When COVID-19 hit, you answered the call for help. Donating millions of dollars and thousands of pieces of PPE, iPads and other technology, you helped us face the challenge head-on.

STONY BROOK RESPONDS

The first patient with confirmed COVID-19 is treated at Stony Brook University Hospital.

March 18 - The School of Medicine’s Infectious Disease Group collaborates with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to receive engineering expertise on the design and fabrication of face masks.

March 20 - The Coronavirus Crisis Challenge crowdfunding project launches with $250K in matching funds from the Della Pietra Family to underwrite critical supplies and treatments for Stony Brook Medicine.

March 21 - The community answers the call for the Coronavirus Crisis Challenge. The Della Pietra Family increases the match to $500K, and the Clarkson and Heintzelman Family then help increase the match to $750K.

March 23 - The iCREATE Lab assembles hundreds of 3D-printed face shields.

March 25 - The Department of Chemistry produces nearly 100 gallons of hand sanitizer for the University Hospital and the Long Island State Veterans Home.

March 28 - The Department of Mechanical Engineering, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and clinicians from the School of Medicine meet to develop a ventilator in 10 days that can be deployed if the reserve of ventilators is exhausted due to the pandemic.

March 31 - The College of Business releases web-based “Resources for Business in the Age of COVID” to support community and alumni businesses.

April 8 - The 122 students in the Renaissance School of Medicine Class of 2020 graduate early, and more than half agree to immediate deployment to fight COVID-19.

April 9 - A Stony Brook Medicine research study launches to see if blood plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 can help current patients.

April 22 - Stony Brook Medicine clinicians launch more than a dozen clinical trials to find ways to ease the symptoms and effects of COVID-19 on inpatients.

April 27 - A Department of Computer Science team uses Twitter and AI-based language assessment to track COVID-19 symptoms and mental health in U.S. communities.

April 29 - The Stony Brook Foundation announces a matching gift campaign whereby every gift to the Student Emergency Support Fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to $100K.

April 29 to May 5 - More than 950 alumni, faculty, staff and friends take part in the Seawolves Helping Seawolves Week crowdfunding campaign, bolstering overall emergency student support by $200K.

May 1 - The Stony Brook Meal Train reaches the 10,000 mark for community food donations to workers and medical staff at Stony Brook Medicine. Softtheom, Inc. donates thousands of meals, alongside the many others who have stepped up to provide meals for our healthcare heroes.
On March 20, longtime friends the Della Pietra Family pledged $250,000 in matching funds to ignite the 10-day Coronavirus Crisis Challenge that would underwrite critical supplies and treatments for Stony Brook University Hospital.

The community answered the call, so the Della Pietras increased the Challenge to $500,000. Again, hundreds helped meet the match — in just 24 hours — inspiring the Clarkson and Heintzelman Family to increase the Challenge’s matching funds to its ultimate goal of $750,000.

Over 1,400 friends, alumni, faculty, staff and businesses — near and far — donated through the crowdfunding website, and the project also inspired major gifts to help the University Hospital battle the outbreak.

Even after the challenge was met, gifts continued to pour in, bringing in a total of $6.7 million to support the University Hospital.

Dollars raised for the Health Crisis Fund and from the Coronavirus Crisis Challenge enabled Stony Brook to order an oxygen farm to expand the University Hospital’s reserve and purchase gloves, gowns and N95 masks for healthcare workers on the front lines of the outbreak.

CROWDFUNDING CHALLENGE KICKS OFF $6.7M IN DONATIONS TO THE HEALTH CRISIS FUND

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Chengjian Yao, PhD ’15

We kept our healthcare workers safe while they risked their own health and safety to treat patients and save lives.

Electrical engineering alumnus and Chairman and CEO of ChangXin Memory Technologies, Inc. Yiming Zhu ’00 and his wife, computer science alumna Jingjing Wei ’00, gave more than 150,000 masks and 2,000 protective goggles.

Alumni Chengjian Yao, PhD ’15, Bing Wang ’12 and Li Long ’14, former students of Stony Brook Mathematics Professor Xiaoxiong Chen, reached out to their former teacher and mentor to offer help and collaborated to provide masks and other much-needed supplies.

We met the University Hospital’s needs for equipment and supplies with innovative solutions in record time.

Stony Brook engineering alumni Dawn Zier ’96, most recently the CEO of Nutrifyn, and her husband, Steven Zier ’83, supported the creation and production of a new high-volume 3D-printed face mask.

Forte Construction Corp. President Anthony Cardinal Jr. gave a significant opening contribution to the COVID-19 Rapid Response Biodesign and Medical Engineering Fund that allowed Stony Brook engineers to create face shields and a ventilator prototype in just 10 days.

The Nicholas and Marion Madonna Foundation provided funds to purchase iPads for COVID-19 patients.

20  |  STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM STONY BROOK’S NEIGHBORS

Alongside donors’ incredible philanthropy, thousands of local residents reached out to the University by sharing messages of support and dropping off much-needed supplies, meals and other necessities.

1,500 people gave...

- 990,250 pieces of PPE
- 33,500 comfort care items
- 18,000 meals for healthcare workers
- 575 video messages of support
- 435 iPads

Donation response teams managed...

- 2,200 incoming emails
- 415 incoming phone calls
- 140 drop-offs
- 50 shipments of donated goods

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When the pandemic forced Stony Brook’s students to leave campus, many of them faced significant challenges as a result: lost income from on-campus jobs, lack of access to technological resources, difficult housing situations at home. For a number of students, these obstacles interfered with their ability to remain in school and on track to graduate.

In true Stony Brook fashion, the community came together by donating to the Student Emergency Support Fund, established by Rick Gatteau, PhD, vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

"As our nation struggles to recover from the economic and societal impact of the worldwide COVID-19 crisis, our students will be architects of our future," said Gatteau. "We can’t let this crisis derail their dreams and their potential to make a difference in all our lives."

The community support has been overwhelming. During a one-week crowdfunding campaign — dubbed Seawolves Helping Seawolves Week — 950 donors came forward, boosting the emergency fund to $344,000 in mere days and helping 373 students overcome tremendous obstacles.

Before the end of the school year, nearly $1 million in emergency aid was disbursed from the Fund, including $100,000 in matching dollars from the Stony Brook Foundation, $20,000 from Shaun Massiah, DMD, and his wife, Deirdre Stanley, and $25,000 from Stony Brook Professor Emerita Nancy Squires, PhD.

"The Stony Brook Foundation is dedicated and devoted to the University now more than ever," said Stony Brook Foundation Chair Richard L. Gelfond ’76, Hon. ’04. "The matching funds is something we can do immediately to demonstrate our unwavering support to this wonderful institution by investing in our students."

KEEPING SEAWOLVES STRONG
Alumni and friends helped more than 1,000 at-risk students overcome crises and stay in school

I had no income after losing my job due to COVID. Student emergency support funds are helping me achieve a goal I set for myself long ago, enabling me to graduate and pursue a career I love in health science. And I can continue to help my siblings in a way that no one else did for me.”

Ebony Marshall ’23
Recipient of emergency relief through the Student Emergency Support Fund

"In my time at Stony Brook, I had the pleasure of mentoring and working with some truly incredible young men and women," said Dr. Squires. "It’s heartbreaking to think that anyone might be suffering additional hardships during this already challenging time, and it’s especially troubling for me to see the dedicated and hardworking students of Stony Brook struggling. I’m grateful that I have been able to play a part in helping them get back on track and complete their education."

Yet the need persists. Many more students continue to suffer from financial and personal crises amid the ongoing pandemic. The Student Emergency Support Fund will continue to be a critical lifeline for them throughout the 2020–21 academic year and beyond.

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I would like to thank the Stony Brook community for the support that they have given me and many others. During a time of a lot of uncertainty, their generosity is very touching and has made me appreciate calling myself an alumna of this prestigious university. Being a Seawolf means I will always have a community looking out for me, no matter what.”

Emmanuela “Emma” Lauredent ’20
Women’s track and field, and recipient of emergency relief through the Student-Athlete Hardship Fund

STATE-OF-THE-ART DISTANCE LEARNING PLATFORM KEEPS STUDENTS ON TRACK

When COVID-19 struck the Stony Brook campus, loyal friends at the Summer Math Foundation wisely anticipated that the University might need their support. Without pause, they contacted Stony Brook. Their main concern: to ensure that upper-class mathematics undergraduates had the ability to finish their courses if they became ill or were unable to return to campus due to the pandemic. After speaking with the University and determining the best way to help, the Foundation quickly established the Summer Math Foundation Distance Learning Fund, which enabled the Department of Mathematics to purchase the classroom technology necessary to build a state-of-the-art platform for distance learning.

This wasn’t the first time the Summer Math Foundation has reached out to help Stony Brook’s mathematics students. Since 2016, the Foundation has been providing scholarships to high-performing Stony Brook undergraduate mathematics students who would like to accelerate their coursework and participate in a focused summer math learning experience at Stony Brook. The Summer Math Foundation endowed scholarships have since given five math students advanced summer research experiences that they otherwise would not have had access to if not for the scholarships.