



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oxford Community Foundation and United Way Oxford  
take part in second round of Emergency Community Support Fund**

*Over \$200,000 in funding available in Oxford County for charities supporting COVID-19 response*

**Woodstock, ON; Monday, October 5, 2020** - Oxford Community Foundation and United Way Oxford today announced that they have an additional \$85,000 and \$116,000 respectively available to support local charities responding to COVID-19 as part of an ongoing partnership with [Community Foundations of Canada](#), [United Way Centraide Canada](#) and the [Canadian Red Cross](#), funded through the Government of Canada's \$350M Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). This vast national effort is a second round of funding to support vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

"As infection rates start to rise again, ongoing support is vital in the fight against COVID-19," says Louise Wardrop, Executive Director, Oxford Community Foundation. "Local charities and non-profit organizations are pillars in our community. For over six months, they have been working diligently to support those who need it most but the reality is, they're struggling with increased demand at the same time as revenues have decreased. We're thrilled to be able to flow additional emergency funding their way through the ECSF but we also see the need for stabilization support for the sector, so they can continue their good work in our community over the long haul."

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, many of our local organizations have been working tirelessly to provide emergency support of all kinds – in particular, to individuals, families and communities experiencing continued or heightened vulnerability. Demand for their services has increased dramatically and has stretched their resources," says Kelly Gilson, Executive Director, United Way Oxford. "We know that our investments over the past 6 months have made a difference in many lives, and we are pleased to be able to administer this additional funding to local organizations as they continue to carry out their work over the coming fall and winter months to ensure that no one is left behind."

The Emergency Community Support Fund was [initially announced](#) on April 21, 2020 by the Prime Minister of Canada. It is part of a broad series of emergency response measures by the Government of Canada. A first round of funding was disbursed through the community foundation network across Canada in June and July. Oxford Community Foundation and United Way Oxford awarded more than \$530,000 to eleven organizations in Oxford County.

Starting today, Oxford Community Foundation and United Way Oxford will begin accepting applications. The deadline to submit an application is October 30, 2020. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes, including to cover staffing or resource needs, purchase assistance and more. Charities and

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community organizations are invited to visit the foundation website for eligibility and application details. Charities and community organizations are invited to visit the United Way Oxford at [www.unitedwayoxford.ca](http://www.unitedwayoxford.ca) and Oxford Community Foundation at [www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org) for specific eligibility and application details.

**About Oxford Community Foundation**

Oxford Community Foundation helps people leave a personalized, lasting legacy in Oxford, to make it a better place. Providing individuals the opportunity to target their areas of interest, Oxford Community Foundation protects legacies by investing and granting funds wisely. One of 191 community foundations across Canada, Oxford Community Foundation is the only community foundation that serves all of Oxford County in all aspects of our community including Arts & Culture, Education, the Environment, Heritage, Recreation and Social Services. In Oxford, for Oxford, forever.

**About United Way Oxford**

United Way Oxford is dedicated to creating opportunities for a better life for everyone living in Oxford County. Working in partnership, we mobilize people and resources to support a network of programs that help people when they need it most. United Way Oxford's investments work to address root causes of social issues and create lasting, measurable change. We focus our efforts on three priority areas: moving people from poverty to a life of possibility, supporting mental health, well-being and strengthening communities, and helping children and youth reach their full potential.

For more information please contact:

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