

UGANDA BOSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



"Let's join hands, together we succeed"

WESTON CARES GRANT REPORT

SUBMITTED

OCTOBER 2020

In April 2020, the Uganda Boston Community Association (UBCA) set up a taskforce whose main charge was to assist members of the Ugandan immigrant population in the Boston area during the Corona Pandemic lockdown. The task force embarked on mobilizing resources in the form of funds, essential food items and household supplies as well as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The task force committee was also able to refer individuals and families to other programs and services including Government programs, professional services, and advocates. The task force was able to raise over \$8,000, primarily from members of the Ugandan community in the Boston area as well as household supplies and PPE. A total of over 60 families (including 114 family members) were served.

In August 2020, UBCA applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from Weston Cares Fund to assist individuals and families adversely impacted by Covid-19. The Weston Grant has allowed the UBCA Taskforce to continue with its efforts of helping individuals and families during these difficult times. Many members of our community work in the homecare/healthcare sector and have been adversely affected. We are hearing from many members of the community who are facing rental, mortgage and utility bills as many members are still underemployed or unemployed. We have many elderly members of our community who need assistance with food and other essential items.

We used the \$5,000 Weston Cares Funds to assist 10 families living in Waltham Massachusetts, with a \$500 rent assistance stipend to help cover overdue rent. Due to limited resources we set the rent assistance stipend at \$500 per family and issued the assistance on a first come first serve basis. This policy was intended to utilize the \$5,000 grant to provide help to as many families as possible. All the families that were assisted utilizing funding from the Weston Care grant were also provided cash stipends, utilizing funds from other funding sources, to help pay overdue utility bills, buy food and essential household supplies including PPE. Similar to our other programs, the rental assistance program was announced and promoted through various media within the Ugandan community.

The demographics of the families assisted utilizing the \$5,000 Weston Cares Funding are as follows:

- ⇒ 40% recovering Covid-19 or at-risk due to other health issue or condition;
- ⇒ 30% Elderly, not working;
- ⇒ 30% Unemployed or reduced employment hours.

The Uganda Boston Community Association was founded in 2013 as a non-profit organization to unite all Ugandans residing in the state of Massachusetts under an umbrella organization for a common interest to foster growth and development. Ugandans in Boston are a richly a diverse immigrant community from different economic and religious backgrounds. The Community is primarily centered in the Waltham area and many of us work in the home healthcare field. Our community has been adversely impacted by the pandemic with many members actually contracting the virus. Many members have experienced layoffs or have experienced

reduced work hours. Many members of our community do not qualify for government assistance. Like many immigrant populations, we are a communal society depending very much on each other to overcome the challenges most immigrant populations face while trying to assimilate into the greater American society.

We extend our gratitude to the Weston Cares Fund for providing us with funds during this very difficult year. We hope this will be the beginning of a working relationship that will help us continue collaborating in fulfilling our shared mission of helping communities.

You can read more about UBCA at www.ubca2013.org

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