

Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines, PLLC Selected by GlobalGiving As Red Backpack Fund Recipient, Receives \$5,000 Grant From The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation To Combat COVID-19 Crisis

October 29, 2020 — GlobalGiving announced today that Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines, PLLC has been selected to receive a \$5,000 COVID-19 relief and recovery grant from The Red Backpack Fund, an opportunity for small businesses and nonprofits made possible by The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation.

“My hope is that this gift will help alleviate some of the pressures caused by this horrible pandemic. Twenty years ago, I started Spanx with \$5,000 in savings, and I see this as a time to pay it forward. Small business is the backbone of our culture. I know what it’s like to be a small business owner, and I want to provide some relief to these entrepreneurs during this time,” said Spanx Founder Sara Blakely.

The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation donated \$5 million to support female entrepreneurs in the wake of COVID-19 and teamed up with GlobalGiving to establish The Red Backpack Fund.

Thousands of business owners and nonprofit founders from across the United States and its territories applied to receive a grant from The Red Backpack Fund to combat economic hardship caused by COVID-19. Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines, PLLC was selected for the grant based on its outstanding application, its urgent need for COVID-19 relief, and its demonstrated capacity to overcome COVID-19 setbacks.

GlobalGiving, a 501(c)(3) organization with nearly two decades of grantmaking experience, will award grants to at least 1,000 women entrepreneurs from now through September 2020 through The Red Backpack Fund. GlobalGiving has assembled a 100% women-led team to lead the grantee selection process. The team includes grant specialists, social workers, female entrepreneurs, analysts, and monitoring and evaluation experts.

"We're proud to announce the grantees of The Red Backpack Fund. They have successfully undergone GlobalGiving's rigorous vetting process, and we believe this grant will help them continue to thrive, despite the shifting economic circumstances brought on by this crisis," said GlobalGiving CEO Alix Guerrier. "The world needs more women-led organizations who are a key force in overcoming COVID-19 and establishing a better normal."

Learn more about The Red Backpack Fund at www.globalgiving.org/redbackpackfund.

About Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines, PLLC

Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines, PLLC was founded by USAF and Wyoming ANG veteran Dr. Katherine Hilla. She graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2007 and recently decided to open a pet wellness clinic that concentrates on low-cost, easily accessible preventive medicine for her community. Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines opened its doors mid-March 2020. A week later the local and statewide shelter-in-place restrictions, due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, caused them to temporarily close down. They reopened at the end of April with part-time hours and have been trying to establish a client base since then. This has been difficult due to the ongoing Coronavirus concerns and lower disposable income of potential clients. As a struggling new small business, Prickly Pear Pet Vaccines was grateful for the opportunity to receive a lifeline in the form of an economic hardship grant from The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation's Red Backpack Fund and GlobalGiving.

About The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation

Since its inception in 2006, the Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation has donated millions to charities around the world, focusing on charities that empower underserved women and girls. In 2013, Sara Blakely became the first self-made, female billionaire to sign the Giving Pledge, created by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett, promising to give at least half her wealth to charity. In 2020, Sara and the Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation launched the Red Backpack Fund in partnership with GlobalGiving. Back by Sara Blakely, the \$5 million fund supports the recovery and revitalization of female-owned businesses in the U.S. impacted by the coronavirus crisis. While many of the world's resources are being depleted, one is waiting to be unleashed: Women. The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation is on a mission to support women and help them SOAR through education, entrepreneurship and the arts. Learn more at www.spanxfoundation.com.

About GlobalGiving

GlobalGiving is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit that makes it safe and easy to support important causes around the world. When a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic strikes, GlobalGiving quickly delivers funds to vetted organizations that are best-suited to lead immediate and long-term relief and recovery. As part of its mission to accelerate community-led change, GlobalGiving provides tools, training, and support to help nonprofits, donors, and companies increase their impact and make the world a better place. Learn more at www.globalgiving.org.

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