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DILLARD UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND CHURCH RELATIONS SECURED DONATIONS FOR HANO

NEW ORLEANS —Dillard University’s Office of Community and Church Relations (CCR) has been leading the charge to ensure every New Orleanian receives personal protective equipment as the city battles the COVID-19 pandemic. On Thursday, October 22, Nick Harris, director of the Office of Community and Church Relations donated 100 thermometers, 5,000 masks, and several boxes of hand sanitizers to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO). This special PPE donation will be distributed to HANO senior residents and families, many of whom have faced hardships during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"The importance of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic and now, flu season, is pivotal for members of the New Orleans community, especially our senior citizens," Harris shared in a statement. "I want to thank Ochsner Health and Healthy Blue Louisiana for their endless support in ensuring that every New Orleanian has the safety measures to remain in good physical condition as the City fights this global pandemic." Previously, the CCR has secured donations for its University from Ochsner Health and collaborated with Dillard’s Division of Student Success to launch the Bleu Troop Public Health Ambassador Program. The Bleu Troop created a University-wide initiative to inform its campus community about safety measures and health practices that are vital during the pandemic. The public health group also updates the campus on the novel coronavirus’s latest developments.

“[Dillard University has been a magnanimous source] in the Gentilly community from flood-water management to the annual housing and community resources fair that is spearheaded every year because we all need accessible and affordable housing,” Councilman Jared Brossett of District D said during the donation ceremony. “It’s been a great pleasure serving and working with Dillard because [donations] like this matter the most.”

“On behalf of the HANO Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank Dillard University President Dr. Kimbrough, Director Nick Harris, and Councilman Brossett for their generous donation,” said Evette Hester, HANO’s Executive Director. “The donated PPE will provide much needed protection as HANO families endeavor to stay safe during this phase of the pandemic.”

In 2013, the Housing Authority of New Orleans and Dillard University established a partnership to assist public housing families improve their lives through a spectrum of community and supportive services.

Funded by a series of grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Dillard University's Office of CCR has coordinated ongoing initiatives for HANO residents in areas such as career counseling and job training; nutrition and health education; college prep; and computer literacy.

Since its inception, Dillard University's Office of Community and Church Relations has been at the forefront of rebuilding New Orleans. The office was initially established to increase homeownership in the Gentilly neighborhoods, but after Hurricane Katrina, it included its efforts to help revitalize the city after the catastrophic storm. Now with the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCR is committed to fight against health disparities in the African-American community and form partnerships with local food pantries to assist those who have been affected economically by the pandemic.

For more information about the Office of Community and Church Relations, please contact Nick Harris (nharris@dillard.edu).

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Dillard University, located in New Orleans at 2601 Gentilly Blvd., is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution with a history dating back to 1869. For more information, please visit www.dillard.edu. Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook @DU1869 and Instagram: Dillard University.