

2014 Community Impact Grants



Brant United Way's mission is to increase the level of assistance to a broader number of recipients, to satisfy growing community needs. Brant United Way was able to do that again this year, thanks to the loyal support of our donors and the success of 2013 Campaign which raised over \$1,651,187.

Brant United Way maintained its funding commitment to its current 18 Member Agencies who are in a three-year funding cycle (2012 moved to 3-year funding cycle for Member Agencies).

In addition, funding was made available to other groups in the community with the **Community Impact Grants**. Community Impact Grants are one-time funds (non-sustainable grants as they cannot be guaranteed beyond one year). In the Community Impact steam, 20 grants were made to local programs, totaling \$141,000 invested. Here are the programs recommended for funding by our volunteer Allocations Committee.

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 Self-Care for the Caregiver program addresses 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.

Alternatives for Success

Boys and Girls Club of Brantford

Alternatives for Success is a prevention, recreation-based program created to provide the tools and environment necessary for young people to develop positive learning skills, set and achieve academic goals, improve attendance and develop positive conflict resolution, emotion regulation & social skills. For many youth, schools are environments which allow youth to explore, discover, achieve and excel, but for some young people this can be a real challenge. Boys and Girls Club of Brantford is committed to helping youth overcome barriers to succeeding in the classroom and beyond.

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.

After Hours Peer Support

Canadian Mental Health Association, Brant County Branch, Helping Ourselves through Peer Support & Employment (HOPE)

The After Hours Peer Support will offer social events, speakers, skill building and coping strategies, information on services and connections with peers. It will be a safe space for people to express their feelings and their challenges. After hours peer-led support and programming is one of the most needed services in our community for adults living with mental illness.

Summer Camp Expansion

Children's Aid Society of Brant Endowment Fund (Foundation)

Kamptastic summer camp program, was developed by Brant CAS to bring summer camp to three of Brantford's highest at-risk areas at three of their neighbourhood offices: Stepping Stones, Northland Gardens and New Beginnings. Many children at these locations are unable to get to camp, so this brings camp to them. Beyond songs, crafts and sports, summer camp provides an opportunity to learn life lessons beyond the classroom without fear of judgment. Kids are encouraged in a supportive environment to test and master new skills. From sports and arts to nature, there are activities to match the interest of every child. This funding will allow for an expansion of this program this year.

Community Information Database

Contact Brant for Children's and Developmental Services

The Community Information Database is a web-based information service for the community at www.info-bhn.ca. 211 Ontario utilizes this Database to provide the information their 2-1-1 phone and web services. The grant will be used to enhance the Brant records and will give our community more options when looking for services and supports.

■ Employment Training Program

Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre Inc.

Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre will begin to introduce employment training specific to adults with developmental challenges. This program will provide “hands on” employment training experiences and supports through small group training opportunities that are designed with their abilities as priorities. A majority of adults living with a developmental challenge do not have success finding full or part time employment after they graduate from high school, especially those that have gone through the educational system in segregated classes. They typically live on disability pensions once they reach 18 years of age and live with their parents (caregivers) or in some form of supported living. They often face barriers for government funded skills and training centres due to literacy, behavioural and cognitive levels. The impact will be employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and income, reducing poverty levels.

■ 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.

■ Be All You Can Be: The Six Nations Public Library Literacy Initiative

Friends of Six Nations Public Library Foundation (SNPL)

By promoting literacy through play, Six Nations children will receive a stronger foundation to succeed academically and later in life. This program will run two days a week to support literacy among school aged children and twice a month to support secondary students. This program will be overseen by a certified teacher and will include activities, reading, homework support, and games.

■ Eagle Place Education Program for Youth

Grand River Community Health Centre (GRCHC)

Through two phases of research and development and in consultation with residents from the Eagle Place neighbourhood in Brantford, GRCHC has developed an after-school program that will be implemented in September 2014. Through tutoring, group-based skill building activities, and intensive one-on-one caseworker support, this program will increase high school graduation rates in Eagle Place and encourage enrollment in post-secondary education and/or training. In the program’s first year the 60 grade eight students who live in Eagle Place will be eligible to register in the program. A new cohort of grade eight students will be added in each subsequent year.

Safe Spaces Program

Grand River Community Health Centre (GRCHC)

The Safe Spaces program is a formal partnership between GRCHC and the Sexual Assault Centre of Brant. The purpose of this program is to facilitate the creation of Safe Spaces for people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) in the Brantford/Brant County community. This is being achieved through two levels of community capacity building, the creation of a Safe Space for LGBTQ individuals and groups, the development of LGBTQ informed community services and supports and the expansion and delivery of Safe Spaces and other training for health and social service providers.

Parachute Program: Addressing Teen Postpartum Depression

Kids Can Fly

The Parachute Program is a support program for young women and their babies – most of whom are living in poverty; with Postpartum Depression. Teens are much more likely to experience Postpartum Depression (1-6 women do). This weekly group is facilitated by two experts; one in early childhood and parenting and the other in social work. It supports the moms as they cope with Postpartum Depression and helps them to be better parents which at the end of the day will assist their child to thrive. The moms are encouraged to set goals for their lives which might include school or work in addition to learning about child development and parenting.

Recreation Weekend Retreats

Lansdowne Children's Centre

This program targets transitional aged youth (13-18 years) with a developmental disability, and the families who care for them and who are in need of special supports and respite. The program will provide fun, outdoor recreational retreat weekends where youth can gain independence, feel community inclusion, try a new activity, learn to advocate for their needs and find success away from home. The program will also provide families with respite care. This gives caregivers a short term break to relieve the stress they may experience while providing care for a teen with a disability.

Client Services

MS Society of Canada-Brant County Chapter

The goal of the MS Society's Client Service program is to provide programs and services to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS) 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, homemaking, house cleaning, child care, home maintenance yard work/snow removal driving assessment. This support helps to offset the ongoing financial burden of living with this chronic disease. The support assists clients to continue to live active lives and engage in our community.

Soup for the Soul Meal Program

St. Andrew's United Church

The St. Andrew's Soup for the Soul food and advocacy program is centrally located in downtown Brantford and operates to provide a nutritious meal and personal support to individuals and families in our community who are in need of help. It currently serves an average of 168 meals to clients on a twice weekly basis.

Time for Tots: 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 provides 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.

Letters Sounds and Words

Strong Start

The Strong Start Letters, Sounds and Words™ program is an early literacy program designed to provide a learning "boost" for children aged 5-7 to practice and master foundational reading skills. This structured and highly effective program is implemented in community schools by trained community volunteers working with children on an individual basis using engaging games, activities and books. It supports children to develop the skills to read at an acceptable level, to be engaged and successful in continued learning and provide training for a meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunity for community members of all ages. Funding from the Brant United Way will allow the program to expand into 5 schools in our area.

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. The Domestic Violence Rent Bank provides no interest loans of up to \$1,500 to women leaving a domestic violence situation. These women, often need assistance with first and last month's rent, deposits for heat and hydro and telephone services or other expenses related to moving. These women are frequently working in low paying jobs and do not qualify for Ontario Works.

Construction Zone and Easy Cook

Why Not City Missions

Why Not helps the at-risk youth navigate the tumultuous teenage years bridge the gap for youth suffering from personal and life struggles, issues relating to (but not limited to) academics, trust, self-esteem, behavioural, low social economic standing, emotional, physical, mental, family dysfunction, homelessness and peer pressure.

At the Centre activities are fostered that provide social, personal growth and empowerment. An instructional guidance opportunity leads to develop crucial life, job-readiness and communication skills. Constructive activities strengthen their social skills while building a greater self-esteem and self-worth allowing them to achieve stability in their lives and learning to become productive members of the community.

■ **Triple P, Positive Parenting Program**

Woodview Children's Centre

Triple P is an evidence-based positive parenting program that gives parents the strategies necessary to engage, encourage and empower them to address common child and adolescent social, emotional and behavioural problems. Triple P practitioners include staff from a range of disciplines and organizations including health, education, childcare, child welfare, social services and mental health. This funding will train additional facilitators and provide access to Triple P to a broader cross section of families in our community. It will be targeted to a specific trend in our community: parents of children with mental health and parents with involvement in the child welfares system.