOUSING Resource Coordinators connect with residents in Beyond Housing’s properties regularly through phone calls, emails, virtual meetings, and porch drop-offs (if needed).

HEALTH

$25,000
To facilitate COVID-19 testing within the North St. Louis County area, Affinia Healthcare set up a drive-thru testing station in Pagedale in April, with $25,000 provided by Beyond Housing as well as funding from other partners including the Community Impact Network, the Missouri Foundation for Health, and JPMorgan Chase.

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505
As of June 12, the station had conducted COVID-19 tests on 505 people. Reflecting the higher per-capita rates of infection that affect communities of color across the U.S., the positive rate is 8.8%, compared to a statewide positive rate of 5.7%.

4
Community Health Workers identified the top four needs of their program participants during the pandemic as: food, utility assistance, virus protection (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies), and medical insurance.

The most frequent referrals for services included asthma and allergy care, transportation to/from doctor appointments, behavioral health services, pediatric medical appointments, utility and rent assistance, Mercy Grant funds for insurance co-payments, food distribution, and one-on-one coaching with dietitians from the Fit and Food Connection.

“We saw the early signs of what the virus was doing to people of color and how little access to testing folks had. I was thrilled we were able to put up one of the first testing sites in a low-income community of color.” —BEYOND HOUSING CEO CHRIS KREHMeyer
FOOD AND BASIC ESSENTIALS

In response to COVID-19, Beyond Housing reached out to the community to assess the needs of residents. Recognizing the severity of the situation, the organization quickly pivoted from its long-term goals of strengthening families and transforming communities to provide immediate short-term relief—both directly and as a part of the Community Impact Network’s emergency response task force.

320,000

In total, 320,000 meals have been distributed through June, thanks to the combined efforts of all partners. Gift cards to the local grocery store were provided to residents living in the 24:1 Community with support from the Community Impact Network, Opus Foundation, St. Louis Community Foundation, and the Veiled Prophet Foundation.

10,000/25,000

Based on the continued need, Beyond Housing offered additional drive-thru pickup events, distributing 10,000 lbs. of fresh ground pork and 25,000 lbs. of fresh produce.

Providing Grab-n-Go Meals—first at bus stops and later at school buildings—was an effective way to reach Normandy students. These will continue over the summer.

During April and May, Beyond Housing was part of an emergency response task force spearheaded and funded by the Community Impact Network to address food insecurity and other needs such as diapers and feminine hygiene products. Task force partners included Beyond Housing, Operation Food Search, the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, Equity Homes, Affinia Healthcare, United 4 Children, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Normandy Schools Collaborative.

180

Doorstep deliveries of shelf-stable foods were provided once a week in April and May to 180 residents who could not (or should not) leave home to get to the drive-thru pickup events.

160,000

The COVID-19 emergency task force distributed 160,000 shelf-stable meals plus snacks and fresh produce during April and May.

4,200/1,800

Because basic essentials such as diapers and feminine products are not covered by nutrition programs like SNAP, these items were available at the drive-thru pickup events. The St. Louis Area Diaper Bank distributed approximately 4,200 diapers and 1,800 period kits on a weekly basis.
Family Engagement Liaisons reached out to the most vulnerable families in the Normandy Schools Collaborative by making more than 1,200 calls between March 23 and May 31. They facilitated the distribution of more than 2,500 basic essentials items and 2,100 bags of food through Normandy schools’ distribution efforts.

EDUCATION

1,200 basic essentials distributed

2,100 bags of food distributed

Family Engagement Liaisons reached out to the most vulnerable families in the Normandy Schools Collaborative by making more than 1,200 calls between March 23 and May 31. They facilitated the distribution of more than 2,500 basic essentials items and 2,100 bags of food through Normandy schools’ distribution efforts.

160 Family Engagement Liaisons (FELs) made more than 160 referrals to partner agencies, including 48 for emergency food and 12 for emergency housing.

The Viking Advantage Program continued to keep in touch with its Normandy High School graduates to ensure their college admissions and financial aid applications were on track for fall enrollment.

65 minority business owners signed on to be tenants and received one-on-one support and guidance as they navigated the application process for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

18,000 SQ FT

6 minority business owners signed on to be tenants and received one-on-one support and guidance as they navigated the application process for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Crews broke ground on a new 18,000-square-foot commercial center project in downtown Pagedale this spring, with a scheduled completion date in 2021.

Ever since the stay-at-home orders went into effect, Beyond Housing has continued to pay the employees of the 24:1 Café and 24:1 Cinema.

The Small Business Network, established in late 2019, took its programming online with partners including the University of Missouri-St. Louis, MU Extension, North County, Inc., the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, and MOSourceLink offering resources that included an informational webinar on how to apply for federal funds available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“We know a whole bunch of jobs aren’t coming back. Then what? If the unemployment rate stays at what it is, there’s going to be a lot of pain and suffering.” —BEYOND HOUSING CEO CHRIS KREHMUEYER
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Since March, Beyond Housing has been convening the communities within the 24:1 footprint on a weekly basis. On average, 18-20 communities are present on these calls, which also include neighboring communities like Berkeley, Ferguson, Eureka, and Jennings.

Among other topics, civic leaders discuss strategies to address the inequitable response to COVID-19 in the underserved communities by St. Louis County and the State of Missouri and hear from guests such as Congressman Lacy Clay, County Executive Sam Page, Councilwoman Rita Days, Senator Brian Williams, and Representatives Kevin Windham and Maria Chappelle Nadal.

The governments are creating a task force to support development of an action plan for the larger group for effective advocacy around education, health, and local government.

“Because of the rapid federal response, the damage financially hasn’t hit our families as dramatically as we had envisioned. But if at the end of July the unemployment bump-up goes away, the food stamp bump-up goes away, and there’s not a second stimulus check, we’re frightened people are going to fall off a cliff.” —BEYOND HOUSING CEO CHRIS KREHMeyer

Beyond Housing and Equity Homes worked with the mayors in the 24:1 communities to coordinate and provide door-step deliveries of food and other essential items for 180 residents who could not (or should not) go out in public.

We would like to thank the following donors and partners, alongside a whole host of individuals who are not listed, for their generosity. Without their support, we would not have been able to meet the needs of the families served by our mission during this COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the 24:1 Community—THANK YOU!

Carrollton Bank
Community Impact Network
Emerson
Helping Hand-Me-Downs
JPMorgan Chase
Light a Single Candle
Midland States Bank Foundation
NeighborWorks America
New Venture Fund
Opus Foundation
PNC Bank
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis County COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Program
St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.
Stupp Foundation
Veiled Prophet Foundation
Viragh Family Foundation
Wells Fargo
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PARTNER AGENCIES FOR THEIR ONGOING COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT.

Without their help, we would not have been able to serve the 24:1 Community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Affinia Healthcare
- Community Impact Network
- Equity Homes
- Normandy Schools Collaborative
- Operation Food Search
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Louis Area Diaper Bank
- United 4 Children

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES THAT NEED OUR HELP RIGHT NOW. STAY SAFE AND BE WELL. WE’LL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

Beyond Housing is a nationally recognized, place-based community development organization that serves the 24:1 Community—an area comprised of municipalities within the Normandy schools footprint. Our work brings civic leaders, targeted non-profits, corporations, and residents together to provide the infrastructure, support, and resources to improve lives, strengthen families, and create meaningful and lasting impact for communities and the greater St. Louis region for generations to come.