



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin distributes over \$852,000 to assist with COVID-19 Efforts**

### **Thirty-Four grants issued through the Emergency Community Support Fund**

**Guelph, Ontario. August 4, 2020.** Today, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin announced over \$852,000 to local organizations through the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), to support vulnerable members of our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The ECSF is funded by the Government of Canada and is being administered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross in communities across Canada.

On May 19, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin launched a call for applications for the ECSF to support charities and other qualified donees adapt services to support the community. Forty-seven applications were received from community organizations, with a total ask of over \$1.9 million. Throughout the past month and a half, a volunteer-led grants committee reviewed applications to distribute ECSF funds locally. The team worked closely with the Guelph Community Foundation, Centre Wellington Community Foundation and Dufferin Community Foundation to ensure a coordinated approach was taken to distribute funds fairly and ensure maximum impact.

“We are extremely pleased to be able to support our communities in this way,” said Rick McCombie, interim executive director at United Way. “These funds have allowed our community partners to think of new ways to support those who need our help right now and address new and emerging issues head on over the coming months and that is a wonderful thing for our community.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic is having disproportionate health, social and financial impacts on vulnerable Canadians,” says the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. “The Government of Canada is pleased to work with its trusted partners to support the community organizations serving those most in need during this crisis.”

Successful applications are addressing a number of issues across our community, including food insecurity, mental health and addictions, housing, domestic violence, seniors and social isolation.

“These are issues that our community faced before and COVID-19 has only exacerbated,” said McCombie. “We know many are struggling right now and even as we move into more things reopening, we know vulnerable populations in our community will continue to need

support moving forward. We are pleased to have been able to award some of this funding to projects that will not only assist in the short term, but set-up services for the long term.”

These allocations are in addition to the \$175,000 distributed through United Way and the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, in partnership with the Guelph Community Foundation, and \$71,000 allocated through the New Horizons for Seniors fund back in April, bringing the total invested in our community to provide additional support during COVID-19 since March to over \$1 million

A full list of the successful projects awarded funding through United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin’s ECSF allocation is included below.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington	Therapeutic Recreational Program	\$25,000.00
The Elliot Community	Virtual Care and Virtual Reality Program	\$30,000.00
Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington	Walk-In/Call-In Single Session Mental Health Clinic in Harriston	\$61,445.00
Food4Kids Guelph	Grocery Giftcard Program for Families in Need	\$30,000.00
Township of Mapleton	Good For You Food Box Program	\$24,450.00
Guelph Wellington Seniors Association	Building Bridges through Community Development	\$40,000.00
Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition	Neighbourhood Group Emergency Food & Essential Needs Support	\$15,000.00
The Seed	The Huron Street Warehouse for Food Security in Guelph-Wellington	\$50,000.00
East Wellington Community Services	East Wellington Community Services - Youth Centre	\$50,000.00
Chalmers Community Services Centre	Reducing Community Food Insecurity During COVID-19	\$40,000.00
Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington	Reducing Risk during COVID-19 for Guelph Homeless Population	\$41,720.00
10 C Shared Space partnership with Chalmers Community Services Centre	Nourish by 10C	\$28,800.00
Children's Foundation of Guelph Wellington	Free to Grow At Home	\$22,750.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Centre Wellington	Virtual Mentoring Program	\$20,000.00
Church of the Apostles (St. Matthias and St. James)	Kitchen Bees	\$3,000.00
Everdale	Growing 40 Tonnes of Food	\$13,900.00
Guelph-Wellington Women In Crisis	Rural Support Program- Remote Technology Assistance	\$3,000.00
Family & Children's Services in partnership with Shelldale Centre	Urban Social and Agricultural Hub	\$11,300.00
St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation	COVID-19 Isolation Rooms - Medical Equipment	\$37,000.00
Guelph Arts Council in partnership with Guelph Tool Library	Guelph Tool Library - COVID-19 Community Response Plan	\$28,000.00

Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington	Men's Engagement Program	\$5,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Wellington	Virtual Mentoring Program	\$10,000.00
Children's Foundation of Guelph Wellington	Fresh Food for Kids Initiative	\$25,000.00
Lakeside HOPE House	COVID-19 Food, Hygiene & Volunteer Program Support	\$36,000.00
Jobs. Opportunities. Enterprise (JOE)	J.O.E. Pivot Initiatives	\$5,000.00
Guelph Independent Living	COVID Cleaning	\$5,000.00
ARCH	Harm Reduction Support during COVID-19	\$39,900.00
Wellington Dufferin Guelph Drug Strategy	Peer and Lived Experience Support	\$12,500.00
Canadian Mental Health Association – Waterloo Wellington	Self-Monitoring Tool for Older Adults	\$10,000.00
Guelph Wellington Seniors Association	Food Delivery Program for Seniors	\$9,000.00
<b>Dufferin County</b>		
Orangeville Food Bank	Emergency Food/Perishable Food Program (PFP)	\$75,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin	Virtual Mentoring Program	\$15,000.00
Compass Community Church partnership with Shelburne Food Bank	The Shepherd's Cupboard Foodbank	\$10,000.00
Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin	Infection Prevention & Control Measures	\$20,000.00



**United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin** has worked in our community for over 80 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. Donations stay 100% local, always. For more information, please visit [unitedwayguelph.com](http://unitedwayguelph.com)

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