

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local nonprofits unite to celebrate Nonprofit Appreciation Week across Guelph, Wellington, Dufferin, and Waterloo Region

February 17th 2026

More than **100 nonprofit organizations** across **Guelph, Wellington, Dufferin, and Waterloo Region** are coming together this week (Feb 15th-21st) to recognize nonprofit teams and raise public awareness about the vital role nonprofits play in community wellbeing, connection, and resilience.

The local activation of **Nonprofit Appreciation Week** was sparked by conversations between **Glenna Banda, Executive Director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin**, and **Kris Cummings, Owner and Principal Consultant at Do/able Consulting**. United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin was the inaugural partner and helped shape the idea of creating a shared, visible way to recognize nonprofit teams while also helping the public better understand nonprofit impact.

From that initial idea, the initiative grew into a collaborative effort supported by **United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, Lind Design, Guelph Community Foundation, Dufferin Community Foundation**, and the **Dufferin Board of Trade**, with additional promotion and outreach support in Waterloo Region from the **Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region, United Way Waterloo Region, Volunteer Waterloo Region**, and **Waterloo Region Community Foundation**.

Participating nonprofits have received **activation kits** that include posters, thank-you cards, and stickers designed to recognize staff teams and share why nonprofit work matters. Over the week posters will be displayed at more than 150 nonprofit organizations and community spaces across the region, creating a shared visual presence during the week and 10,000 stickers and 10,000 thank you cards will be distributed to recognize those who work in the nonprofit sector.

Throughout Nonprofit Appreciation Week, nonprofits will also be sharing reflections on *what they wish others understood about their work*, along with moments they are proud of from the past year. A **QR code on the poster** links to a landing page where these stories will be featured (<https://doable.ca/blog/nonprofit-appreciation-week-2026/>), offering the public a window into the breadth, care, and impact of nonprofit work happening locally.

"Across our region, nonprofits are doing deeply important work that helps people feel supported, connected, and cared for," said **Glenna Banda, Executive Director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin**. "Nonprofit Appreciation Week is about recognizing the people behind that work and ensuring the broader community understands just how vital the nonprofit sector is to our collective wellbeing. We offer an enormous thank you to all of our fellow non-profit employees for continuing to show up and for the work you do to make even one person's life a little bit better every day."

"Nonprofit leaders told us it can feel awkward to publicly thank your own team or celebrate your own impact," said **Kris Cummings, Owner and Principal Consultant at Do/able Consulting**. "Not acknowledging nonprofits would feel like such a shame and a missed opportunity for good news, especially these days. Our work lets us see the real, practical, meaningful work that nonprofits do. And it's absolutely amazing to see all of the different ways that community is quietly made better by nonprofits from arts and culture to social services to sports and recreation to the environment every day. Our role has been to help make appreciation easier and more visible, and to support a collective effort that centres nonprofit voices during Nonprofit Appreciation Week."

"People who work for nonprofits show up every day and do really hard, essential work that often goes unseen and unacknowledged. This local initiative is about saying, we see you, we appreciate you, and thank you for working relentlessly to make our community a better place." **Sarah Haanstra, Executive Director, The Guelph Community Foundation**

"Charities and nonprofits are at the very heart of our community. And the staff who power up the programs and services do it because they intrinsically care about people and believe in building strengths. This week gives all of us the opportunity to say, 'Thank you. We see you and appreciate all that you do.' Their impact on our community is second-to-none," said **Michele Fisher, Executive Director of Dufferin Community Foundation**.

"At the Dufferin Board of Trade, we work closely with businesses across our region and see firsthand how interconnected our nonprofit and business communities truly are," said **Diana Morris, Executive Director, Dufferin Board of Trade**. "Nonprofit organizations strengthen our local economy, support workforce wellbeing, and help build the vibrant, resilient communities that businesses rely on. We are proud to participate in Nonprofit Appreciation Week and to recognize the individuals and teams whose work makes such a meaningful difference every day."

Nonprofit Appreciation Week is formally recognized by the Government of Ontario through Bill 9, the Non-Profit Sector Appreciation Week Act (2021). The legislation acknowledges the contributions of nonprofit workers and organizations across the province and was championed by the Bhayana Family Foundation, Ontario Nonprofit Network, and United Way Greater Toronto. With more than 1 in 10 Canadians working in the nonprofit sector ([Imagine Canada](#)), this week provides an opportunity for communities to recognize nonprofit workers and deepen public understanding of the sector's importance.

Community members are encouraged to look for the posters, follow along during the week, and engage with the stories being shared to help amplify appreciation for nonprofit organizations and the people behind the work.

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About Do/able Consulting

Do/able - is a Guelph-based consulting practice specializing in organizational development, facilitation, and strategy. We help nonprofit and community-focused organizations make their work more clear, connected, and feasible, especially during periods of growth, change, or evolving opportunity. We focus on understanding, alignment, and helping people connect to purpose and momentum. We are known for processes that are structured but human, practical but engaging, and grounded in how organizations actually work.

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About United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin

United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin has worked in our community for over 85 years to monitor and meet the pressing social needs of our community, including poverty, social

isolation and mental health. Directed by a volunteer board, managed by committed staff and supported by thousands of donors, United Way works with partners in all sectors to improve lives and build community. 100% of donations make an impact in Guelph, Wellington & Dufferin. For more information, please visit **unitedwaygwd.com**

<https://unitedwaygwd.com/>

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About Lind Design

Guelph-based Gareth Lind brings creativity, clarity, and intelligence to branding, publication design, and promotion. He attracts clients whose work aligns with his deep commitment to social justice and the arts. The people who power nonprofits work hard, and often without commensurate recognition, to make all our lives better. They deserve a shout-out! Lind was thrilled to work with Do/able Consulting to craft the branding and the graphic assets for this campaign—aided by talented local illustrator Gillian Wilson.

<https://lind.design/>

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About 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 people who live in Guelph and surrounding areas through endowments, stewardship, and granting programs. The Foundation pools charitable gifts from donors into permanent interest earning endowments. The income from the endowments supports a range of charitable programs and activities. The Guelph Community Foundation is located at 55 Wyndham St N., Suite 4A, in the Old Quebec Street Shoppes in downtown Guelph.

<https://guelphcf.ca/>

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About Dufferin Community Foundation

Dufferin Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter in Dufferin County. We enrich and improve life by creating “Forever Funds” – endowed charitable funds that generate an annual income, which we use to support local charities, every year... forever. Since we began in 2018, we have funded the work of close to 40 charities across Dufferin County. In 2025, we awarded grants of more than \$170,000, an amount that will continue to increase as our funds build and grow. Read more at <https://dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/>.

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About Dufferin Board of Trade

The Dufferin Board of Trade exists to build up our community by helping local businesses thrive. Through advocacy, connection, and collaboration, we support business growth across the region. Our social enterprise, the Dufferin Biz Hub, is built on our belief in the power of small business to drive positive change. Through the Biz Hub we offer affordable, professional space rentals, training, and support services including videography, photography, marketing, and design.

<https://dufferinbot.ca/>

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