



United Way Peterborough and District Announces Recipients of \$90,685 in Neighbourhood and Innovation Funding

PETERBOROUGH, ON (June 17, 2022) – United Way Peterborough & District is pleased to announce the 8 recipients of their 2022 Neighbourhood Fund totaling \$25,000 and the project that will receive Innovation Funding in the amount of \$65,685.

The UWP Neighbourhood Fund provides small, one-time grants to support informal groups of individuals that are working together to improve their neighbourhood, whether that be a physical place or a connection of people within the City and County of Peterborough. This funding serves to enhance resident engagement and leadership while offering valuable opportunities for residents to identify solutions to local community issues and empower action.

United Way Peterborough & District CEO Jim Russell “**Our Neighbourhood Fund is more than just a grant,**” shared United Way Peterborough & District CEO Jim Russell “**it is an opportunity for people to come together and imagine new ways to improve their community. As experts in their own communities, these recipients have identified specific social needs and developed creative solutions for addressing them. We are pleased to support projects related to inclusion, environmental sustainability, skill building, artistic expression, and fostering positive social connections.**”

Grants ranging from \$1490 to \$5,000 were awarded to 8 projects and are detailed below.

Nourish - YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is the 2022 recipient of \$65,685 in funding through the Innovation Fund for their pilot project “***Peterborough Culinary Collaborative: A Recipe for Success***”

The Innovation Fund supports nonprofit innovators, whether small or large, in designing and delivering new initiatives that align with United Way Peterborough & District’s funding priorities **Poverty to Possibility** and **Building Strong and Healthy Communities**.

“**After over two years of supporting individuals facing compounding barriers and increasing levels of urgent needs, this year’s Innovation Fund provided the opportunity for agencies to reimagine their roles in supporting the social recovery of our most vulnerable community members. We believe that supporting social service agencies in developing innovative approaches that address pressing social issues is key to an equitable recovery for our entire community.**” Says Betsy Farrar, Manager of Community Impact at UWP.

"Peterborough Culinary Collaborative: A Recipe for Success" will provide learnings necessary to develop a full-scale training social enterprise for women facing barriers to employment.

The goal is to offer women who are already strong cooks but face barriers to employment the opportunity to enhance their cooking skills and gain employment readiness skills in order to access secure and meaningful jobs in the food industry.

In addition to training these women in culinary skills, training will also include employment skills such as communication, professional workplace expectations, employment rights, and health and safety.

"The old adage says that it takes a village to raise a child, but strong communities of support help all of us to flourish. That's the premise at the heart of the Peterborough Culinary Collaborative. It brings together a vibrant and committed partnership designed to support women who are on the margins of the labour market with high quality employment training and customized support so that they gain access to sustainable and decent jobs within the local food industry." - Joëlle Favreau, Nourish Manager, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

This project consists of three components:

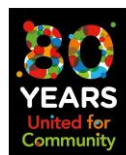
- Culinary training for women facing barriers to employment to develop their cooking skills while learning how to prepare popular restaurant styles of food.
- Employment training on soft skills for workplace readiness such as communication and professional expectations
- Mentorship opportunities between local businesswomen and the participants, as well as facilitation of connections with potential employers to gain advice on securing jobs in the industry.

These will be developed and delivered in collaboration with a growing number of local agencies that have expressed interest in the project, including New Canadian Centre, Elizabeth Fry Society, Peterborough Public Health, Employment Planning & Counselling and more.

For more information, please contact:

Jim Russell, CEO,
United Way Peterborough & District
T: 705-742-8839
E: jrussell@uwpeterborough.ca

Betsy Farrar, Manager of Community Impact
United Way Peterborough & District
T: 705-742-88 9 ext. 28
E: bfarrar@uwpeterborough.ca



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