

For immediate release

May 4, 2020

For press and other inquiries, contact:

Kate Mudge, Executive Director, Hamline Midway Coalition/ kate@HamlineMidway.org

Brandon Long, Executive Director Union Park District Council /

brandon@unionparkdc.org

**SAINT PAUL'S MIDWAY AND UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOODS LAUNCH
INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND**

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (May 4, 2020) – After more than three years of community development, the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative (NUFC) has launched and is prepared to support the communities surrounding Allianz Field. The NUFC exists to provide funding to residents, local businesses, and community organizations who bring forth innovative ideas and projects focusing on economic development, placemaking, public art, preventing displacement, and preserving what we all love most about our community. This community benefits fund was first proposed by a 2016 City Council resolution, and a resulting community task force conducted exhaustive engagement with residents and business owners. After years of collaboration, NUFC has grown from an idea into a community-advised board and fund that is proud to announce its first cycle of grant efforts this coming week.

In these uncertain and unprecedented times, the NUFC is proud to announce the creation of Midway United as its first round of neighborhood grants. Midway United is an emergency relief fund for Midway and Union Park small businesses and retail-based nonprofits facing immense challenges in the realities of COVID-19. The fund will make grants available to qualifying small businesses and some non-profits within a half-mile of Allianz Field. Each approved application will receive \$2,500 in grant funds to use for any business expenses. Applications can be submitted from May 4th to May 11th. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, [click here](#).

“Our small businesses are hurting due to the Pandemic. We are very proud of our turnaround for these funds to assist in the critical financial needs facing so many businesses closed, largely without income, for nearly two months. The health of our

small business community is crucial for the well-being of the community and we recognize the need to act quickly,” said Brandon Long, Executive Director of the Union Park District Council.

“We’ve been hearing from small business owners in the Midway who are in desperate need of support during these tough times, which is why we are so appreciative to work as a collaborative and provide funding during this critical time,” said Kate Mudge, Executive Director of the Hamline-Midway Coalition.

“Our city is growing, and that’s a good thing. Our responsibility together now is to achieve citywide progress that brings everyone with it. I view the work of NUFC as a critical example of that effort, and I am deeply proud to have helped shape its development as a Councilmember. I look forward to supporting its future impact in partnership with our community,” said Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Ward 4.

"I'm proud of the leadership of the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative for stepping up in a time of uncertainty to secure resources for the Midway. Thank you, Dr. Bill McGuire, Allianz, and all the donors, for their contributions. This is the vision that I had hoped for when we passed the Community Benefits Resolution in 2016. I am excited it's coming to fruition," said Councilmember Dai Thao, Ward 1.

The NUFC is honored to have already received over \$92,000 in donations from organizations like Minnesota United, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, Hamline University, Concordia-Saint Paul, and the Dark Clouds Supporters Group. Individuals and groups interested in contributing to the fund can learn more [here](#) and contact info@midwayunited.org.

For more information, visit www.midwayunited.org.

###