



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The Guelph Community Foundation announces \$345,510 to 21 local charities through the Emergency Community Support Fund to support COVID-19 efforts**

**Guelph, Ontario – Tuesday, July 7, 2020** - The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) announced \$345,510 dollars in grants to 21 local charities to address well-being needs to support our most vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19. The grants announced are funded through the federal government's Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), which was [announced on May 19, 2020](#).

In large part, these grants will support local organizations working with our community's most vulnerable populations who continue to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic. These funds will help thousands of people in our community who are facing ongoing and increasing challenges accessing sufficient food, housing, and mental health supports.

The GCF volunteer Grants Committee and partners at the United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin have worked together to take a coordinated approach to get the most impact out of the limited resources available. Additionally, they worked with partners at Centre Wellington Community Foundation and Dufferin Community Foundation to support the needs in Wellington County.

"We are so happy to have been able to announce these grants, and at the same time we know that the need for funding remains significant across Guelph and Wellington County," said Chris Willard, Executive Director of the Guelph Community Foundation. "We are learning that reacting to the crisis is just the start."

"Our community needs to prepare for the secondary effects of this pandemic," continues Willard. "Food insecurity, housing, jobs, substance abuse, trauma and grief are all being experienced at an increasing rate across demographics in our community. People need help more than ever, and while parts of our economy and lives reopen, we need to make sure we don't leave large populations without the support they need to move forward together."

In addition to the federal funds allotted, \$205,000 has been raised by the community through the Guelph Community Foundation's local Community Response Fund to support organizations responding to the pandemic on the frontlines. People who are looking for a way to support the community's most vulnerable can [donate today and make a difference](#).

The Guelph Community Foundation has now distributed the full funding available through Community Foundations Canada to our community and is no longer accepting applications to ECSF. United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin is still accepting applications for the Emergency Community Support Fund here: <https://unitedwayguelph.com/ecsf/>

The full list of charities granted dollars through the Guelph Community Foundation, with funding provided by the ECSF is included below:

Organizations	Project
10 C Shared Space partnered with Chalmers Community Services Centre	Nourish by 10C: Collaborating for Local Emergency Food Provision
Beginnings Family Services Care Centres	Wellness Checks and Support Initiatives for Families in Need
Chalmers Community Services Centre	Reducing Community Food Insecurity During COVID-19 – Cleaning Support for Downtown and West Locations
Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington	Free to Grow at Home and Fresh Food for Kids Initiative Programs
Church of the Apostles (St. James and St. Matthias)	Kitchen Bees Food Support Program
Community Living Guelph Wellington	Immediate Grocery Assistance for Adults with Disabilities
East Wellington Community Services	East Wellington Community Services Youth Centre in Erin
Everdale	Growing 40 Tonnes of Food for GW Emergency-Food Agencies Harvest Equipment Support
Family & Children Services of Guelph and Wellington County partnered with Kindle Communities	Urban Social and Agricultural Hub Project at Shelldale Family Gateway
Food4Kids Guelph	Grocery Gift Card Program to Families in Need
Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis	Transitional and Housing Support Program-Overflow Support Staff
Guelph Community Health Centre partnered with The SEED	Huron Street Warehouse Equipment for Food Security in Guelph-Wellington
Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition partnered with North End Harvest Market	North End Harvest Market Food Support Program
Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition	Neighbourhood Group Emergency Food & Essential Needs Hamper Program Support
HIV/AIDS Resources & Community Health (ARCH)	Harm Reduction Support Staff
Hospice Wellington	Wellness and Residence Transformation Program

Lakeside HOPE House	COVID-19 Food, Hygiene & Volunteer Program Support
Shelldale Family Gateway	Integrated Youth Services Mental Health Support Program
The Portage Program for Drug Dependencies Elora	Bunker House Project

**About The Guelph Community Foundation:**

Founded in 2000, the Guelph Community Foundation is a charitable public foundation whose purpose is to provide leadership in community philanthropy and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Guelph and surrounding area. The Foundation pools the charitable gifts of donors into permanent, interest earning endowments. Currently, the Foundation administers \$13.5 million in funds and has distributed \$5.9 million to more than 950 community programs. For more information on how you can invest for community impact, please visit [guelphcf.ca](http://guelphcf.ca)

**Media Contact:**

Jessica Barrie  
Operations and Community Engagement Manager  
The Guelph Community Foundation  
PO Box 1311, Guelph, ON N1H 6N6  
Cell: (519) 400-8687  
[jbarrie@guelphcf.ca](mailto:jbarrie@guelphcf.ca)