



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Over \$110,000 in Funds Granted to 24 Local Charities through Guelph Community Foundation's Community Grants Program**

**December 06, 2024** – The Guelph Community Foundation's (GFC) board and staff are pleased to announce the grant recipients for 2024. This year will conclude with a cheer as 24 local charities will receive a total of \$110,094 in funding through The Guelph Community Foundation's (GCF) 2024 Community Grants and Kids to Camp program.

The Guelph Community Foundation received a record number of 75 Community Grants/Kids to Camp applications requesting funding this year. There is a clear need for charitable support as demands placed on Guelph and Wellington County's local charities continue to grow, which has created new challenges. There is a clear need for charitable support and so Foundation feels honoured that their donors and fundholders have enabled them to be able to help provide funding to some of the amazing charities in its shared community.

Charitable organizations, and non-profit groups partnering with registered charities, which serve Guelph or Wellington County are invited to apply each fall for a Community Grant of up to \$5,000. Applicants are asked to demonstrate that their request fits within the framework of the Toward Common Ground wellbeing concepts and connect to one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Unique to many granting bodies, GCF continues to grant funds not just for projects and programming, but also for operational funds and capital projects for which it is harder to acquire funding.

This year, applications were accepted from September 3<sup>rd</sup> until October 7, 2024. The applications were evaluated by GCF's Grants Committee, a group of community-minded and dedicated local volunteers. The Committee's funding decisions were approved by the GCF Board of Directors on November 21, 2024. GCF thanks all applicants for taking the time to apply for this grant and for the incredible work that these charities do for the Guelph and Wellington County community.

### **Congratulations to the 2024 GCF Community Grants Recipients:**

- **Anishnaabeg Outreach**, Guelph Spirit Bundle Program
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph**, Multiplying Guelph Youth Mentorship Opportunities
- **Chalmers Community Services Centre**, Café Gatherings

- **Circle Home Charity Society**, Circle Home Furniture Bank
- **Community Resource Centre**, 2025 Summer Snax Program
- **Easter Seals Ontario**, Equipment Funding Program
- **Ed Video Media Arts Centre**, Team Filmmaking
- **Elora Centre for the Arts**, Community Connections Through Art: A Program for Students with (dis)Abilities
- **Guelph Community Health Centre**, Fostering good health and well-being at Shelldale Farm Park
- **Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy**, Community Overdose Response & Prevention Trainings
- **Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition**, Fostering Resilience Champions through Youth Leadership
- **Scientists in School**, Enriching STEM Learning in Underserved Communities across Wellington County
- **Small Change Fund**, Expanding Access to Green Spaces and Outdoor Immersion Mentorship Programs for Guelph Kids & Youth
- **Stonehenge Therapeutic Community**, Fostering Wellness, Community, and Healthy Choices at the 10 Shelldale Housing Project in Guelph
- **The Grove Hubs**, The Grove YWHO Wellington Guelph Expanding Services
- **The Nightingale Centre for Grieving Children, Youth and Families**, Through Loss to Compassion Leadership
- **United For Literacy**, Free Literacy Programming for Guelph and Wellington Children
- **West Village Community Development Co-operative Inc**, Village Food Hub
- **YMCA of Three Rivers - Guelph Y**, Safe Sisters

One of the many inspiring programs that received funding this year is The Elora Centre for The Art (ECFTA)'s *Community Connections Through Art*. This initiative will provide free, in-school visual arts programming twice a month to students with disabilities at Elora Public School, Centre Wellington District High School and J.D. Hogarth Public School with a total 702 participant spots. These sessions of guided art instruction are led by an ECFTA Arts Educator and are designed to help connect students to important issues in their community. The program emphasizes relationship building, collaboration and success through personal artistic expression. The sessions' themes will connect students to the community in meaningful and creative ways. According to the 2023 Guelph & Wellington County Vital Signs Report, which The Guelph Community Foundation helped produce, less than half of the youth in our community reported highly positive mental health, and only half of the youth in our community reported feeling connected to their peers. This timely and valuable opportunity for students to connect through art is so encouraging.

### **Kids to Camp 2024**

For 2024, GCF has combined their Kids to Camp grant program with the Community Grants program to continue its support of organizations that prioritize children and youth from

financially disadvantaged families and assist them in participating in the summer camp experience. Therefore, this year's Community Grants funding included just over \$20,000 that was specifically designated for Kids to Camp related applications. This means that in addition to the \$89,881 which was distributed to the above 19 Community Grant applicants, five additional charities received \$5,000 in funding for Kids to Camp initiatives.

If it were not for this support, many local campers would not have had the opportunity to attend camp – something so incredibly beneficial to a child's development. GCF believes that cost should not be a barrier to children who could benefit from the experiences that camp can provide. This is especially true now as due to the rise in inflation the need for support is great. GCF is grateful to be able to provide this financial support for the many families of campers that will be benefiting from these grants. The Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to the following funds and their donors for their continued support of the Kids to Camp program: *Bonnie Ewen Fund, Camp Discover Fund, GCF Children and Youth Fund, and the Griffith and Violet Morgan Fund.*

#### **Congratulations to the GCF's Kids to Camp 2024 recipients:**

- **Belwood Camp**, Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities at Summer Camp
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre Wellington**, Camp URU for U and U and U!
- **Camp Quality Canada**, Programs for Children and Youth Affected by Childhood Cancer
- **Creative Encounters**, STEM Summer Camp Bursaries
- **STEM Camp Foundation**, A STEM Camp Experience for Kids

The GCF staff thanks the GCF Board of Directors, the GCF Grants Committee, GCF's donors, investors, and its many community benefactors. The Foundation's staff and board are grateful to be able to help support the Guelph and Wellington County community and are excited to share the grant impact stories in their upcoming Impact Report next year.

If you are interested in learning about the impact GCF's 2023 Community Grant recipients had in our community, you can read about it in GCF's 2023/2024 Annual Impact Report, which is available at: <https://guelphcf.ca/reports-and-financials/>. To learn more about how you or your family can help support GCF's grant programs, email: [info@guelphcf.ca](mailto:info@guelphcf.ca)

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**Media Contact:**

Carly O'Brien, Chair of the Board of Directors  
The Guelph Community Foundation  
PO Box 1311, Guelph, ON N1H 6N6  
519.821.9216 | [boardchair@guelphcf.ca](mailto:boardchair@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. To learn more visit [guelphcf.ca](http://guelphcf.ca).