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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Relief Fund Provides Critical Support, Expands Assistance Efforts

Lexington, NE — The Lexington Community Foundation announced progress in delivering aid to individuals and families impacted by recent hardships associated with the Lexington Tyson plant closure, while outlining continued efforts to assist moving forward.

Since its launch, the Lexington Community Relief Fund has distributed financial assistance to hundreds of households, helping cover essential needs such as housing, utilities, food, and medical assistance. To date, more than $398,000 has been awarded to directly support community members facing urgent challenges associated with their recent Tyson unemployment.

"Our community continues to show what is possible when we come together with compassion and purpose," said Barry McFarland, LCF Public Relations Chair. Orthman Community YMCA Executive Director, Riley Gruntorad, added, "The Lexington community is truly one of a kind. We are fortunate to have a strong network of established resources dedicated to supporting individuals and families in times of need. In light of the Tyson plant closing, it has been inspiring to witness so many community members, businesses, and organizations step forward to offer their time, talents, and support wherever it's needed most."

Current Impact Highlights

Total Individuals Assisted: 5,797

Total Funds Distributed: $398,537.64

Total Funds Raised: $461,035.09

In addition to direct financial relief, the community relief assistance has strengthened partnerships with local nonprofits, social service providers, and advocacy groups to ensure resources are delivered efficiently and equitably. These collaborations have streamlined referrals, reduced duplication of services, and expanded outreach to underserved populations.

"The involvement of outside organizations has meant a great deal. Their willingness to stand alongside Lexington during this challenging time is a testament to the strength of our community and the shared belief that when one of us faces hardship, we all come together to help. It speaks volumes about who we are and the deep commitment we have to supporting one another," noted Gruntorad.

Moving Forward: Expanded Support

Recognizing that recovery does not happen overnight, the Lexington community relief efforts are continuing assistance, with intake interviews beginning again on Monday, February 16, at the Dawson County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building. Financial assistance will focus on the highest needs of food stability and utility assistance, while referring individuals to several community organizations and agencies to support the variety of other needs.

Gratitude for Community Support

The success of the Community Relief Fund and the assistance process would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of volunteers, partner agencies, donors, and staff.

Volunteers have contributed countless hours reviewing applications, coordinating outreach efforts, and ensuring the timely distribution of aid. Support agencies have provided critical expertise and on-the-ground coordination. Staff members have worked tirelessly to manage operations with professionalism and care.

"We are deeply grateful to every individual and organization that has stepped forward," said Beth Roberts, LCF Executive Director. "Your commitment reflects the strength and resilience of our community."

How to Get Involved

Community members who wish to contribute or learn more about available assistance can visit lexfoundation.org/ways-to-give/community-relief-fund.html or contact the Lexington Community Foundation at (308) 324-6704. Donations remain vital to sustaining and expanding relief efforts.

As needs continue to evolve, the Community Relief Fund remains steadfast in its mission: to respond with urgency, act with compassion, and assist those most closely connected to the recent Tyson plant crisis.