



**BMS Awards Lawrence Township Community Foundation Special Grant
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Lawrenceville: April 14, 2020 – Thanks to a generous donation from Bristol Myers Squibb, the Lawrence Township Community Foundation (LTCF) is pleased to announce four special grants totaling \$20,000 to HomeFront, Arm in Arm, Mercer Street Friends and Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, to support their efforts to help local families during the COVID-19 health crisis. The gift was made by this key ongoing supporter of the Foundation to help it support local nonprofits during the pandemic. The all-volunteer Board of LTCF met last week via Zoom to choose how the special emergency funds should be used in the light of the ongoing challenges facing the community.

According to LTCF President, Rachel Cantlay, LTCF is very grateful to BMS for this special grant, and wants to do more. During the same meeting, the Board members agreed to respond as quickly as possible to the emerging needs of local nonprofits serving Lawrence residents. To that end, the group decided to table proposals submitted for their spring grants and consider them in the fall grant cycle when it is hoped that programs can begin to be held as usual. Nonprofits that submitted grants for this spring will not need to take any action to have their proposals considered in the fall.

The Board recognized that COVID-19 created a unique set of problems for Lawrence Township residents. To help address these problems, the Board unanimously decided to use grant funds earmarked for usual distribution in May for special emergency grants. These grants will be offered to nonprofits to help them meet needs of Township residents created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Local nonprofits can access a special application form, available now on the LTCF website: www.ltcfnj.org. Organizations submitting these urgent proposals must be registered nonprofits, and directly serve people living in Lawrence Township. The grants will be awarded in early May.

The Lawrence Township Community Foundation has been providing grants to local nonprofits for over 15 years. The group, in addition to Bristol Myers Squibb, is supported by two other major sponsors, The Lawrenceville School and Educational Testing Service. In recent years, donations from Township individuals have been providing additional funds to LTCF, adding to funds available for grants to local nonprofits. Anyone wishing to help LTCF with the COVID-19 special grants or its ongoing support to local nonprofits, can donate by visiting the LTCF website: www.ltcfnj.org. People can also like our Facebook page to get ongoing information.