



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING HUB

STUDENT VOLUNTEER  
CONNECTIONS

# HOLIDAY **GIVING** GUIDE

G U E L P H - W E L L I N G T O N



## How to Use This Holiday Giving Guide

Thank you for thinking about giving back to your Guelph-Wellington community this holiday season! This guide showcases 39 local nonprofit/charity organizations seeking extra support.

Some need monetary donations, others are looking for item donations, and some are in search of volunteers to contribute their time to holiday events and programs.

**To use this guide:** consult the Table of Contents to see, at a glance, which organizations are looking for support in the 3 main areas: monetary donations, item donations, or volunteers. Use this table of contents to navigate to the organizations that are seeking the support you are able to give. Click “Back to Top” in the top right corner of each page to easily return to the top of the guide. Continue to reference the Table of Contents while browsing for ease of navigation.

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## All In Skating Program

A not-for-profit skating program intended for children with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. All In Skating is an inclusive program designed to engage a beginner skater, or one with little experience, by offering a one-to-one skater to volunteer coach ratio. We support and encourage all participants in developing and improving fundamental skating skills.



### Monetary Donations

Currently enrolled in our program, we have a strong young boy with Cerebral Palsy. He has limited usage of the left side of his body and, as such, requires two volunteers to support him on ice. We are asking for money to fund an adult ice-skating aid/trainer. At All In Skating we have two junior size ice aids to assist and add confidence to small children learning to skate. However, our program could very much use an adult size Tykeskater Ice Skating Trainer of durable steel construction as appears on amazon.ca for \$395.00 with a 4-star review.

To inquire about helping All in Skating purchase an ice-skating aid/trainer, please contact Janet by email at [janet@allinskating.ca](mailto:janet@allinskating.ca)

## Autism Dog Services

Autism Dog Services matches highly trained certified service dogs with children with autism and related disorders across Southwestern Ontario.



**autism dog services**

safety • companionship • independence

### Monetary Donations

Suggested monetary donation of \$50 to support our program's daily functions which would include puppy equipment, vet care, and training location rental fees.

### Item Donations

We need the following supplies to support our puppies in training:

- Slow feeder bowls
- Puppy Nylabones (chew toy, not edible variety)
- Classic red or black Kong
- Puppy collars
- Snuffle mats & Lick mats
- Grooming supplies including slicker brushes, combs, and glove brushes

Monetary donations can be made by [visiting the Autism Dog Services website](#) and clicking the red DONATE button. Volunteer inquiries can be directed to [janine@autismdogs.ca](mailto:janine@autismdogs.ca) or by visiting the website.

Item donations can be arranged for drop off by emailing Janine at [janine@autismdogs.ca](mailto:janine@autismdogs.ca)

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph (BBBSG) provides life-changing mentoring programs that empower more than 600 local youth, encouraging them to reach their full potential.



### Monetary Donations

There's something for everyone in the 12 Days of Giving Online Auction! Find the perfect holiday gift and support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph by participating in our annual online auction. Wrap up 2023 with a bow on some products, gift baskets, and gift certificates donated by generous local businesses. All proceeds help BBBSG make an impact on the lives of over 600 local children and youth who are being supported through one of our mentoring programs that are managed by trained volunteers.

[Participate in the 12 Days of Giving online auction.](#)

## Career Education Council

The winter 2023-2024 Pillars Campaign is the first of its kind to raise funds to keep our valuable Career Exploration Portal up and running for local youth, parents, teachers, and jobseekers.



### Monetary Donations

Corporate sponsors and community partners are asked to consider a contribution of \$250 (pillar), \$500 (bronze), \$1,000 (silver) or \$2,000 (gold). Contact us to contribute monetarily, and to provide content for the portal. [Visit the portal on the Career Education website.](#)

To inquire about donations, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities, please contact Leah MacNaughton, Program Support Specialist, Career Education Council, by emailing [admin@careereducationcouncil.ca](mailto:admin@careereducationcouncil.ca).

## Canadian Mental Health Association WW - Spark of Brilliance

Spark of Brilliance is a program under the umbrella of Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington (CMHA WW) that promotes healing and discovery through the arts for people with mental health issues.



### Monetary Donations

Support Spark of Brilliance with monetary donations for quality art supplies. Your contribution directly fosters creativity, skill development, confidence building, and mental well-being for individuals with lived experiences. Each week, Spark of Brilliance provides art-based, peer-driven workshops to approximately 50 people. Each \$10 donation sponsors a participant's workshop attendance in a welcoming, non-judgmental setting. Rest assured; your donation directly funds art supplies for our programming and is greatly appreciated!

### Item Donations

Spark of Brilliance greatly appreciates quality art supply donations such as acrylic and watercolor paints, canvases, mixed media paper, aprons, paintbrushes, palette knives, art books, image-heavy magazines and books suitable for collage, and broken jewelry for mixed media projects.

To make a monetary donation, [visit the CMHA website](#) then click 'donate' (upper right). Please specify 'Spark of Brilliance' in comments.

For cheque donations, mail/drop off to:

ATTN: Marcey Gray  
80 Waterloo Ave  
Guelph, ON  
N1H 0A1

Supply donations may be accepted at the previously mentioned address in Guelph or at 67 King St. E. in Kitchener, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact Marcey Gray by email at [mgray@cmhaww.ca](mailto:mgray@cmhaww.ca) before dropping off donations to receive further drop-off instructions.

## Community FEWD

We serve free, equitable, and dignified takeout dinners directly to our community using surplus foods, creativity, and love! [Learn more on the FEWD website!](#)



### Monetary Donations

\$10 = 1 free community meal

\$20 = 2 meals

\$50 = 5 meals

\$100 = 10 meals

Monetary donations go directly towards sustaining our program, including: paying rent, paying essential staff, supplies, and transportation. Donations also help us support other initiatives in Guelph.

Donations can be made [through the FEWD website.](#)

## Community Living Guelph Wellington (CLGW)

Community Living Guelph Wellington (CLGW) supports over 500 adults with developmental disabilities to live their best lives. Serving all of Wellington County, CLGW helps connect people with developmental disabilities to opportunities and experiences related to day-to-day living, advocacy, work, volunteering, places to live, and recreation.



### Monetary Donations

Many people supported by CLGW receive money through the Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP) - This funding is minimal, leaving many existing on or below the poverty line. \$25.00-50.00 dollars help to cover the rising costs of basic food items.

### Item Donations

We are currently accepting adult-sized warm weather clothing (given the winter weather), board games, craft supplies, books, and movie passes to help fill people's day.

To donate to Community Living Guelph Wellington, [please visit our website and click "Donate Now" at the bottom of the page.](#) To make an in-person donation, please visit 8 Royal Road, Guelph, ON.



## Community of Hearts Lifelong Learning Centre

We are a not-for-profit organization supporting youth and adults with developmental disabilities in achieving their desired level of independence.



### Monetary Donations

Your donations will support the continuation and betterment of our life skills-based programming, enabling us to continue our support adults with developmental disabilities in our Guelph community.

- \$40 towards meals: funds will be used for ingredients in our Learning Day Program, where participants cook daily lunches together. These sessions foster independence by improving cooking skills, providing nutritious meals, and promoting daily living skills.
- \$20 towards materials: contributions will support our music and arts programs, fostering creative expression, confidence-building, and connections among participants with shared interests.
- \$50 towards health & wellness programs: donations will facilitate health and fitness programs led by an instructor, promoting physical well-being, and supporting mental wellness.

[Visit the Community of Hearts webpage, click Donate Now to donate.](#)

### Item Donations:

We also accept item donations to further our programs:

- Meals: gift cards for Guelph grocery stores to contribute to daily meals.
- Materials: gift cards for art supply or music stores, as well as direct donations of art supplies or instruments.
- Health & Wellness Programs: gift cards for fitness stores or Walmart.

Contact for Item Donations: To arrange item drop-offs, please email us at [info@communityofhearts.ca](mailto:info@communityofhearts.ca) or call 519-826-9056 to schedule a convenient time.

Learn More: Visit the [Community of Hearts website](#) or follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

## Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County

Dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children, youth, and families in our community, FCSGW serves the City of Guelph and Wellington County. We form a compassionate network of staff, volunteers, foster families, adopting families, and donors collaborating with the community to create a nurturing, supportive, and inclusive environment for children, youth, and families in need.



### Monetary Donations

During the holiday season, we host a special Holiday Luncheon for the youth we serve. This event provides an opportunity for them to gather, share a warm meal, make new friends, and receive a stocking and a gift. Our goal is to gift each youth \$50 worth of cards from Walmart, Dollarama, or Tim Hortons.

Empowering Choices: Gift cards offer individuals autonomy in their purchasing decisions. Recipients can choose to buy something they need or desire, giving them control over their choices. We are seeking \$25 gift cards for Walmart, Dollarama, & Tim Hortons.

To contribute gift cards, place them in an envelope with your name, contact information (phone number and email address), and mailing address. Drop them off at our Eramosa office: 275 Eramosa Rd, Guelph, ON, N1E 2M7, or our Elora office: 6484 Wellington Road 7, Elora, ON N0B 1S0.

For online donations, please [visit our website](#) and select the "Donate Now" button. Follow us on social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#)

## Focus on Nature

Focus on Nature is a registered charity operating in Southern Ontario that inspires young people to explore and connect with nature through photography. We conduct workshops in schools and day camps in the summer and during March Break.



### Monetary Donations

Focus on Nature is asking for donations to fund workshops. Each workshop costs \$360 per class of 30 students, this poses a barrier to participation in many schools, especially those in low-income communities. Our goal is to eliminate as many barriers as possible so that all students are provided with the opportunity to participate in our workshops. Being able to offer workshops to schools in low-income areas will provide students with an opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise. Students from all communities will be able to improve both their mental and physical health through a positive experience with nature photography.

For more information on how to donate, [visit the Focus on Nature website](#).

## Food4Kids Guelph

Food4kids (F4K) Guelph is dedicated to closing the weekend hunger gap for children in Guelph. While many children receive support Monday through Friday via programs at school, F4K Guelph is the only resource available for them on weekends. F4K Guelph provides support through two programs: The Weekend Foodbag Program and the School Holiday Program.



### Monetary Donations

Our Weekend Foodbag program ensures that each bag, priced at \$15, contains a balanced mix of proteins, grains, vegetables, and fruit, providing a nutritious supplement for families. During the holiday break, we extend additional assistance by providing P.C Grocery Gift cards to our families. Each student in a family receives a \$15 gift card. It costs \$1,000 annually to support each child in the program. For holiday support, the cost is \$45 per child. If you wish to support a child for a month, the cost is \$60.

We welcome monetary donations through [the Canada Helps website](#). If you wish to mail a cheque, our address is: Food4Kids Guelph, 503 Imperial Rd N, Unit 5, Guelph, ON, N1H 6T9. If you wish to provide a donation in person, please email [Food4KidsGuelph@gmail.com](mailto:Food4KidsGuelph@gmail.com) to arrange a visit.

## Furever Foster

Furever Foster is a club at the University of Guelph that is dedicated to connecting the UofG community with animal rescue adoption, fostering, volunteering, and educational opportunities across Ontario. [Follow us on Instagram](#) for more details.



### Item Donations

Currently accepting donations for:

- Dog/puppy items
- Cat/kittens items
- Small animals (rabbits, hamsters, birds, etc.) items

All of our partner rescues rely heavily on donations; lightly used items and household items such as paper towels, laundry detergent, towels, blankets, cleaning products, etc. are also encouraged. Item donations can either be dropped off at our Furever Foster Christmas tree inside the University of Guelph University Centre (take South elevators to second floor and enter the main CSA office), or ordered through our Amazon Wishlist and mailed to us. If you would like to donate through Amazon, please visit the Linktree [on our Instagram](#) for more details.

### Volunteers

Furever Foster currently has a Christmas tree setup in the University of Guelph CSA lounge near the main office. The tree gets put away each night and taken out again in the morning. We are seeking volunteers to help set up and put away the tree each day and/or decorate the area with posters. Volunteers are needed from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## GROW Community Garden

The GROW Community Garden is a group of volunteers gardening to donate produce to local food security programs. We garden at Grace Community Church and donated over 400lbs of produce in 2023.



### Monetary Donations

- \$25: we aim to provide broader accessibility for gardening and aspire to install sturdy raised garden beds for volunteers who struggle with bending or kneeling. A \$25 monetary donation will provide one raised bed.
- \$100: our garden supplements rainwater collection tanks with water from a well tap 300ft away. \$100 monetary donations will be used to replace a badly weathered hose storage box and replace a leaking section of hose.
- \$50: will allow us to purchase one edible perennial such as berry bushes and canes, or fruit trees.
- Gift cards in any value for Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, or Zehrs will be used to acquire select varieties of seedlings in order to broaden the range of produce we can supply to our receiving organizations, or garden supplies at season start-up, and also help us host a Community BBQ in the summer.

To make a donation, email Caroline Prochazka at [cjprocha@yahoo.com](mailto:cjprocha@yahoo.com).

## Guelph Black Heritage Society (GBHS)

The purpose of the GBHS is to preserve the historical significance of Heritage Hall (formerly the BME Church) by creating a cultural, historical, and social center within Guelph & Wellington County, where we are dedicated to educating and promoting Black heritage and culture.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations of any amount will support fundraising efforts to:

- Expand and revitalize resources and programming at GBHS,
- Manage the Heritage Hall and continue to develop the historic building as a barrier-free cultural community gathering place,
- Create & implement programs/activities to ensure enhanced visual and tactile learning experiences for all visitors.

Donations can be made through our [Canada Helps webpage](#).

For questions about donations, contact GBHS via email at [info@guelphblackheritagesociety.ca](mailto:info@guelphblackheritagesociety.ca).

## Guelph Food Bank

We provide emergency food support to individuals faced with any form of financial hardships. We also work with, and support, other similarly aligned charities and non-profit organizations working to alleviate the effects of poverty.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations of all sizes are becoming increasingly important as our organization struggles to keep up with the rapidly increasing demand for emergency food support needs within our community. Monetary donations allow us more flexibility and stronger buying power to bring in the items that we need, when we need them.

### Item Donations

Some of our current most needed items include:

- Canned meat
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Meal helpers
- Rice
- Dry pasta
- Canned pasta sauce
- Canned beans & lentils
- Vegetarian / vegan foods
- Gluten free foods
- Diabetic foods

For more information on how to donate, [visit the Guelph Food Bank website](#).

## Guelph Humane Society

The Guelph Humane Society (GHS) envisions a compassionate world where all animals are valued and respected. We do this by advancing the welfare of animals through care, education, community engagement and relationships. GHS also provides care and assistance with sick, orphaned, or injured wildlife through its nationally recognized wildlife program. [Visit our website](#) to discover more.



### Monetary Donations

Funds raised will help the more than 3,000 lost, injured, abandoned, and abused animals that enter the Guelph Humane Society's care each year and help to keep more pets and people together by providing no-cost boarding services to pets of families experiencing crisis, women fleeing domestic violence, and for individuals seeking mental health and addictions treatment. Donations will also help to feed 300 pets (and growing) each month through the GHS Pet Food Bank.

Donations can be made on [our website](#) by clicking Donate Now. If you have any questions about donating or purchasing items on our [Wishlist](#), please email [give@guelphhumane.ca](mailto:give@guelphhumane.ca).

## Guelph Tool Library

We loan specialized tools for repair, maintenance, and for building projects. Members share knowledge, skills, and resources to help build community resilience.

### Item Donations

We are looking for item donations for the Guelph Tool Library inventory to help expand our offerings for the community! These items will be available to our members as a low-cost, space-saving option to buying and owning tools.



The needed item donations include:

- DSLR Camera
- Fujifilm Instax Camera
- Working washer and dryer for the Circular Store
- Working laptops that are less than 5 years old for the Circular Computer Project
- Hygiene products such as deodorant, shampoo, menstrual products, oral care for our Community Free Bins
- Lend-a-Wing Tool Library Memberships (buy a membership for you and another community member in need)

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Siyobin Blanco, by emailing [volcoordinator@guelphtoolibrary.org](mailto:volcoordinator@guelphtoolibrary.org)

## Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis

We offer a 24-hour Crisis Line, an emergency shelter (Marianne's Place), sexual assault counselling, transitional & housing support, Family Court support, anti-human trafficking counselling, public education, and support to rural women.



### Monetary Donations

We are currently seeking new Monthly Donors of any amount. We have a corporate matching gift for the first 3 months of a new monthly giving (up to \$5,000, from BoostUs Social). It has never been a better time to pledge your support! Join our #WICcommunity of Monthly Donors and support survivors of gender-based violence.

To donate, [visit our website](#) or call 519-836-1110, ext. 244.

## Hope House Guelph

Hope House's mission is to increase the well-being of vulnerable adults, youth, and children through the provision of immediate relief and ongoing support. Hope House operates, and advocates, based on the core belief that poverty, food insecurity, inequality, health, and community are all interdependent issues that require comprehensive solutions.



### Item Donations

The following unused/sealed items are currently being accepted for donations by Hope House:

- Toothpaste
- Dish soap
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Any age/size/gender winter boots
- Any age/size/gender winter coats
- Any age/size/gender hoodies

To donate, contact Gillian Cornell by email at [programs@hopehouseguelph.ca](mailto:programs@hopehouseguelph.ca) or 519-265-4299 ext. 29.

### Volunteers

Affordable Gift Market volunteers are needed. Volunteer shifts begin Monday, December 4 and end Thursday, December 14. Shifts start at 9:00 a.m. and go until 1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday (no Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays). [Sign up to be an Affordable Gift Market volunteer.](#)

We believe that every person deserves a holiday filled with hope. That's why, at Hope House, we provide an affordable gift market to create new holiday traditions with our community. The Affordable Gift Market provides individuals the opportunity to select holiday gifts for family and friends at pay-what-you-can prices, including free. We have been told many times by market participants how important it is that they can select the gifts themselves!



## Hospice Wellington

Your story is our story at Hospice Wellington. We are recognized in Guelph and Wellington County for our leadership in nurturing an environment where anyone facing end-of-life or bereavement is comforted, loved, and supported. We are a charitable organization that provides residential and community services at no cost. Working in collaboration with our clients, volunteers, staff, supporters, and partners, we aspire to provide the best possible palliative care for individuals and families. We are accountable to you as your story unfolds—to provide you with the compassionate, respectful, holistic care and support you and your loved ones deserve.



### Monetary Donations

All donations are appreciated, no matter what the amount they all combine to help Hospice Wellington continue to support Guelph and Wellington county in end-of-life care and support.

To donate, please call us at 519-836-3921 or email [info@hospicewellington.org](mailto:info@hospicewellington.org). Let our compassionate care team show you how much your story matters by helping you see what is available so we can support you each step in your story.

## KidsAbility Centre for Child Development

KidsAbility™ empowers children and youth with special needs to realize their full potential. We work with each family to look at the whole child and together create a plan to make their goals possible.



### Item Donations

Gift cards to grocery store chains would be greatly appreciated. As food insecurity continues to rise across Guelph-Wellington, community support is deeply appreciated in helping client families currently receiving KidsAbility services to access groceries and other essentials, especially during the holiday season.

Donated grocery gift cards, in any amount, may be dropped off between Monday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to Guelph KidsAbility (503 Imperial Rd N Unit 7, Guelph, ON) before Thursday, December 13th.

All donated grocery gift cards will be distributed directly to client families by KidsAbility Social Workers.

## Nightingale Centre for Grieving Children Youth and Families

The Nightingale Centre provides grief and bereavement support to children, youth, and families that are anticipating, or have experienced, the death of a significant person in their lives while building a community of courage, hope, and resilience. Our services are available at no cost for families anticipating or living with a death.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donation will go towards the costs of our regular group offering for children, youth, and young adults. Donations help cover the cost of rentals, our facilitators, and activity supplies.

### Item Donations

There are several items we would benefit from, including;

- Craft supplies (paper, markers, pipe cleaners, string, yarn, paint),
- Books on grief and emotions or gift cards for The Bookshelf, Amazon, or Indigo,
- Snack/food supplies or gift cards (tea, coffee, snacks),
- Grocery gift cards for some of our families who could use some extra help this holiday season.

Anyone who wishes to donate or learn more about our work can email [info@nightingalecentre.org](mailto:info@nightingalecentre.org) with how you would like to help in the subject line (i.e., donate).

## Onward Willow Neighborhood Group

### Item Donations

We are in need of winter coats and winter boots for the whole family as we have a free city-wide clothing closet and have had an increase in demand for winter clothing. We are especially in need of coats and boots for 6-month-olds up to size 10 kids.

We also have an emergency food hamper, which is being used much more than it has in past years. We are always in need of:

- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Soups
- Kraft dinner
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Rice
- Canned Tuna
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned Chicken



To donate to Onward Willow Neighborhood Group with a physical item please drop off at the centre located at 15 Willow Road, Unit K45 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. or on Thursday between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Monetary donation can be made in person at the centre (if receipt is needed, please make out to Guelph Neighborhood Support Coalition) or to [donate online to the Neighbourhood Group](#), please pick Onward Willow Neighborhood Group in the charity to apply.

## Royal City Mission

We're a community of people working together to make the invisible visible in Guelph. This takes many forms, but three distinct ways we do this together is through our Drop-In Program that offers a welcoming space in a world that can often feel cold, our Meal Program which offers meals to any who are in need, and our Sunday morning worship service.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations fund our meal and drop-in programs.

### Item Donations

Hats, mitts, gloves, blankets, and sleeping bags are needed for our community to stay warm this winter season.

To donate, please [visit the Royal City Mission website](#) and click Donate in the top corner.

## Shelldale Family Gateway

For over 30 years, Shelldale Family Gateway has strived to provide the right resources and the right tools to build a community of healthy children, healthy families, and healthy neighborhoods. As part of a hub of social service agencies within the Shelldale Centre in Guelph, Ontario, we offer a wide range of programs for infants, children, and youth. Our experienced staff and dedicated volunteers work closely with community partners to provide an integrated service model that focuses on providing programs that are multicultural and community-driven and that reflect the ever-changing nature of the Onward Willow neighborhood.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations will fund for After School programs for children and youth in the Onward Willow community where there are new immigrants as well as low-income families living in the area who need extra support in many ways from the community.

[If you wish to donate to Shelldale Family Gateway, monetary donations can be processed through the donation page of our website here.](#) Donations will be going through Canada Help, meaning donors will get an instant Tax receipt.

### Item Donations

We are in need of art supplies for our pre-school and after-school Art Program and Film Making Programs for children and youth in need in the community.

[Visit our Amazon Wish List to purchase supplies for Shelldale Family Gateway.](#)

### Volunteers

On December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we need 2 volunteers to help set up, assist with, and clean up a holiday party for children. A vulnerable sector police check is required prior to that date. Please contact Ali by email at [ahoang@shelldale.ca](mailto:ahoang@shelldale.ca) to inquire about volunteering on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation Guelph

We support and enhance the exceptional care that St. Joseph's Health Centre is privileged to provide to our diverse communities through ethical, innovative fundraising and financial stewardship.



### Monetary Donations

This year we are asking our community to give what they are able in support of St. Joe's Holiday Wish List, comprised of our top 4 urgently needed projects. [More info can be found by visiting the St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation website.](#)

The projects include:

- Vital signs machines
- Medication carts
- Electronic medication system
- Care & compassion fund

[If you wish to donate, donations can be made online through the St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation website.](#) Cheques can also be made out to St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation Guelph and mailed to 100 Westmount Road, Guelph, ON, N1H 5H8.

## Start2Finish

Start2Finish a not-for-profit organization running free after-school programs for elementary students with an emphasis on literacy, physical activity, and social emotional learning in over 70 communities experiencing poverty across Canada.



### Monetary Donations

There is a suggested donation per person of \$20. [To donate to Start2Finish, please visit our website.](#)

The donations will fund:

- Equipment & program supplies (books, running shoes, bins, stationery supplies, snacks for students, prizes)
- Program measurement (data collection & evaluation, knowledge dissemination)
- Year-end 5km run (event preparation, event supplies)
- Program administration

## Stepping Stone

Stepping Stone helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness step forward on a path toward securing permanent housing in Guelph-Wellington through housing focused programs and individualized support. We operate 4 shelter sites totaling 125 emergency beds and 1 permanent supportive housing site supporting 32 tenants.



### Monetary Donations

We are looking for \$10.00 per person to purchase gift cards for 32 people who will be staying at our Emergency Shelter on Christmas Eve night. McDonalds is one of the only places open downtown on Christmas Day and this provides folks a place to stay warm and get a coffee. We need a total of \$320.00.

[Please visit the Stepping Stone donation page on our website to provide monetary support towards Gift Cards.](#) Please indicate that this is "In honor of Christmas Day Gift cards" during the donation process.

### Volunteers

We would require volunteers to provide support during the day on Wednesday, December 20th to wrap Christmas presents for the 30-35 children we will have staying in our shelter.

We would also require their support to organize the other donations we have been receiving to be able to hand out parcels to the 100 adults we support across our programs.

Please connect with us by email at [community@steppingstonegw.com](mailto:community@steppingstonegw.com) to express interest in volunteering your time to help wrap and organize gifts.

## Teenage Parent Program (TAPPS)

### Item Donations

Accepting donations for gift cards to grocery and clothing stores, we also accept general purchases as item donations.



**YMCA of  
Three Rivers**

TAPPS

Any donations can be dropped off at the Guelph YMCA located at 130 Woodland Glen Drive, Guelph, Ontario, or you may contact Florencia by email at [florencia.varela@ytr.ymca.ca](mailto:florencia.varela@ytr.ymca.ca) for item pick up from your location.

## The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington

Let's build a community where every child and youth has the future.



**Adopt-A-Family Program**

### Monetary Donations

Sign-up as a Donor to be matched with a local family or independent youth and give the gift of hope and joy this holiday season! Once you receive your match, you will use the information we provide to shop. Alternatively, you can make a Cash Donation that we will pool together to buy gift cards in bulk, along with other gift items. Buying gift cards in bulk is a win-win as we receive a charitable donation that we can use to help even more families!

To register as a donor or make a cash donation, [visit The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington website](#) or send us at email at [aaf@childrensfoundation.org](mailto:aaf@childrensfoundation.org) or call us at 519-826-9551 ext. 136.

Trees for Tots is a tree collection service in Guelph, the Township of Puslinch, and the Village of Rockwood.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$15, you can register your tree to be collected by one of our volunteers on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Trees are collected, chipped, and returned to nature through walking trails, and other community projects. The proceeds support of the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington.



To register your tree, [visit the Trees for Tots website](#). Registration is open from Monday, December 4, 2023, until Tuesday, January 9, 2024. If you have any questions, our team can be reached by email via [TreesForTots@childrensfoundation.org](mailto:TreesForTots@childrensfoundation.org) or by phone via 519-826-9551 ext. 125.

## The Elliott Community

The Elliott Community offers resident-centered living choices for the seniors of Guelph and Wellington County. From those who wish to live independently to partially assisted living to full long-term care, The Elliott has choices for every stage of life! We are a not-for-profit, registered charitable corporation with our Board of Trustees appointed by Guelph City Council.



### Monetary Donations

Gifts to The Elliott Community will always be 100% applied to projects that enhance our resident's mental health and well-being as well as the delivery of care and services for our residents. The Elliott Community is committed to seeking support to help maintain and enhance our residents' experience. When you make a gift, you help to continue a tradition of excellence in the care of seniors within your community. All individuals who donate will receive a receipt for their gift for income tax purposes.

[To donate, please visit The Elliott Community website](#). If you have questions regarding a donation, please contact us by email at [fundraising@elliottcommunity.org](mailto:fundraising@elliottcommunity.org)

## The Grove Hubs - Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario

The Grove Hubs supports youth aged 12-26 in Wellington and Guelph with mental health, substance use, primary care, housing, and other community/social services.



### Monetary Donations

From now until December 31, 2023, your gifts will be matched, thanks to Linamar! [Please visit The Grove Hubs website if you wish to donate and send a monetary gift this holiday season.](#) A gift of \$25 would support group workshops, including employment and career counselling. \$50 buys snacks for the next 15 youth that drop into their local Grove Hub. \$200 would provide cooking lessons, music lessons, and art therapy for youth. Anything, whether one-time or monthly, is greatly appreciated!

### Item Donations:

Youth access different services and needs when on-site, and we aim to have items available for use should they ever need them. We would greatly appreciate donations of hygiene/physical health products (ex. tampons/pads, mini deodorant, mini toiletries, body wipes, lip balm, mini dental products such as mouth wash and toothpaste, etc.), and/or canned goods and snacks for our kitchens, for when youth want to grab a bite.

For item donations: Please drop off NON-FOOD items (i.e., hygiene and health products) to The Grove University of Guelph site located at 50 College Avenue West, Guelph, it is open Monday to Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For FOOD related items (canned goods, snacks), we would appreciate that you drop them off at The Grove Fergus site located at 900 Tower Street South, Fergus, it is open Monday to Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Our holiday hours may vary. Please email [yumna@thegrovehubs.ca](mailto:yumna@thegrovehubs.ca) (Guelph location contact) or [valentina@thegrovehubs.ca](mailto:valentina@thegrovehubs.ca) (Fergus location contact) to confirm a drop-off time or [check out The Grove website and scroll to the bottom of the page for our locations drop-in hours](#) . Thank you!

## The Salvation Army

### Item Donations

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for infants to children aged 12. These toys will be distributed to over 1,300 children in need through The Salvation Army's Christmas Hamper program.

To donate toys to the Christmas Toy Drive at a location near you, [visit The Salvation Army website to see the list of locations.](#)



Giving Hope Today

### Volunteers

Registration is now open for volunteer Bell Ringers at The Salvation Army Christmas Kettles which run from November 17th to December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Situated throughout Guelph and Fergus, Christmas Kettles are located at grocery stores, LCBOs, Walmart, and Stone Road Mall. The Christmas Kettle Campaign is The Salvation Army's largest fundraiser and all funds raised remain in the local community to support community programming such as emergency food hampers, clothing, summer camps for kids, shelter, and other social programs. Christmas Kettle volunteers commit to 2-hour shifts and training is provided.

To volunteer as a Christmas Kettle Bell Ringer, [inquire about volunteering by visiting The Salvation Army website and clicking the red text reading "Click Here"](#), send an email to [kettles@guelphsa.ca](mailto:kettles@guelphsa.ca), or call our Kettle Coordinator by phone at 519-803-4778.

## The SEED

Over 20,000 people in Guelph-Wellington can't afford the food they need to be well. We need to build a better food system.

This means we must fill gaps that traditional food systems were not built to address. The SEED uses programs and social enterprises to increase access to nutritious food. These include groceries from The SEED, an online, sliding scale grocery store. Customers can receive discounts up to 33% off the retail price, selecting from over 250 products ranging from dairy, grains, produce, and more.



### Monetary Donations

By the end of 2023 The SEED will have received, catalogued, stored, and distributed over \$1,000,000 worth of donated food. This food is available to our network of over 50 community partners to help them stock their shelves during this time of unprecedented need. We also make it available on our online grocery store, free of charge, to anyone to select from to add to their grocery orders.

In 2024, we are looking to double the amount of free food we collect and distribute to \$2,000,000.

We need your support to make this happen. Any monetary donation amount is welcome.

The path to receiving, storing, and distributing \$1,000,000 in surplus food all started with a single grant of \$10,000. Give to The SEED today and we're going to turn your gift and that of others into \$2,000,000 of food next year. [Visit our website to donate to the SEED.](#)

## Torchlight Services

We are a Grassroots, Charitable, Not-for-Profit organization offering Day Option Programs for adults with developmental disabilities including community-based activities and non-traditional work experience through our Ignite Social Enterprise Program. We have been serving Guelph since 1974.



### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations will enhance and offset the costs to run programs and the Ignite Social Enterprise projects. No amount is too small, though we can only issue charitable receipts for amounts of \$20 and above. We accept cash, cheques, and electronic transfers.

To donate with cash, please drop off in person during Torchlight Services office hours at 78 Carden Street. Ring the doorbell on the right of the entrance.

To donate to Torchlight Services by cheque, drop off or mail to P.O. Box 1891, STN Main, Guelph, ON N1E 1A1.

If you would like to electronically transfer a donation, please send the donation to our email address at [info@torchlightservices.ca](mailto:info@torchlightservices.ca)

If you wish to receive a charitable receipt, provide your contact information on the cheque, with the cash, or in the message including your mailing address and phone number. Any donation \$20 and above are eligible to receive a charitable receipt.



### Item Donations

Gifts In-Kind are welcome and may be eligible for a charitable receipt. In-Kind items that will enhance our programs include but are not limited to tools, equipment, fabric, craft supplies or gift cards for craft supplies, gas for our outings, grocery stores for our “shop & cook” program, tools, etc.

Questions regarding Monetary or Gifts In-Kind, please contact Torchlight Services by phone at 519-822-7600 ext. 224 or by email at [janellal@torchlightservices.ca](mailto:janellal@torchlightservices.ca).

### Up and Running Guelph

Up and Running Guelph aims to improve mental health through nature-based walking and running



## Up and Running Guelph

programs. This holiday season, help us double our program capacity and provide gender-inclusive programming in Spring 2024. Our holiday wish is to create space for everyone to join our programs and help them feel welcome and supported. Join us on our journey and together we can help to improve mental health and well-being for all.

### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations are critical in supporting program and organizational activities.

Make a difference today! Your donation removes financial barriers to ensure everyone in need has access to our 10-week walking and running programs. A contribution of \$40 opens the door to a community of support for one participant. Be a Gamechanger with a donation of \$85! Your generosity fuels our dedicated volunteer program and helps multiply our community's positive impact. If you wish to donate to Up and Running Guelph, [click here to visit the Up and Running Guelph website](#).

### West Willow Village Community Co-op

We are a Charitable Community Development Co-operative located in the west end, behind Westwood Public School, 495 Willow Rd. We work with the community to develop responsive programming such as the Food Hub, free Recreation programs, and free community events.



As one of the city's four priority neighborhoods (based on the social determinants of health) we work to make an impact for families and households.

### Monetary Donations

Monetary donations or gift cards for any grocery store will allow us to purchase kid snacks, milk, and diapers. We do not hand out the cards to families but purchase items that we are low on or unable to provide. A Charitable Receipt will be provided for donations of grocery cards or funds. Donations may also be made directly through [CanadaHelps.org](https://CanadaHelps.org).

### Item Donations

Needed: Snack items like fruit cups, mandarin, oranges, pineapple, apple sauce, cheese sticks, apples, and frozen or canned vegetables, soups, stews. These items are needed as after the winter holidays families in the food program are financially strapped even further, the consequences are reductions in household food purchases. Delivery to the Food Hub can take place on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist in the Food Hub on Wednesday, December 20th or Wednesday, December 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday, December 21st or Thursday, December 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as we continue to provide access to food support during the holidays. Volunteers will meet families and assist them with their food item pick up.

To inquire about donations and volunteering, please reach out to West Willow Village Community Co-op by email at [info@westwillowvillage.ca](mailto:info@westwillowvillage.ca), you can also call the office by phone number 519-826-9930. The best drop off day and time for item donations are Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. [except Boxing Day].

## Wyndham House

Wyndham House works to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness in Guelph Wellington.



### Monetary Donations

This year, your Holiday Donations will support our two 8-bed supportive housing residences to keep 16 youth housed, warm, safe, and nourished in 2024. To support youth experiencing homelessness this Holiday, visit our website to [donate to the Wyndham house](#).

### Item Donations

Believe in the power of joy and giving this Holiday Season.

Your generosity will spread hope and create a brighter future for youth who count on us each day. To donate gifts in-kind, please reach out to Wyndham House by email at [admin@wyndhamhouse.org](mailto:admin@wyndhamhouse.org).

### YOUTH HOLIDAY WISHES:

- Adult size underwear, coats, fleece, and boots
- Pillows, double sheets, comforters, and fuzzy blankets
- Personal care products and shower towels
- Nonperishable food items
- Art supplies, journals, and headphones
- Bedside table lamps
- Backpacks or duffel bags
- Gift cards

## Volunteers

Call for volunteers to cook and deliver meals in December and into 2024! By lending a hand from your own kitchen, we can treat our youth with freshly prepared meals and provide a helping hand to our front-line staff. Students, families, and groups welcome. Connect with Wyndham House by email at [admin@wyndhamhouse.org](mailto:admin@wyndhamhouse.org).