



Metro United Way

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Metro United Way Receives Record \$20 Million from Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott**

*The investment recognizes organization's work to address systemic barriers, build racial equity, and advance opportunity for all through education and financial independence*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** (December 15, 2020) – Metro United Way (MUW) has received a gift in the amount of \$20 million from philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott, marking the largest single donation in the nonprofit's 103-year history.

In a year that has upended our community and country, devastated many businesses and nonprofits, strained critical ecosystems like child care, and threatened to leave thousands of families homeless, Metro United Way has been uniting people and resources to meet the critical needs of this moment. MUW has worked to root out systemic inequities and barriers preventing children, individuals and families from accessing the resources and opportunities they need to not only survive, but thrive, now and into the future.

"Ms. Scott's transformational gift tells us that she believes in the longstanding work and powerful impact of our staff, partners and volunteers," said Theresa Reno-Weber, president and CEO of Metro United Way. "She believes in the generosity and commitment of our donors and is adding her support to stand alongside them in the impact they fund each year in the hopes that it will inspire others to join us.

Coupled with the incredible generosity of our local community, this gift will help Metro United Way better meet the tremendous needs we see growing in the wake of the pandemic and will provide a critical foundation for sustaining the bold, transformative innovations we must invest in to build a better tomorrow free of racial and social injustice."

The funds are among donations recently made by Scott as part of her commitment to the Giving Pledge to give away the majority of her fortune to charities and philanthropic causes. Since signing the Giving Pledge in 2019, MacKenzie Scott has donated more than \$5.8 billion to nonprofit organizations, with a focus on racial equality, meeting basic needs, LGBTQ+ equality, democracy, and climate change. Scott invites others to give whatever they can: "If you're craving a way to help others at the end of this difficult year, I highly recommend a gift to one of the thousands of organizations doing remarkable work all across the country."

**ABOUT METRO UNITED WAY**

Metro United Way works every day to lift our community by mobilizing people and maximizing our community's resources to advance opportunity and equity for all. Metro United Way drives efficiency and impact throughout our local nonprofit sector through best practice sharing, data-informed decision making, advocacy, and accountability for quality & results. We bring together businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and individuals to engage in the kinds of collaboration that changes lives.

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