

Contact: Laura Maciel
559-920-8813
laura@centralvalleycf.org
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Central Valley Community Foundation Providing Over 30,000 Masks to Healthcare Workers, Addressing Critical Shortage in Personal Protective Equipment

Purchase of 30,000 surgical masks and coordination of 2,000 homemade masks is possible with support of local donors and volunteers

WHAT: Lack of proper masks, gowns, and eye gear is imperiling the ability of medical workers to fight the coronavirus, and is putting their lives at risk. As the expected “peak” of coronavirus cases in the Central Valley looms, proper protection is critical for those tasked with caring for diagnosed patients. Through its COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) is supporting efforts to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to area healthcare workers.

Kiki’s Quilt Shack is hosting a class for volunteers interested in making masks for area healthcare workers. Twenty volunteers will receive training and a kit with materials to make the masks. HandsOn Central California will be delivering kits to volunteers 55 years old and older; and others can pick up kits at Kiki’s Quilt Shack to take home to sew and return later. Kiki’s Quilt Shack created their own expert pattern and are generously donating supplies for over 2,000 masks.

Additionally, CVCF has purchased 30,000 masks that will be delivered to local health clinics early next week.

WHEN: Thursday, April 2, 2020
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Kiki’s Quilt Shack 5747 N. Palm Ave, Fresno, CA 93704

WHO: Ketty and Mannie Massengale, owners of Kiki’s Quilt Shack
Christina Ross, HandsOn Central California
Hannah Johnson McAbee, Director of Local Philanthropy, CVCF

VISUALS: -Twenty volunteer sewers at sewing machine workstations
-Instructors showing volunteers how to make the masks
-Kits of fabric being assembled for volunteers, including 30 kits that HandsOn will deliver to retired senior citizen volunteers to make masks from home

ABOUT: This initiative is part of a larger effort to help frontline workers and local nonprofits impacted by the coronavirus crisis. On Tuesday, CVCF announced that it is granting \$500,000 to 12 Central Valley nonprofits responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. These non-competitive grants are focused on three critical areas: food security, support for healthcare workers, and coordinated communications strategies.

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