



Thanks to the support of our COVID-19 Community Response Fund, we are proud to report that 7 grant applications have been reviewed and approved for funding.

Normally, our application process takes months, but we are turning these funds around quickly because of the immediate needs presenting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteer representatives from our Community Impact Council will continue to meet virtually and review applications on a weekly basis.

**Because of United Way Oxford's flexible funding, made possible by your support:**

- **Oxford Community Health Centre Outreach and Housing** team are able to address barriers including transportation, food security, and access to basic home supplies for those in need. They are providing travel vouchers to those who are at risk and unable to use public transit and have food cards available to people who are struggling with food security during this time.
- **Women's Employment Resource Centre and Circles of Life - Community Outreach Table** have teamed up to provide additional outreach and food support, as the demand for their services have increased. Both organizations will be able to provide more sustainable food items, snacks, personal care items and clothing to their clients. The Community Table is now available 4 days a week, including Sundays.
- **Ingersoll & District Inter-Church** is working hard to continue offering delivery of weekly hot meals and other food items, to members of the community through the Lunch Bunch and STICH Supper Club. Helping those most vulnerable stay home and safe.
- **ALS Society of Canada** is providing an Oxford County resident with necessary equipment to help them remain comfortable and supported at home. Their disease is progressing, but because of the safety concerns around accepting donations and accessing an existing equipment lending program, there was not at home equipment available without additional funding. This equipment helps to improve their quality of life, comfort and well-being during these uncertain times.
- **Operation Sharing** is managing an increased demand for food security through Food for Friends, Bullwinkle's Kitchen and The Inn. These programs provide access to prepared food, grocery items and food cards for people in need.
- **YMCA of Woodstock** is focusing on reaching out to their senior members who live alone, those with disabilities and those that have financial difficulties, helping to increase the physical and mental health of these vulnerable populations. This care package will include exercise equipment, instructions, a potted plant and a special, personalized card.
- **The Refuge** has expanded their hours and are offering services 5 days a week, in an attempt to keep up with the growing need in our community for food, connection and clean, safe spaces. Daily meals, free laundry services, hygiene products, first aid and mental health supports are available to people experiencing homelessness, mental illness and addiction.

Another new program that has been developed in response to COVID-19 is **Food for Families**. Thank you to our donors, volunteers and partners who are making this program possible. Working with the Oxford Student Nutrition Program, there was an identified need to support children and families who were no longer attending school and receiving the healthy snacks provided by the program. To help bridge that gap, United Way Oxford and our team of volunteers are out delivering grocery cards and fresh produce to families in need. Currently, this initiative is helping to support over 140 families across Oxford County. To register for Food for Families, please call our office at 519-539-3851.

If you can, we ask you to please consider supporting United Way Oxford's COVID-19 Community Response Fund. All funds will remain in Oxford to help us to connect, coordinate, and assist front line agencies as they strive to meet the increasing demands in our community during this crisis and prepare for better days ahead. Please visit [www.unitedwayoxford.ca/donate](http://www.unitedwayoxford.ca/donate) to give.