



March 20, 2020

To: Lakeland's Community and Friends
From: Greg Sanders, Executive Director / The Lakeland Foundation

Appeal for Support of Lakeland Students' Immediate Needs

Lakeland's president, Dr. Morris Beverage, has detailed in his recent messages to employees this week how the college's operational changes necessitated by the spread of COVID-19 are helping to maintain teaching, learning, administrative, and facility-related functions. Nearly all of Lakeland's faculty and staff have spent the last week dedicated to adapting their typical on-campus work to new and often unfamiliar methods – but we remain unified in our goal of keeping students safe and on course to academic success in spite of daunting circumstances. Today, I'd like to ask you to consider helping our students meet their most basic needs.

Funding to buy food has become a high priority because so many of our students lack a financial or family safety net. The majority are from vulnerable populations and include single parents, veterans, individuals who were formerly incarcerated, students who have aged out of the foster care system, and/or first-generation college students. The COVID-19 crisis is now exacerbating in so many ways the pre-existing inequalities and food insecurities of our students.

Last year, Lakeland began a program to confront the growing concern of student hunger on our campus. With the help of area foundations, individuals, and employee donations, the **Lakeland Cares Cupboard** was established, which receives support through The Lakeland Foundation's **End Student Hunger Now Fund** and is stocked with non-perishable and fresh food as well as personal care items. The Cares Cupboard is housed in our Financial Aid Office and students have already used it over 1,000 times since it opened. To further reduce food insufficiency, Lakeland began purchasing and distributing grocery store gift cards to our students in need.

Separately, The Lakeland Foundation recently committed \$10,000 to purchase grocery store gift cards that will be distributed directly to students via the college's existing **Student Immediate Needs Fund**, which provides emergency support to students faced with unexpected financial hardship in a range of needs, including utility bills, medical bills, car repairs, even gas cards. If you are interested in supporting this fund, please [**CLICK HERE**](#). A gift of any amount at all would be greatly appreciated and will be put to immediate use.

As always, Lakeland will continue to collaborate with colleges, universities, nonprofits, and local governments in our region to help establish structures that effectively meet the needs of students across Northeast Ohio.

Thank you for considering this appeal and for all that you do to support our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Sanders".

Greg Sanders
Executive Director
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