

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grinnell Chamber Announces \$50,000 for Small Business Relief

GRINNELL, IA – The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the launch of a Small Business Relief Fund in an immediate response to COVID-19 and the challenges it presents to small businesses in the Grinnell community. The chamber of commerce works to advance the economic development, vitality and growth of the community. In an effort to do this, it is imperative to support small businesses in what may be one of their greatest times of need; the fund will help mitigate financial hardships Grinnell small businesses, whether a current chamber member or not, may experience as a result of this public health emergency.

“Today we announce the launch of the Grinnell Small Business Relief Fund (GSBR), with large thanks to our community partners, Grinnell College & Grinnell Mutual, for their joint support of this effort,” says Rachael Kinnick, President & CEO of the Chamber. The GSBR provides an opportunity to adapt to evolving needs of small businesses, and will provide flexibility to respond to needs that are not being met by existing non-profit, local, state and federal programs.

One week ago, Grinnell Mutual and Grinnell College pre-emptively announced their efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the Grinnell community. “In this time of unprecedented change, we are grateful for the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce to support the needs of our local small businesses as they quickly transition to a new reality of operations. We’re proud to join Grinnell Mutual with a contribution of \$25,000 to help establish this fund for emergency business transitional support,” says Raynard Kington, Grinnell College President. “Although the landscape shifts every day, we know that Grinnell is a community where people unfailingly come together to support each other in times of need. Grinnell College is committed to working with our neighbors to see this crisis through.”

In business for 110 years, Grinnell Mutual recognizes the importance of small businesses and values their contributions to the community and economy. Grinnell Mutual wants to assure mutuals, agencies, policyholders, and the Grinnell community that they are committed to serving customers and neighbors during this rapidly changing time. “In addition to protecting our employees and maintaining business continuity for our customers, it is also important to Grinnell Mutual that we are supporting the Grinnell community in this time of uncertainty,” said Jeff Menary, Grinnell Mutual president and CEO. “The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce has established an emergency fund to address the unknown challenges that small businesses will face. Grinnell Mutual is proud to join with Grinnell College and contribute \$25,000 to support that effort in the Grinnell community.”

“While we continue to finalize the application and details for small businesses who shall seek funds, we are confident this fund will help a number of our small businesses weather the storm,” says Kinnick. The Chamber is actively working to grow the fund, with a goal to raise \$100,000. If

community members and/or other businesses or organizations are interested and able to support small businesses through the fund, they are encouraged to find more information and give online at

https://www.grinnellchamber.org/en/business_resources/grinnell_small_business_relief/.

About the Grinnell Chamber

The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce is an independent, 501©6 non-profit organization focused on the Grinnell community. The mission of the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce is to advance the economic development, vitality, and growth of the community. For more information on how to join the Chamber or get involved, please visit grinnellchamber.org or call 641-236-6555.

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