



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Way Oxford and Oxford Community Foundation  
take part in new Emergency Community Support Fund**

*\$530,000+ in funding available in Oxford County for charities supporting COVID-19 response*

**Woodstock, ON; Tuesday, May 19, 2020** - United Way Oxford and Oxford Community Foundation today announced that between their 2 investment funds, over \$530,000 will be available to support local charities responding to COVID-19 as part of a new 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 aims to support vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) 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.

"Canadian charities and not for profits are always there to help you, in your time of need. But the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing real challenges to these important organizations. With today's announcement, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians." - The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

"This is a vital step in the fight against COVID-19," says Louise Wardrop, Executive Director, Oxford Community Foundation. "Local charities and non-profit organizations have been working tirelessly to support those who need it most right now. This additional funding is a much-needed boost to their efforts. We're looking forward to flowing funds quickly to ensure no one in our community is left behind."

"United Way Oxford is honoured to support the Government of Canada's efforts to invest in critical services in our community. This is an incredibly challenging time for everyone, and for those who are marginalized and vulnerable, the challenge is even greater. Through our on-going work and funding streams we have seen the demand for supports and assistance from increase dramatically; this ECSF allocation will help us ensure that front line service provider are able to meet the growing needs. With our deep community knowledge, we can ensure that dollars will be allocated to frontline service providers where the support is most needed during these unprecedented times," says Kelly Gilson, Executive Director, United Way Oxford. "United Way Oxford and the Oxford Community Foundation will work together to invest over \$530,000 in areas where it is needed most throughout Oxford County."

Starting on May 19, United Way Oxford and Oxford Community Foundation will begin accepting applications for funding from qualified donees. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes, including to cover staffing or resource needs, purchase assistance and more. Funding will be issued on an ongoing basis between now and July 31, 2020. 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. Local volunteers from each organization are in place to review applications and approve those that will have the greatest impact for citizens requiring support during this COVID-19 pandemic. The staff and volunteer teams from both the Oxford Community Foundation and United Way Oxford will be coordinating and managing their efforts and responses to ensure complimentary investments that can be leveraged for maximum impact.

### **About United Way Oxford**

For over 55 years United Way Oxford has been 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.

### **About Oxford Community Foundation**

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

For more information please contact:

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