



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over \$107,400 in grants to 25 local charities distributed through Community Grants program!

February 2, 2024 – The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) distributed \$2.49 million dollars in granting to community organizations in 2023 through various funds and granting streams. The year concluded with 25 local charities receiving \$107,400 funds through the Community Grants program.

The GCF Grants Committee and staff are pleased to announce the 2023 Community Grant Recipients. The funding decision was made by the Grants Committee approved by the Board of Directors on November 9, 2023. This year the decision was a particularly challenging one as GCF received the highest number of applications ever for this program.

The Community Grants application period runs each fall for local charities and registered non-profit groups to apply. Funding of up to \$5,000 was made available for applicants. Charitable organizations seeking funding must demonstrate that their application fit within the framework of our local Toward Common Ground wellbeing concepts and connect to one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The applications are evaluated by a committee comprised of dedicated residents of Guelph who want to support the organizations making great contributions to the wellbeing of our community.

The grants provide dollars to registered charities (or non-profit organizations partnered with a registered charity) operating in Guelph or Wellington County. To best provide for those serving our community, and with an understanding of the ongoing pressures of a post-pandemic world, GCF has continued to grant funds not just for programming, but for operational funds and capital projects.

The 25 GCF Community Grants recipients and their application titles:

Art Not Shame: Building Spaces of Creativity, Care, and Community

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph: Multiplying Mentorship Opportunities for Guelph's Youth.

Children's Reading Room: Books Without Barriers

Child Witness Centre: Critical support to young victims and their families, building resiliency and strengthening mental health and wellbeing so they can heal.

Church of the Apostles (St. James and St. Matthias): Living Better On Less for Youth Program

Community of Hearts Lifelong Learning: Social Committee and Social Club Expansion Program

Guelph and District Multicultural Festival: 38th Guelph and District Multicultural Festival

Guelph Black Heritage Society: Preserving the Past, Enriching the Present: Guelph Black Heritage Society Museum Expansion Initiative

Guelph Community Health Centre (Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy): Wellington County Harm Reduction Forum

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition: North End Harvest Market Staffing

Guelph Wellington Seniors Association: Musical Instructor Fund

Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington: Scam SMART

Jobs.Opportunities.Enterprise: J.O.E. WINTERWORKS

Kerry's Place Autism Services: Breaking Barriers

Kortright Presbyterian Church operations: Circular Store Community Outreach Program

Lakeside HOPE House: Art Etc. - Supporting a Therapeutic Art Program for All

Rotary Club of Guelph: A New Rotary Forest in South Guelph

Seed, Soil and Spirit School: Seed Soil Spirit Outdoor Classroom

Shelldale Family Gateway: Shelldale Family Gateway Operational Support 2023

Silence: Silence Guelph

Tetra Society of North America: Tetra Guelph Chapter - Devices Breaking Barriers

The Guelph Enabling Garden: Accessible Website Rebuild

The Grove Hubs: The Grove Guelph Youth Outreach Program

Your Downtown Guelph Friends: Your Downtown Guelph Friends Meal Supports

Youth Voices of Ontario / Les voix des jeunes de l'Ontario: Empowered Youth for Climate Resilience: A Toolkit for Young Activists

If you are interested in learning about the significant impact our 2022 Community Grant recipients had in our community, you can read about it in GCF's 2022/2023 Impact Report, available through our website (<https://guelphcf.ca/reports-and-financials/>) or email info@guelphcf.ca to receive a hard copy.

We would like to share our thanks to the GCF Grants Committee members, investors, fund holders and community supporters. We are so grateful to be able to have such an impact in our community and are excited to share the grant impact stories in our upcoming 2023/24 Impact Report.

If you are interested in learning more about how you or your family can support charities in our community, contact the Foundation at info@guelphcf.ca or visit the website, guelphcf.ca.

Media Contact:

Beth Ann Valente, Operations and Finance Director
The Guelph Community Foundation
PO Box 1311, Guelph, ON N1H 6N6
519.821.9216 | ed@guelphcf.ca

About The Guelph Community Foundation

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 areas through endowments, stewardship, and granting programs. The Foundation pools the charitable gifts of donors into permanent, interest earning endowments. The income from the endowments supports a range of charitable programs and activities. Currently, the Foundation administers \$15.5 million in funds with \$13.0 million in permanent endowed assets. Since inception, \$13.5 million has been distributed through more than 2,300 individual grants to local charitable programs.

The Guelph Community Foundation is located at 55 Wyndham St N., Suite 4A, in the Old Quebec Street Shoppes in downtown Guelph. To learn more visit guelphcf.ca