



MEDIA RELEASE

Podcast highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 Community Response Fund Launches

Guelph, Ont., June 11, 2020- United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin and the Guelph Community Foundation are excited to announce the launch of the Guelph COVID Fund Podcast. Hosted by Sean Yo, the COVID Fund Podcast will share impactful stories of how the fund has been used to help our community during the current pandemic. Sean and his co-host, Jeff DeRuyter, United Way Campaign Chair and former Chief of the Guelph Police Services, are looking forward to spreading awareness of the efforts taken as we support our community to respond, recover, and rebuild during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Stories of hope and inspiration are so important to help us continue on in the face of the difficult and challenging news we see every day. The work of United Way and the Guelph Community Foundation in creating the Guelph COVID Fund gives me exactly that kind of hope and inspiration," said Sean Yo. "I'm so grateful to be a part of this project and share the stories of the community organizations helping respond to COVID in our community, especially for those most vulnerable. I'm especially excited to hear from our friends, families and neighbours and share your stories on the podcast."

Throughout the first six-episode series, Sean and Jeff will interview agency leaders and grant recipients as they share their stories of how the fund has helped them to achieve their goals and help those in need. With impact testimonials, educational snap shots and local updates, the Podcast hopes to provide understanding and highlight the amazing work our community is doing during this incredibly trying time.

The Guelph COVID Fund is a collaboration between United Way and the Guelph Community Foundation, with the goal of supporting Guelph and the surrounding area during the COVID pandemic and beyond. Launched on March 31st, the fund has already raised over three hundred thousand dollars. The first two rounds of funding have already been dispersed to local not-for-profit organizations who each applied with specific programs in mind, to help the most vulnerable during the difficult time of COVID-19.

Episode Zero of the Podcast is available now, with Sean and Jeff sitting down with Shakiba Shayani, CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce. Their in-depth conversation discusses the role of business in community well-being, navigating the reopening of the economy and how local businesses have been forced to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

<http://guelphcovidfund.ca/podcast-episodes/>

To submit your story or to make guest suggestions, visit www.guelphcovidfund.ca

United Way and the Guelph Community Foundation continue to work tirelessly to grow the Guelph COVID Fund as the local need continues to increase. For more information on the fund

and the efforts of both organizations, visit <https://unitedwayguelph.com/covid-19/> or www.guelphcf.ca

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