



LYLE S. HALLMAN
FOUNDATION

Cambridge & North Dumfries
Community Foundation

COVID-19 Community Response Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 23, 2020

OVER \$800,000 IN SUPPORT ANNOUNCED FOR REGION'S CHARITABLE SECTOR

Waterloo Region – Over \$800,000 is being distributed to 43 charities across Waterloo Region in response to applications to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

This funding is being directed to charitable organizations working with vulnerable populations across Waterloo Region. It will assist organizations that expressed urgent need to continue providing frontline social services through essential programming, mental health and wellness supports, shelter, as well as health and safety for charitable frontline workers.

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund was created by United Way Waterloo Region Communities and grants are being distributed in collaboration with Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, the Astley Family Foundation, Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region, The Lyle S. Hallman Foundation, The Fairmount Foundation, and Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation.

These local funding organizations recognized that with the challenges of physical distancing, spiking unemployment rates and increased demand for their services, charities would be busier than ever responding to critical needs in our community, while also facing reduced fundraising opportunities. The seven funders came together, creating one brief application in order to streamline the process, and to determine how best to allocate funds.

This support is vital to ensure local charities' service continuity and ongoing operations:

"Along with our community partners, we are very pleased to offer immediate support, therapy and treatment to frontline health care workers and first responders through our new Here4HealthCare Program. We believe that protecting the mental health and resilience of our front line workforce is just as vital as protecting them with Personal Protective Equipment during this intense and challenging pandemic," said Helen Fishburn, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington. "We are so grateful to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund collaboration of funding organizations for helping us increase our capacity and response to support our heroic frontline staff so that they can access the necessary supports to keep well, strong and mentally healthy."

“This investment is critical to advancing the ability of Community Care Concepts, Woolwich Community Services and Wilmot Family Resource Centre to directly support some of our most vulnerable residents across Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot Townships, including seniors, individuals and families. These much needed funds will enhance existing food support programs such as Meals on Wheels and food banks and provide access to quality, nutritious food while also using delivery models that will allow us to reach our most isolated residents and link them to appropriate services and supports” says Cathy Harrington, Executive Director of Community Care Concepts.

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund is continuing to accept donations to support crisis-related needs of Waterloo Region charitable organizations. You can help ensure vital community services remain uninterrupted by donating via United Way’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund: <https://www.uwaywrc.ca/communityresponsefund/>. There will be one or more additional rounds of funding.

A full list of charities funded through the COVID-19 Community Response Fund Funders’ Collaborative is below:

- Adventure4Change
- Anishnabeg Outreach Employment and Training Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region
- Cambridge Self Help Food Bank
- Cambridge Shelter Corporation
- Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington
- Carizon Family and Community Services
- Child Witness Centre of Waterloo Region
- Christian Horizons
- Community Care Concepts of Woolwich Wellesley and Wilmot (Rural Collaborative)
- Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region
- Community Support Connections
- Family & Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region Foundation
- Family Counselling Centre Cambridge & North Dumfries
- House of Friendship
- Independent Living Centre Waterloo Region
- Interfaith Counselling Centre
- Kinbridge Community Association
- Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre
- KW Counselling Services
- Langs Farm Village Association (Langs)
- Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice
- Lutherwood Child and Family Foundation
- Marillac Place
- Mennonite Central Committee Ontario (MCC)
- Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support
- Monica Place
- Nutrition for Learning
- oneROOF Youth Services
- Reception House Waterloo Region

- Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region
- Shalom Counselling Services Inc.
- Sunbeam Centre
- Supportive Housing of Waterloo
- The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area
- The Food Bank of Waterloo Region
- The Kidney Foundation of Canada
- The Salvation Army Kitchener Waterloo Community and Family Services
- Waterloo Region Family Network
- Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- Woolwich Counselling Centre
- YW Kitchener-Waterloo

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About the organizations working together to support the COVID-19 Community Response Fund

United Way Waterloo Region Communities, Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, the Astley Family Foundation, Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region, The Lyle S. Hallman Foundation, The Fairmount Foundation, and Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation recently joined forces to maximize assistance for urgent and emerging community needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Funders' Collaborative is working together to raise and distribute funds to front line organizations that are striving to ensure our most vulnerable citizens and those that support them remain supported, safe and healthy.

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