

2013 Community Impact Grants



Changing conditions in the community requires a multi-level investment approach. While funding agencies to provide programs and services to the community has and always will be essential aspects of our investments, our goals moving forward include a broader range of activities in order to achieve greater community impact. The success of the annual fundraising Campaign has allowed Brant United Way to increase our investments in this community. Our Member Agencies continue to receive stable 3 year funding, and we were able to give out over \$120,000 in one time Community Impact Grants to a number of local groups.

Our Focus Areas

- Healthy People, Strong Communities
- All That Kids Can Be
- From Poverty to Possibility

Self-Care for the Caregiver

Alzheimer Society of Brant

The purpose of this program is to address the needs of an aging population by educating caregivers on how to cope with the responsibilities of caregiving. The goal is to prevent and address caregiver burnout. The 16 week program called Life Process Transformation will be facilitated by Janet Lovegrove, RN, BAcN, MSc. The program consists of awareness exercises, presentation of information, group sharing and discussion, and take-home exercises.

Imagination Library of Brantford/Brant

Kids Can Fly

The Imagination Library can help support children's early literacy and language development by providing a free book every month for children from birth to age 5. Through participation, families can build their child's early literacy skills that are important for success in school and create a bond with their child that will last a lifetime. In the early years of this project Kids Can Fly was only able to accommodate 160 children each year but with increased funding, they have been able to reach more children, regardless of economic status. Today there are approximately 600 children registered with a waiting list of 130. This funding will register 150 kids on the program for a year or 20 children for five years.

Practical Fatherhood

Brantford /Brant County Crisis Pregnancy Centre

The Practical Fatherhood Program is designed to equip fathers, or soon to be fathers, in making the "Dad Difference" a lifelong priority. It will energize men to connect and invest in this important relationship in their life and also in their children's. This program will provide the fathers with skill-building resources for being an effective father. The program is geared for fathers of low income; at-risk fathers looking for a hand-up in changing the direction of their lives and their families.

Housing Outreach Worker

Hotinohsioni Incorporated O/A Brantford Native Housing

Brantford Native Housing owns and operates two transitional homes, one for aboriginal women and one for aboriginal men. These homes focus on aboriginal women and men who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness. Women with aboriginal children in their custody would also benefit from the program. The Housing Outreach Worker is primarily responsible for assisting Aboriginal residents in maintaining their existing housing; assisting residents of transitional housing to find their own home in the community; assisting residents to access community services; implementing programs and services for clients who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and promote Brantford Native Housing programs and services at local community events.

Seniors & Disability Outreach Program

Brantford Seniors Resource Centre

This program will provide recreation, education and cultural activities in conjunction with other programs for senior citizens (50 years and older) and people with disabilities. The funds will be used to expand the day support program to some evening and weekend support sessions. Currently this program operates 4 days a week. Now the clients can have some evening and weekend activities like movie nights, bingo, crafts, painting, book clubs etc. This will allow for new skill building activities to be introduced to seniors, in hopes that they will acquire a hobby or other recreational activities to help better fill their hours away from the centre.

Good Food Box

Community Resource & Employment Service (Brantford)

This program's mandate is to increase healthy eating by providing access to the purchase of fresh produce. While the program is open to the general public, the goal is to keep the cost of grocery hampers low to permit purchase by lower income households. Economically stressed individuals have a difficult time ensuring adequate nutrition; this program provides lower income households with a reasonably priced option to afford fresh fruits and vegetables.

Kids Lunch Club

Child Hunger Brantford in partnership with Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre Inc.

The goal of this program is to ensure that all children in the community have access to nutritious food. This program will pilot in the most vulnerable elementary school in Brantford - Major Ballachey. The program will then expand to the next vulnerable schools (reviewing information regarding Belleview, Central, and King George School). It is estimated that 80% of children in vulnerable schools do not bring a lunch. Food insecurity is associated with children's health and behaviour. The elementary schools in need do not have the volunteer base required to operate this program. Volunteers from Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre, Community Living Brant, Grace Anglican Church and Laurier Brantford are utilized.

Parenting Program

Brantford & District Supervised Access(Dalhousie Place)

This program targets parents dealing with separation/divorce custody and access issues, but the ultimate benefactor of this service are the children caught in the middle. A pilot project was conducted over the past two years, which demonstrated, through completed outcomes, that there is a need for continuing this service and to expand it to further include community outreach and include the resources for a parenting plan. This program deals with how children are being affected by separation and conflict, helps parents with strategies and tools for dealing with these issues.

Pen Pal Project

Friends of the Six Nations Public Library Foundation

The Pen Pal Program involves First Nations and non-Aboriginal students, from junior kindergarten to grade 8, writing letters to each other throughout the school year. This was initiated in response to the community divide and conflict that erupted in 2006 between the people of Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the people of Haldimand County due to land claim/rights that have been unaddressed. As the next generation of these two communities appeared to be worlds away from each other and began to present ideologies of mistrust, the Pen Pal Program was created to bridge the two communities and foster peace and kindness as a core relationship for this next generation of community members.

Client Services

MS Society of Canada-Brant County Chapter

The goal of the Client Service program is to provide programs and services to those affected by multiple sclerosis to achieve the highest possible quality of life while living with the daily challenges that MS presents. Financial assistance is provided in the following areas: attendant care, respite care, transplantation, equipment funding, homemaking, house cleaning, child care, home maintenance yard work/snow removal driving assessment.

Our support of local people affected with MS helps to offset the ongoing financial burden of living with this chronic disease. Our support assists our clients to continue to live active lives and engage in our community.

Children's Program-E.C.E

Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services

The "Time for Tots" program targets children 0 to 6 years of age living in the Nova Vita shelter. This program seeks to remediate and stimulate child development by the addition of an Early Childhood Educator to our Child and Youth Worker program. The E.C.E will focus on working with children 0 to 6 years and will help mothers better understand the impact of domestic violence on their children's development and teach mothers how to continue to facilitate their development once they leave Nova Vita.

The program will provide much needed respite for mothers so they can have a rest or continue essential tasks that will help them move into the community as soon as possible. It will also provide victims of abuse with individually designed safety plans for younger children that are easy to implement and understandable for the children.

Brant Elder Abuse Committee

Victim Services of Brant

The Brant Elder Abuse committee is a partnership of community agencies that provide services to seniors in our community. The mandate of the committee is to provide educational awareness around issues related to elder abuse.

The Brant Elder Abuse Committee would like to publish a Seniors Tool Kit listing information that is relevant to seniors in our community. The Tool Kit would include information on agencies and programs, community resources, and recreational opportunities. It would also include information on Elder Abuse, Power of Attorney, Frauds and Scams, Internet Safety and other topics of interest to seniors.

Domestic Violence Rent Bank

Victim Services of Brant

The Domestic Violence Rent Bank was established in September 2007 with a \$20,000 grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation. The program was based on an identified need in the community for women trying to leave an abusive relationship that did not have the financial resources to establish an independent residence. Those women were predominately working in low income jobs, had little resources or had resources that were tied up in family court which they could not access. The Domestic Violence Rent Bank is designed to assist with deposits for first and last month's rent, and deposits for necessary services such as heat and hydro.

Youth to Youth, Self Defence Classes, Arts and Crafts

Why Not City Missions

Why Not Youth Centre offers outreach and social inclusion to at-risk youth 13-18yrs, fostering the development for personal growth and empowerment. The Centre assists in providing referrals for specific needs; including but not limited to addictions, health, mental health, family dysfunctions, education, and law enforcement.

Youth and at-risk youth are an invisible population that is seriously underfunded. Programs at this Centre give youth and at-risk youth an alternative, by providing a safe place that they can feel they have ownership, a belonging and a have voice to meet their needs.