

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Father's Place Receives 25k Grant from One SC Fund for COVID-19 Response

Funds will help the father-focused organization provide emergency food, shelter and employment services to program participants.

CONWAY, SC – A Father's Place (AFP) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from The One SC Fund: COVID-19 Response, a fund housed at Central Carolina Community Foundation. The grant will assist fatherhood program participants in need of urgent food, shelter and health needs. In addition to satisfying immediate basic needs, AFP will pilot a "Rapid Re-Employment Program" to make a seismic shift in education and training opportunities for enrolled fathers which will prepare them for employment, economic stability and mobility in a post-COVID economy.

"COVID-19 has placed a growing financial burden on communities around the state," said Mac Bennett," director of community impact and strategic initiatives at Cyberwoven, LLC. "The grants will help meet the rising needs spawned by the COVID-19 pandemic in our state." Bennett is chairing the executive committee for the One SC Fund: COVID-19 Response.

The One SC Fund was established in 2015 by former Governor Nikki Haley as a statewide disaster relief fund and has directed donations to relief efforts for the Thousand-Year Flood, Hurricane Matthew, and Hurricane Florence.

The One SC Fund: COVID-19 Response is a collaborative statewide response to food, shelter, health, and nonprofit sustainability needs stemming from the Coronavirus pandemic. The three core partners in the One SC Fund: COVID-19 Response are SC Grantmakers, TogetherSC, and United Way Association of SC. These efforts will be joined by dozens of local, regional and statewide organizations implementing the expedient, efficient, and equitable use of the funds.

The fund enhances and complements the efforts already underway in several counties and regions across South Carolina and is addressing gaps in the response efforts, including support for communities that lack resources or an organized philanthropic response.

The Covid-19 pandemic cast a glaring spotlight on the frailty of coastal South Carolina's hospitality-based economy, putting historical numbers of residents out of work in a matter of weeks. Simultaneously, it highlighted the already desperate need for middle-skilled workers in areas including manufacturing,

logistics, technology, electrical/HVAC, and medical services. Unfortunately, vocational training has historically been out of reach for much of our low-income population.

“We serve a 70% African-American population, a group that studies have shown to be a group disproportionately affected by COVID-19,” said AFP Executive Director Wallace Evans. “This pilot project is designed to augment our existing intervention and employment services and expedite access to them.”

In 2019, AFP served more than 230 fatherhood program participants, positively impacted the lives of more than 430 children.

“We are so grateful for the support of The One SC Fund to help us assist members of our community who are struggling during these difficult times.” Evans said.

About A Father’s Place

The mission of A Father’s Place is to engage and empower fathers in the positive support of their children through goal-oriented programs that enable them to find stable employment, practice healthy parenting, and gain hope for the future of their family. A Father’s Place offers individuals the opportunity to learn critical parenting skills, become more involved in their children’s lives, gain better communications skills, and develop marketable employment skills, as well as a host of other resources. The organization serves fathers and families in Horry, Georgetown, Marion and Williamsburg counties. Learn more at www.afathersplace.org

About the One SC Fund:

The One SC Fund, housed at Central Carolina Community Foundation, was established by former Governor Nikki Haley after the 2015 Thousand-Year Flood. The fund helps South Carolinians who are recovering from state-declared emergencies. The fund has supported efforts during three previous state-declared disasters, including the Thousand-Year Flood, Hurricane Matthew, and Hurricane Florence, distributing over \$5.5 million to nonprofits. The fund is activated during times of state-declared disasters. For more information about the One SC Fund, visit www.OneSCFund.org or call 803-254-5601

www.scfathersandfamilies.com