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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**METRO BETHESDA ROTARY CREATES \$53K INITIATIVE
TO FUND COVID-19 FRONT LINE RESPONDERS**

Bethesda, MD, April 29, 2020: The Metro Bethesda Rotary Club has announced a major initiative to support three local non-profits responding to the COVID-19 crisis. A \$53,000 grant, spearheaded by the Club to help protect the health and safety of our community, will be used to fund life-saving medical equipment, PPE, and food for BCC Rescue Squad, MobileMed and So What Else.

The BCC Rescue Squad (www.bccrs.org) will receive funding for hazmat suits and specialized decontamination equipment to sanitize ambulances, equipment, and facilities for five area squads: BCC, North Bethesda, Bethesda, Cabin John and Glen Echo. MobileMed (www.mobilemedcare.org), which provides medical services for low income county residents will receive funding for diagnostic equipment and PPE. So What Else (www.sowhatelse.org), which is distributing food and other essential items to families in need during the crisis, will receive funding for food and PPE.

"We greatly appreciate the continuing hard work of these outstanding organizations to support our community members, particularly those most vulnerable, during this challenging time," said Daniel Fischer, president of the Metro Bethesda Rotary Club.

The BCC Rescue Squad provides state of the art emergency medical, fire and rescue services. Twenty-eight percent of the residents in the service area are aged 60 and over, a demographic at greater risk of developing COVID-19. "The protective, decontamination, and sanitization equipment purchased with this generous grant will improve the safety and efficiency of our emergency responses during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are

extremely grateful for these new tools to assist in fighting this unseen, but deadly COVID enemy,” noted Chief Edward Sherburne of the BCC Rescue Squad.

MobileMed provides medical services to low income county residents, over 80% of whom are uninsured, and will receive medical equipment and PPE. MobileMed treats underlying medical conditions and screens for COVID-19 symptoms in patients who often otherwise would use the emergency room to serve as their primary care.

During the COVID-19 crisis, So What Else has shifted from its ongoing mission of providing after-school programming for over 3500 underserved youth to providing food, educational materials, and other essential items to their students and their families. They have distributed over 148,000 meals to date.

This newly-awarded grant was spearheaded by the Metro Bethesda Rotary Club. It received funding from several organizations, including the Metro Bethesda Rotary Foundation, individual club members, and the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C., along with matching funds from Rotary District 7620, and the Rotary International World Fund.

About Metro Bethesda Rotary Club

The Metro Bethesda Rotary Club is an energetic, diverse group of community members dedicated to supporting efforts to provide humanitarian assistance locally and internationally. The Club is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers. Rotarians see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. The Club welcomes new members; those interested are encouraged to visit the Club’s website (www.metrobethesarotary.org) or contact the Club at membershipMBR1@gmail.com.