



Celebrating 20 years of patient care • 2001-2021

January 1, 2021

Honorable Samuel Kaufman
City Commissioner – District II
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Commissioner Kaufman,

Food and water, shelter, healthcare, education. These four basic human needs have been the hardest hit by pandemic limitations and lockdowns. Local non-profits and the school system have been working tirelessly to mitigate the damage created by lack of work and mobility. Nine months of reduced earnings have left many of our neighbors turning to social services for the first time.

At Womankind, we feel the trickledown effect of our challenged economy. Many Womankind patients are employed in the tourism industry and few are earning what they did a year ago. The inability to pay rent or buy groceries leaves no money available for healthcare.

When conditions make for tight budgets (for instance, after hurricanes) we find that healthcare is a human need put onto the back burner – until a problem can no longer be ignored. When disease has progressed due to lack of preventative care, treatment is more costly and less successful.

By increasing the amount of assistance patients can receive during the pandemic, Womankind has exhausted our normal streams of funding quicker than usual. Special funding we received to assist during the pandemic is also gone. Unfortunately, the increased need remains steady.

The **Proposal for a Stop-Gap measure for COVID Support to the City of Key West** is a positive initiative to help Womankind and our colleague organizations meet requests during the next few months. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration to help locals who have been financially, emotionally, and physically damaged. With this additional funding Womankind will be able to provide exams and procedures on a sliding scale to our patients hardest hit this past year.

Thank you for your continued partnership with local organizations to implement a much needed and successfully-administered network of local aid.

Wishing you a healthy 2021,

Cali Roberts
Executive Director