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**Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation
Launches COVID-19 Front Line Relief Fund**

For Immediate Release, Pittsburgh, PA: Founded in 1960 to respond to the polio virus in Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation (ACMSF) is again mobilizing to combat an epidemic in our region. The COVID-19 Front Line Relief Fund will aggregate individual and organizational donations to issue grants supporting front line healthcare providers. The ACMSF will fund the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the basic needs of healthcare professionals.

“The Medical Society has received a deluge of calls from independent medical practices, hospital-based physicians, and nursing homes—all who are seeking help,” says Jeremy Bonfini, CEO of The Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation.

“We are excited to provide grants to amplify the impact of citizen volunteers and community-based organizations. Our grants will aid local 3D Printers, PPE delivery and any service that addresses the basic needs of providers battling COVID-19,” said ACMS Foundation Chair, Dr. William Johnjulio.

Distribution of PPE

The ACMS Foundation COVID-19 Relief Fund is connecting an outpouring of public support with front line providers who need it the most. Alejandro Sklar of PPE Connect Pittsburgh describes the incredible response from the community, “In our first week we’ve delivered 125 N95 masks and 700 surgical masks at no charge to healthcare providers. We also have an additional 1500 items committed for donation and ready for delivery.”

Supporting the basic needs of healthcare providers

The COVID-19 Front Line Relief Fund is also supporting medical students and university staff who are providing emergency childcare and sustenance to front line healthcare professionals.

“When area schools and daycares closed, healthcare providers were scrambling for childcare. Our group, 412Med, recognized the need to provide emergency childcare. The physicians of tomorrow are humbled to support those who are in the War against COVID-19 today. In the spirit of Mr. Rogers, we are helping the helpers,” said Ben Zuchelkowski, a fourth-year medical student and scholar in the Clinical Scientist Training Program (CSTP) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left local Pittsburgh restaurants struggling for business and healthcare workers in need of nourishment. Soukaina Eljamri, a University of Pittsburgh graduate partnered with medical students to launch Feeding the Frontline Pittsburgh. “We are boosting the morale of healthcare workers while supporting local restaurants. We are so happy to have the support of the COVID-19 Front Line Relief Fund.”

Individuals, Corporations and Foundations are invited to support the ACMS Foundation Front Line Relief Fund online at acmsfoundation.org. For more information contact Jeremy Bonfini at jbonfini@acms.org or 412-321-5030.